

MINUTES of the SOCIETY OF MINERAL MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS
Board Meeting, 12 September 2014
Denver, Colorado

Board members present: Virgil Lueth, Jean DeMouthe, Penny Williamson, Julian Gray, Anna Domitrovic

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm by president Penny Williamson. She went through the planned agenda for the general meeting and opened a discussion on the Tucson show and the SMMP program.

DeMouthe suggested that part of the web site be devoted to a history of MMAC/SMMP and asked for it to be put on the general meeting agenda. She also suggested we establish a set of standards for exhibits.

No one has applied for the SMMP grant this year.

Williamson led a discussion of the statement by Sarah Timm regarding an approach to NSF for funding. It will be discussed at the general meeting, but the general feeling is that SMMP should not endorse it.

PW closed the meeting at 2:30 pm.



General Meeting, 12 September 2014

The meeting was called to order by president Penny Williamson at 2:33 pm. Introductions were made and people were encouraged to sign in on the circulating list.

The Tucson 2014 meeting minutes were posted on line. A vote was taken to approve the minutes as presented, and it was approved unanimously.

Domitrovic gave the treasurer's report. Combined checking, CD and savings accounts total \$5,557.84. She had a hard copy of the membership list, and she urged people to check their information and see if they have paid their dues. The membership list will be culled before Tucson, and people not paying dues will be dropped.

Education Committee: DeMouthe said that this year's Denver case on Chalcedony: Mother of all Agate" was well-received. Anyone with ideas for the Tucson case should talk to her. Tucson's theme is to be "Minerals of Western Europe" in 2015.

DeMouthe asked for one or two people to join the Education Committee who would be willing to help with the exhibits at Denver and Tucson. Mike Pierce and Gain Spann volunteered.

JD also suggested a best practices document on exhibit standards. She was volunteered to write this.

Collections Committee: Lueth reported no changes since Tucson. No responses came from letters sent.

SMMP Grant: Lueth reported that no one had applied this year. He also said that no new best practices articles have been received, and there are currently two on the web site.

George Harlow asked for a discussion and approval of the Geological Society of America's policies on collections. A motion was made to leave the document as it is, with no proposed changes. This was seconded by Gail Spann and passed unanimously.

Domitrovic brought up the question of access to and oversight of SMMP financial accounts. Since continuity is very important in maintaining our non-profit status, it was suggested that the Society hire an accountant in Tucson who will deal with the accounts, with oversight by the SMMP treasurer. The Society could establish protocols and a job description prior to looking for such a person or company.

Williamson brought up the issue that SMMP has no policy regarding the succession within the board (who takes over when an officer cannot be present).

Lueth said this would be a good opportunity for the establishment of job descriptions for all board positions, so that people know what they are getting into if they are elected. He made a motion that this be done by Tucson. It was seconded by Jeff Post, and passed with no opposition.

Williamson brought up the matter of the next M&M meeting, which will be held in 2016 in either China or Japan. The international committee has not made up its mind yet.

Post and Williamson spoke about changes that are being proposed for the Denver show, including an extension of the length of the show to accommodate a “fine minerals” preview in Golden before the main show. Spann said the collectors want to support the Denver show and conversations are ongoing about incorporating the “fine minerals” show into the main one.

Geller said that the local show committee does not want the Denver show to become more and more like Tucson. He also suggested a ½ day symposium with invited speakers on the show theme.

Post suggested that SMMP support keeping the Denver show within one week.

Williamson asked Geller to find out what the local committee wants in terms of museum participation. Asked for suggestions on how we can better participate more efficiently. Post suggested that SMMP should have some input.

Williamson adjourned the meeting at 3:34 pm.



Meeting attendance: 21 members, from 15 institutions, in 4 countries

Participants in the SMMP exhibit: “Chalcedony, Mother of all Agates”

- American Museum of Natural History, NY
- Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson, AZ
- California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, CA
- Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, OH
- Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO
- Denver Museum of Science & Nature, Denver, CO
- New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources, Socorro, NM
- Rice NW Museum of Rocks & Minerals, Hillsboro, OR
- University of Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia
- Wray Mineral Museum, Milford, UT

Respectfully submitted,
J.DeMouthe, SMMP secretary