

From: Ed Papenfuse
To: Charles Lord
CC: Keaton Norquist, Morgan Grove, Christopher Boone, Kim Moreno, Ed, Jennifer Hafner, Owen Lourie
Date: Monday, November 10, 2008 3:38:45 PM
Subject: Re: Research Plan re: Baltimore Ecosystem study/access to BCA

I will take these in order:

- 1) we should have the the Baltimore City Zoning board materials here shortly. The move to the new facility is not going as well as I would like (I have little or nor control over it) and it is not certain what will be available in January, unless I put the records into temporary storage here.
- 2) We expect to have all records relating to the City Council here as well as the Mayor's papers. Again, they will go back to the new facility when it opens, but when that will be is not clear at the moment. City records are stored at scattered locations, especially those after ca. 1986. Some of what you are looking for may even be in the BRISC collection at UB.
- 3) the proceedings of the council were published and there are also loose papers relating to the proceedings, some of which are on security microfilm that we maintain for the city. I hope to have a good handle on what exists in book form, in loose paper files, and on microfilm by the 19th of this month.
- 4) we have a large plot scanner and would be pleased to help with the scanning. We are working on a contract right now with the city to a large quantity of their drawings, a project that may be on hold given the current economic crisis.

We are doing our best to salvage the good work the Richard Cox and Bill LeFurgy did in the halcyon days of the City Archives (through 1986), as well as help the current city records manager/archivist with getting the holdings to a safe and secure location. Low bid movers and a city staff of 2 people does not auger well for any early opening next year.

Ed

Charles Lord wrote:

Hi Ed-

I hope you are well. Thanks so much for your help.

Our objectives for our January research trip (Jan. 5 through 9) include tracking down the following items:

1. Decisions of the Baltimore City Zoning Board of Appeals prior to 1971. During a previous research trip to the City Archives, we noted that these records were stored in numerous boxes (well over 100) on the second floor. Apparently a subsequent researcher has left these records in some state of disarray. Keaton has some experience with these records (and the post-1971 records, which are stored at the Zoning Board of Appeals office downtown) and would be willing to assist in the reorganization of any files that may be misplaced.
2. City Council decisions from 1908 to 1931 under the nuisance ordinance. These decisions were made by the mayor's office, and allowed the mayor to decide whether to approve certain uses that were deemed to be nuisances. During a previous research trip to the City Archives, we found a few of these records, but were wondering if there may be more that are stored in some other location.
3. City Council transcripts. We have identified a variety of legislative ordinances of interest, and we are wondering whether it would be possible to find some way of accessing the underlying rationale for the ordinances (as might be provided by transcripts or voting records) rather than just looking at the text of the ordinances as they were approved. Do you have an idea who we should talk to about transcripts ranging from the 1930s to the present?
4. A large-plot scanner. During our January research trip, one of our most important objectives is to scan some very large maps that are currently held by the ZBA. These maps are approximately 3 feet wide and 3 feet across. The ZBA has agreed to let us take them from their office for a day or two, and Keaton is willing to take them wherever we might be able to get them scanned. Would the state archives or any educational institution have a large-plot scanner that we could use?

Any suggestions on these objectives would be most appreciated!

Any help you can provide in making sure we have access to the records would be wonderful. I will say that David Tanner has been very helpful to date and has indicated he is happy to have us come in January.

Many thanks-

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