



SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL ASTRONOMY
IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST, INC.



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SCAAS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
1 October 2018, 6:00pm MDT
Teleconference

Present: Bryan Bates, President; Chris Dombrowski, Vice President; Ric Alling, Treasurer; Ray Williamson, Secretary; Greg Munson, Membership Chair

The meeting convened at 6:01 pm.

Old Business:

1. Committee reports & duty updates

Financial report & needs: Circulated the 3rd quarter report last week. Ric found a discrepancy in the funds allocated to the Carol Ambruster Memorial Fund (CAMF) that doesn't change the overall bottom line but requires an update that he will send out to all soon. Have about \$14,000 on hand, which is good news. Few expenses this year except for the Wild Apricot fee, increased this year. Need a clear description of how to spend the CAMF so we know the parameters within which we can work. We have the funds needed to run the society, even enough to buy out the books from the 2011 conference from Univ. New Mexico Press.

Ric was asked to prepare a budget for SCAAS in order to submit same to grant making entities to help pay for publishing the book from the 2016 conference. This was a new activity and alerted Ric to the need to develop a regular annual budget for the Society for future grant proposal submissions, which he will do and submit to the Board for approval. The fiscal year closes 18 December.

Member Survey: Greg noted that it is in progress. He passed out lists of members to each board member and contact information. We then just need Survey Monkey to enter and tabulate the data collected. He'd like to finish before the end of October.

Update standing committees & membership: No new information.

2. Technology needs: Chris is planning to create a webpage for the April 2019 conference. He'll work with Greg and Ric on it.

New Business:

3. Conference Update: Bryan reports that he has received a lot of positive feedback on the conference concept from the NAU VP for Native American Programs. We can have the center free of charge for the conference. He has also put Bryan in touch with other staff members who can help. See the conference program for details.

Discussed who should be invited. We agreed that announcements of the conference should be sent out to a broad audience, namely, the various regional archaeological societies, university departments, etc.

Wednesday: Devoted to presentations by the NAU professors in the Native American Programs and presumably be open to the public. Bryan is negotiating with NAU to provide lunch for the Native American participants. SCAAS members would pay for their own lunches that day.

Thursday: SCAAS members and other conference participants deliver papers on cultural astronomy and related subjects.

Friday: A day specifically designed to attract teachers of Native children so they can supplement their course materials with some of the information they learn from the conference. Bryan has interest from the Center for Science Teaching and Learning at NAU. They have no money to devote to it, but are excited by the idea and will help where they can. Bryan would like to raise some funds to pay to bring in teachers for part or all of the conference.

Saturday: Bryan informed the board that the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) is interested in sponsoring a meeting at MNA, but they have little to no funds to devote to it. At the least, they can provide space for the meeting. This would likely be a public day. What do we get out of it? Bryan noted that having SCAAS seen in partnership with MNA is a "huge feather in our cap". MNA has a good connection with Native Americans in the SW. The idea is to bring in different tribes to talk about their Native Science. We hope that the teachers and others from the Friday sessions would also be able to attend.

Sunday: A variety of trips scheduled. Would like to have a tour of Roden Crater if possible.

Discuss budget and where money comes from. Ray agreed to discuss with Tony Hull and Beth their ideas about the best uses of the CAMF and report back to the board.

4. Board Elections: We probably need an additional board member or two. Discussed having an election at the April conference, where we will have our annual member's meeting. Greg suggested we use the member survey to find appropriate new members. He doesn't think having a board election during a phone meeting is a good idea. Ric noted that we may be defaulting on our by-laws. Greg agreed. We may also need to consider revising the by-laws so they fit our needs. After all, our current by-laws are taken from the by-laws of the Museum of Northern Arizona. Bryan asked all of us to read the by-laws and see what we can do that is in compliance.
5. Discussion of elements of Business Plan: Need to defer this item until a later meeting.
6. We have had a substantial contribution of funds towards publication of the 2016 conference papers from a single member. The board was concerned that this might have the appearance of the party "buying" acceptance of the article and decided to return this generous donation with thanks and an explanation of why it had to be returned. If, after all the papers have been decided upon the party wanted to make a donation towards publication, we would accept it with grateful thanks. Ric suggested that this or other donations be put into the Carol Ambruster Memorial Fund, which would further insulate such donations from being seen as "pay for play" because under the current understanding of the uses of the CAMF, it is not to be used to support publications.

Future Board Meeting: 26 November.

Meeting ended at 7:20 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Ray Williamson
SCAAS Secretary
October 5, 2018

Minutes certified by:

Bryan Bates
SCAAS President
October 8, 2018