

SEATTLE HERITAGE EMERGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK (SHERN)

Date: 08-06-2021, 2021, 9:30am-11:00am

Location: Virtual meeting (Zoom)

Present: Clara Berg (MOHAI), Camille Davidson (Archdiocese of Seattle), Nicole Davis (MOF), Sarah Frederick (MOF), Loretta Greene (Providence Archives), Geneva Griswold (SAM), Jennifer Martin (City of Lake Forest Park), Annie Matthys (NEDCC), Gary Menges (UW Libraries, WESTPAS retired), Nives Mestrovic (Frye), Laura Phillips (Burke), Anne Poulson (Henry), Peter Schmid (Providence Archives), Kaia Wahmanholm (National Nordic Museum), Andrew Walsh (BMA), Jennifer Winkler (City of Seattle).

MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS:

Virtual welcome. Consent received to record the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves in the chat function.

ANNIE MATTHYS, NEDCC: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

Annie is the first remote, full-time, NEDCC preservation specialist based on the West coast. She started in March 2021. She led two salvage workshops remotely in California and North Carolina, which included table top exercises (based on the Library of Congress' scenarios). NEDCC preservation specialists reviewed and gave feedback on participants' disaster plans prior to each of the workshops. Annie will check whether NEDCC would/could provide feedback on SHERN members' disaster plans as a professional service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The 06-04-2020 minutes were approved with no changes.

SECRETARY REPORT

Geneva presented a website change: the link "Join Shern" was changed to "Membership" for clarity. Peter wrote to Sue Karren at NARA regarding membership and has not heard back.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current balances

Checking \$3,462.59

Savings \$25.00

PayPal: \$99.61 (will be transferred to checking after 8-6-21)

PayPal fees update: starting Aug 1 they will charge 2.89% + 0.49 cents (a slight increase). Institutions paying via PayPal will be charged an extra \$1.99 to accommodate the new fees.

EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST ACCESS (Peter)

Peter was asked by the Seattle Public Library to add additional colleagues to the SHERN email distribution list; however, the Steering Committee agreed that it does not want to expand the email list beyond representatives and alternates.

PReP UPDATES (Andrew)

Andrew received feedback from BAM colleagues that the PReP is confusing to those who are not on the emergency response team. In response, Andrew made a simplified version including names and phone numbers of the disaster team, plus basic components of major/minor event assessment. He hopes to include this version as part of the onboarding process for all staff. Do others share the PReP with all staff, or just the response team? Responders said that it depends on the size of the institution. Gary suggested that Andrew introduce the PReP and response team at an all-staff meeting. Laura shared that

the Burke's PReP is highly modified because there are 100+ staff and the emergency response structure is entirely different than the general operating structure; making the lines of communication clear is most important for the Burke's PReP. Gary noted that the PReP is intended to be adapted for different institutions' needs, as Andrew and Laura have done. Peter suggested that SHERN members share their disaster plans to learn from what others do.

PIERCE COUNTY/SOUTH SOUND NETWORK UPDATE (Peter, Gary)

Alison Campbell received 14 responses to a poll gauging interest in the new network. Main takeaways include: the majority of organizations do not have a written response plan, many have experienced an emergency that has impacted collections, and there is a strong desire for training but less interest in creating a supply cache. The network's working title is Pierce County CERN. They adopted SHERN's bylaws with edits.

ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSE (AFR) ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Peter)

Elaina Gregg established an AFR advisory committee to encourage the exchange of ideas between national networks: there are 34 networks in the US. One network includes artists in addition to institutions! Peter attended the first meeting. Attendees included SHERN, COSTEP MA, HERA Atlanta, AFR South FL, TX CERA, and VACDAR. The minutes are located in Dropbox. Future meetings will occur quarterly. Future meeting topics will include: maintenance of caches, establishing relationships with state and local emergency management, frequency and types of programming, communication and social media/advertising, outreach beyond museums. The idea was floated to have the summer meeting open to all network members rather than just committee members.

FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCEMENT IN CONSERVATION (FAIC) MICROGRANT (Peter)

NEH-funded \$2000 grant offered by FAIC for anything that the network needs, including training, supplies, design or structural materials for the network. Submission deadline is September 30th. Gary suggested that the funds could sponsor a workshop in Tacoma for those without disaster plans and Loretta added that we could work with Annie (NEDCC) to conduct the training. Alternatively, Laura and Loretta suggested we connect with Annie regarding the cost of tabletop scenario exercises and supplies toward which the grant could be applied. *Peter asked for volunteers to form a sub-committee: Laura, Loretta, and Peter.* Peter will send an email to collect further ideas.

WEBINAR REPORTS/LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Gary, Peter and Geneva attended the Disaster Response Texas Style webinar, addressing damage during the 2021 winter storm. Representatives from Texas Collection Emergency Resources Alliance (TX-CERA, <https://txcera.org/about/>) and Houston Arts Alliance (<https://www.houstonartsalliance.com>) presented takeaways from their experiences.

Houston Arts Alliance hired Lauren Hainley, an emergency management professional, whose work is guided by 21 representatives. They're producing a cultural resources map that includes artists' studios, as well as connecting with other emergency managers and arts organizations.

TX-CERA reported that 101 museums and 66 libraries reported damage, 27 of whom had water damage. TX-CERA helped with the salvage efforts at two locations and consulted with 12 others, totaling 350 volunteer hours. One location was the 1936 Hall of State in Houston, which houses murals and the Texas Historical Society. Their sprinklers broke and flooded the facility. The response effort is summarized in this video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2a0tkVO_-lk

Gary reported on the National Heritage Responders annual meeting. It occurred virtually, which will happen again in future to include more members. No emergencies and no deployments this year. 22 calls received to the hotline; a little lower than past years, but more calls about fire damage than in the past. 73 active members in NHR, including 7 new members. Developing guidelines for virtual deployment

using live video. AIC will host a webinar on establishing and maintaining supply caches on September 15 2021, 11am PST.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE FOR 2022-2024 BOARD

Asked for volunteers for the Nominating Committee. Peter will send a follow-up email.

MEMBER UPDATES

Providence Archives: requires weekly testing for those working onsite.

SAM: 100% visitor capacity. Masks required in galleries and for all staff onsite. Staff were asked to return onsite full time by July 30, but that date has been delayed. No volunteers.

BAM: 100% visitor capacity, open 5 days/week. Masks required in galleries. As needed onsite work.

Burke: 50% capacity. UW is planning to open to staff fulltime on September 10. Students return at end of September. Mask mandate in place. Researchers are required to provide proof of vaccination.

Frye: 100% capacity, mask mandate for visitors. Vaccinated staff can be unmasked.

MOHAI: 100% capacity, masks required, 7 days/week. Attendance numbers are high. June 30th return to work resulted in one Covid+ test; staff can now work remotely again.

City of Lake Forest Park: Masks mandated for visitors, not for vaccinated staff. Staggered shifts remain and no date for full-time return onsite.

MOF: 100% capacity, 7 days/week, no timed ticketing. Attendance numbers are high. No mask mandate for visitors or vaccinated staff. Volunteers have returned but must be masked and/or provide proof of vaccination.

Nordic: 100% capacity. Staff can be unmasked if vaccinated. Moving toward requiring visitor masking.

City of Seattle RM: Scheduled to return in September but archives staff are onsite regularly as needed. Mask mandate for staff. Building may reopen to the public next Monday.

Henry: Mask mandate for staff and visitors. Open 2 days/week and will reopen in September along with UW.

Archdiocese: Each in 2 days/week, no health screenings, no proof of vaccination. Volunteers and researchers are onsite.

NEXT MEETINGS

October 1: Zoom

December 3: Burke, Nordic?

February 4: BAM?