

**MINUTES of the SOCIETY OF MINERAL MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS**  
**Board Meeting, 18 September 2015**  
**Denver, Colorado**

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm by President Williamson. She went through the planned agenda for the general meeting and opened a discussion on the Tucson show and the SMMP program.

DeMouthe reported that the theme for Tucson 2016 will be “Shade of Blue” and discussion followed about the SMMP exhibit.

No other committee reports, and again, no one has applied for the SMMP grant this year.

New business will include the introduction of new curators at New Mexico, Maine, NHMLAC and San Juan.

Gray suggested that the program for Tucson be on best practices regarding private and institutional loans to museums for exhibit.

M&M8 scheduled for May 17-19, 2016. They still want to form an Asian SMMP.

Board members present voted to censure Alan Hart and urge him to pay dues or be removed from the board.

Adjourned at 2:37 pm



**General Meeting, 18 September 2015**

The meeting was called to order by President Williamson at 2:34 pm. Introductions were made and people were encouraged to sign in on the circulating list.

Domitrovic gave the treasurer’s report, and stated that SMMP is up to about 160 paid members.

Lueth said the Collections Committee had nothing to report.

DeMouthe talked about the possible subjects for the Tucson display. It was suggested that our case should be about orange minerals, since that color is opposite blue (the theme) on the color chart. This was well received.

Gray suggested the Tucson program topic be private loans to museums. He said he would find people with different points of view, and will encourage members to submit ideas and issues on this subject.

New museum curators were discussed.

AGI provided 50 educational packets for SMMP members as part of their outreach program.

Jim Ferris mentioned the techsoup.org web site; a group that acts as go-between with educational communities

Sarah Timm said that Tellus Museum is building a teaching collection and asked about the deaccession of specimens.

Discussion followed, including how Colorado Springs is deaccessioning mining collection to fund multi-million \$ renovation. Hagedorn described their deaccession practices at the Denver Museum.

David Waisman, show promoter and collector, stated his support for museums as educators. He said that his shows in Tucson, Denver and Houston produce awareness of minerals in the public.

Jamie Newman brought up the issue of show lengths, and how the introduction of high-end and other shows well before the traditional shows make it difficult for people to attend all of it. They have to make choices, particularly since the prices of hotels and travel get higher every year. DW said he was very sympathetic.

Carl Francis asked about any special exhibits at the high-end shows like the Westward Look. DW said that the one-day-only duration of special displays at those shows are what make them special. Gail Spann stated that this practice makes it hard on private collectors, since they also have to participate in the main show.

PW brought up “meet the curator,” and it was suggested by Francis and Post that each participant count how many people actually talk to them. Discussion then followed about advertising, and the possibility of making it more obvious that something is going on during M-the-C.”

Bruce Geller said that nobody has ever asked the public what they actually want. James Hagedorn said that the lack of advertising is an issue for the whole show.

PW said that SMMP will do an evaluation of the programs and how people feel about the additional of expensive shows well before the main show. DW said he is working on making changes, but he was not specific.

James Hagedorn officially thanked all participants from the Denver show committee.

Chinese representatives distributed handouts for the upcoming Changshan M & M 8 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:43 pm.



Meeting attendance: 27 members, from 23 institutions