

**SMMP Tucson meeting  
February 1, 2018  
Meeting Minutes**

*Board members present:* Katherine Dunnell (KD), Eloise Gaillou (EG) Alan Hart (AH), Anna Domitrovic (AD), Penny Williamson (PW), Virgil Lueth (VL), Mike Rumsey(minutes) (MR)

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**I. Details**

KD – The meeting was called to order by President Katherine Dunnell at 4:05pm.  
Notable attendees from outside the museum sector included representatives from the Munich Show, The Fine Mineral Shows, Mindat and Bluecap Productions.  
International attendees included those from France, Italy, United Kingdom, Canada and Japan.

**II. Treasurers report**

AD – The report was communicated by society treasurer Anna Domitrovic, full details can be obtained by direct contact with the board.  
Floor – There were no questions regarding the state of the society finances, which were healthy.  
AD – There are 166 members on the roster, 64 of who are paid up in full, 93 members owe payment due to their membership expiring sometime between 2014-2017. Only 5 members are unpaid pre 2013. Older unpaid members have been purged from the membership list. Envelopes for payment were provided at the meeting and a number of people took up this opportunity at the close of the meeting.  
Floor – It was noted that the membership fee had been \$10 for a long time, it was identified that this was something to discuss, notably was an increase appropriate.

**III. Notices – new curators, old curators etc...**

VL – There had been no changes in curators formally announced to the society, so this was opened up to the floor.  
KC (Kevin Czaja) – Caroline Im, originally based at the NHMLA has joined the Harvard team as a new curator.

**IV. Education committee**

KD – Due to the sad passing of Jean Demouthe, there was a need to reform and discuss the education committee. As President, she will appoint, but there was a call for new people interested in being a member.  
KD – The vision is to expand the committee also covering European shows.  
KD – Thanks to all of those who helped set up and loan specimens for the display case this year (Tucson 2018).  
KD – Noted that there was a general feeling that the SMMP needed to have stronger brand and use its logo more, steps were ongoing to facilitate that – including help from a graphic designer based at the ROM.  
KD – Keep eyes peeled on the website, to see a stronger 'brand'.  
KD – With regard to the Denver Pebble Pups, and the difficulties that beset that event, the committee has made a decision to commit to supporting the event, but the method of support needs to be addressed. The Denver committee and the SMMP education committee should have a conversation to facilitate that. It was identified that the SMMP's remit is only loosely aligned with mentoring kids, but the value of engaging with this event is clear. It was clearly indicated that the support might not be financial.

**V. SMMP Europe meeting reports**

EG – The SMMP vice-president reported that discussion at St. Marie focused on how it was getting harder for museums to attend shows and that a lot of curatorial attendance is on a personal rather than institutional

basis. The increased paperwork for bringing a display and the lack of internal funding were isolated as key points for discussion.

- EG - It was noted that the two large European shows (St. Marie and Munich) subsidize Museum attendance when displays are brought; this covers complete cost of transporting specimens and the curator responsible for them. It is of note that this includes international visitors when invited. The question was raised as to why the same could not be achieved at Tucson.
- EG – Initial discussions with EG, MR and the organizer of the Munich show, and later discussion at the Munich show resulted in a Munich 2018 ‘test run’ of an advertised SMMP-based education event. Initial discussions indicated that perhaps the easiest way forward would be to offer SMMP curator-led tours of feature exhibits, but other options including having a booth were also discussed.
- AH – MR stood in for EG as chair at the Munich, where the main topic of conversation was a continuation of the SMMP visibility and outreach potential at shows. The show organizer (Chris Keilmann) was in attendance at the meeting and direct discussion with him was very useful. It was recognized that it is in the mutual benefit of shows and museums to work together and increase profile within the public sector.
- AH – There was discussion that SMMP members would always have free admission to Munich, but that this was not the case at Tucson.
- AH – There was a lot of discussion about the role of the IMA-CM (Commission on Museums) and the SMMP – how the two groups interact, overlap and what their remits are – There was a feeling that the distinction between the two groups had become blurred since the Munich IMA-CM meeting was combined with that of the SMMP. This was clarified and it was agreed that the meeting would continue as a joint effort, whereby IMA-CM representatives could communicate any business to the larger SMMP group – IMA-CM members present could discuss any private IMA-CM business as a closed group at the end of the joint meeting.

## **VI. IMA-CM communication & M&M8**

- Federico Pezzotta (FP) – Updated everyone that there was a new secretary – Kim Tait from the ROM in Canada.
- FP – Gave an update on the status of M&M8, It should be clear that the original M&M8 was cancelled. Federico communicated that the new M&M8 would be in Sofia, Bulgaria 2020 and there would be an announcement soon.
- FP – Encouraged everyone to think about attending and submitting abstracts to the quadrennial IMA meeting in Melbourne later this year. The abstract deadline is the 28<sup>th</sup> Feb.
- [NOTE: MR – THE DEADLINE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY EXTENDED TO THE 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH.]**
- PW – Asked if it was possible for the larger SMMP group to have a more significant voice in the decision making process for future M&M conferences.
- FP – Explained that a new set of rules covering exactly this sort of thing was in preparation and asked people to be patient to wait for that, knowing that it would be in place and ready for the 2024 application round. There was a need to check the IMA statute regarding this.
- FP – The Chinese delegation, who were responsible for the failure of the original M&M bid, have asked if they could be re-considered at some point, but Federico indicated that this would not be a possibility, unless there were significant changes.
- FP – The discussion triggered further talk about an ‘SMMP:Asia’, and Federico was asked by the Chinese delegation to bring this to the attention of the board for discussion.
- PW – Felt this was inappropriate and that there should just be SMMP without distinct areas.
- KD – Indicated it was something for the board to discuss and the dialogue was closed.

## **VII. Legacy**

- KD – Opened discussion up to the floor for thoughts on how to appropriately remember the giant contribution of Jean Demouthe to the society and the promotion of good collections care.
- FLOOR – A number of ideas were discussed, sponsoring a case, small awards or contributions for making her MSA book more readily available, a scholarship fund, general promotion of her book as her legacy.

KD – Called for a vote to prioritize investigating the options of sponsoring a case at Tucson and the SMMP formally promoting or even providing her book on collections care. Seconded: Jamie Newman (JN).

FLOOR – Vote passed.

KD – This would be taken up by the board.

### **VIII. Web presence and communication**

Tony Kampf (TK) – There have been some issues with the listserv and bounce-backs – Tony was unsure if everyone was getting their mails, he asked anyone not getting mails to let him know so the problem can be fixed.

### **IX. Voting board members and bylaws**

KD – Indicated that she was looking at the bylaws and that they needed updating to reflect modern society. One obvious feature missing was the need for a social media committee, which not only coordinates contributions, but also acts in an advisory capacity for formulation of best practices for museums within this emerging and very important part of communication. Potential issues relating to privacy and intellectual property rights (IPR) were isolated as key advisory areas. This was an urgent issue as the SMMP Facebook group has a lot of administrators and contributors and there should be guidelines for consistency.

KD – The board members whose terms were coming to an end were:

Jean Demouthe - Secretary

Alan Hart - Director

Virgil Lueth - Director

Anna Domitrovic – Director

Nominations for new board members were opened up to the floor.

Leslie Moclock – Nominated by EG, seconded by JN

Gail Spann – Nominated by PW seconded by Julian Gray

Jeff Self – Nominated by Bruce Geller Seconded by Jolyon Ralph

Anna Domitrovic – Nominated by TK, seconded KD

Virgil Lueth – Nominated by JN, seconded by EG

Carl Francis moved that the nominations be closed; this was seconded by George Harlow.

After voting, the newly elected board members were:

Leslie Moclock

Gail Spann

Anna Domitrovic

Virgil Lueth

The new officers announced after a closed board meeting election were:

Katherine Dunnell – President

Eloise Gaillou – Vice President

Anna Domitrovic – Treasurer

Mike Rumsey – Secretary

All attendees were then asked to stay for a photo and were informed of the details of the curator social in the evening by Gail Spann. The meeting was adjourned just before 5:00 pm – many attendees stayed for the lecture by George Harlow on the planned new AMNH gallery.