



Society for cultural astronomy
in the American southwest, inc.



January 18th, 2021, 6:00pm MST, SCAAS BOARD Minutes
Plan 1 ½ hour for Board Meeting

Present: Christopher Dombrowski, President; Bryan Bates, Vice President; Ric Alling, Treasurer; Ray Williamson, Secretary; Greg Munson; Karen Knierman.

Old Business:

1. Approval of minutes from the 14 December Board Meeting: Unanimous approval.
2. Financial Report: Ric reported that we finished the year with slightly over \$17,000 in the till. Thanks to several generous donors, the Fewkes Project fund now has \$1230 to serve as matching funds for a grant. Ric pointed out dues do not cover yearly administrative costs, given the current number of members. Nevertheless, conferences usually bring in sufficient additional funds to cover any shortfall but the pandemic has prevented holding conferences so we are depleting General Fund donations. The balance of the GeoFamily fund, which helped fund our 2019 conference has now been nearly used up by the video project. We have also earned a small amount through the sale of the 2016 conference books, *Beyond Borders...*
 - a) We began a short conversation about whether or not we need to raise yearly member fees or find other sources of operating funds, but Ray pointed out that this question will be part of the necessary discussion for completing the business plan, which he and Bryan have been working on (see below) so we deferred that issue until we make more progress on the plan. We also had a short discussion of how we might increase membership, with Karen suggesting that should find ways to use our Newsletter to bring in new members.
 - b) Ric also noted that both he and Bryan have temporarily misplaced the society checkbooks so paying for items that can't be paid for with a debit card is more complicated. This engendered a discussion about who should hold society checkbooks but we decided to leave the arrangement as is since Greg also has a checkbook.
3. Conference Videotapes: Greg noted that all the video tapes from the 2019 conference have been edited and uploaded to our YouTube channel, SCAAS.Connects2U except for two for which Greg is pursuing the presenters to secure their formal approval. Greg has also archived them all on a USB stick that was sent to Mansel Nelson. That project is now complete. He reported that SCAAS is getting traffic on the channel. Other Board members complimented Greg on that effort.
4. Fewkes Digital Archive Project Update: Greg and Ray included a description of the project in the Winter Solstice Newsletter. They also presented it during the Member

Meeting, after which Board members and others contributed to a fund that will be used to provide matching funds for grants. They are planning to resubmit a proposal to the Ballantine Family Fund if the fund administrators feel it is appropriate for the next funding cycle. The BFF deferred considering the previous proposal last fall because of increased need for operating funds in other non-profits as a result of Covid-19 cutbacks in giving. SCAAS qualifies for BFF funds because it is incorporated in Colorado, where BFF operates. In the meantime, they plan to include as much as possible of the material they already possess from the archive in the SCAAS website. This will help sell any proposal, especially since the National Anthropological Archive at the Smithsonian is still closed to visitors as a result of Covid-19.

5. Business plan Update: Bryan and Ray sent a copy of the draft business plan to all Board members and summarized it at this meeting. They asked that Board members carefully consider the draft and provide feedback to the two by 2 February 2020. There are several questions in the draft that will need answers to complete the plan.
6. Member meeting follow-up: Ray is still working on the minutes of that meeting, which Ric recorded and made available to Board members.
7. Facebook Update: Karen, Greg, and William Seven met recently to agree on an approach to Facebook, which they suggest can be an important tool for bringing more attention about SCAAS to the broader public and driving them to our website. Greg and Seven updated our Facebook page and Karen and Seven will take the lead on posting information to Facebook. Greg pointed out that a FB group would enable SCAAS to develop a discussion forum that would also help spread knowledge about SCAAS. This matter led to a wider discussion about whether SCAAS should be more broadly involved in social media. Karen will set up a Twitter account for SCAAS. Nevertheless, SCAAS needs to develop a strategy for managing social media accounts.
8. AmazonSmile Program: Chris reminded people that Amazon offers non-profits the opportunity to earn a small percentage of each sale for a non-profit of their choice. He suggested that SCAAS sign up, to which we all agreed with a formal motion to approve. Greg noted that Kroger has a similar program. As a follow-up, Greg signed SCAAS up on the Amazon website. The next newsletter will include a statement urging all members to use the SCAAS AmazonSmile (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-3412899>) when they purchase items from Amazon.

New Business:

9. Standing committees update: Chris noted that much of the material from these committees had already been discussed above. Others had none to report at this time. The ensuing

discussion raised several important points: 1) We need to encourage members to join the committees. Karen suggested that when the reminder of the need to renew membership is posted to a member's email, it should include explicit mention of the committees and invite members to join one of them. Ray also suggested that we might reach out to members individually to invite them to a committee. Brian asked if we have the right committees, a subject that we will take up in a subsequent meeting.

Awards Committee (Chris)

Social Media / Newsletter Committee (Chris & Seven)

Conference / Workshop Committee (Ric / Chris)

Publication Committee (Greg / Ray)

Funding Raising / Financial Committee (Ric / Bryan/ Greg)

Membership Committee (Greg)

Business plan (Bryan & Ray).

10. Newsletter needs: Chris reminded the Board to submit articles and announcements for the Equinox newsletter.

Next Meeting: 15 February 2020

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:22.