

## Minutes for the 2018 SMMP Denver Meeting

Friday, Sept. 14

Meeting called to order at 3 PM with Penny Williamson presiding.

Last meeting's minutes were approved as written.

No treasurer's report was available.

No membership report was available.

The Collections Committee presented no report.

The Education Committee reported on the new Curator's Tours initiative about to debut during the following days of the Denver show. Three tours were scheduled for Saturday and three for Sunday. Tours leaders included: Virgil Lueth, Leslie Moclock, William Wray, Bruce Geller, Kelsey McNamara, and Julian Gray. Unfortunately, despite close contact with the Denver Gem & Mineral Show Committee from early May through September, the DGMC did not print the Tours program in the show brochure as they had agreed to do, nor did they include the Tours program on any event signs. The Education Committee plans to investigate why the agreement was not upheld and will report on the outcomes of the Tours program following the show.

New business:

- Gail and Jim Spann will be hosting their annual party at the Tucson show. The venue is still TBD.
  
- Penny solicited ideas for the public speaker who will follow the SMMP meeting at the Tucson show. Gail suggested having a hallway booth instead of a speaker, but Jeff Post and others reaffirmed interest in a speaker's importance for our professional community enrichment. Several people expressed interest in a talk anchored to some aspect of collections. Possible topics include:
  - o Collections care and protection in the aftermath of the Brazil National Museum fire
  - o Ways in which museum collections have been useful and relevant
    - "Mining the Hidden Gems in Your Collection", regarding the science of studying inclusions in diamonds and other similar notions
    - A discussion of ways to connect researchers to museum collections, including sampling and research techniques
    - A discussion of how private collections can also be relevant and important (and accessible to science)
    - A tie-in with the Mineralogical Society of America's recent symposium regarding what must happen for collections to continue to be relevant for the next 100 years
  - o Ryan Roney also suggested planning a multi-year series of talks on a theme (such as collections care)

Jeff noted that the selection of the Tucson speaker is typically a duty of the Vice President. Penny affirmed that this discussion was meant to help that process, but that the final decision and coordination will be left up to VP Eloise Gaillou.

- Rick Sauers reports a new mineral museum, the Museo Ruta de la Plata, will be opening in Baja California in November, 2018.
- Call for papers on best practices.
- Catie Carter requested information on museum business plans, especially regarding sources of funding, to assist in the start up of the Arizona Mining, Mineral and Natural Resources Education Museum. Others suggested she check the AAM and SMMP websites for information and/or submit the question to the listserv.
- In order to help members giving public tours the following day, the group went around the circle describing 1-2 important or interesting things about the display each institution had brought.
- Open position announcements:
  - o Curator, Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals
  - o Curator, University of California-Riverside
  - o Director, Arizona Mining, Mineral and Natural Resources Education Museum

Meeting adjourned 3:50 PM

List of members in attendance:

Ryan Roney, Tellus Museum	Jeff Post, Smithsonian Institution
Julian Gray, Rice Museum	Kevin Betancourt, Perot Museum
Leslie Moclock, Rice Museum	Kim Vaughner, Perot Museum
Jim Parrish, San Diego Mineral Museum	Jamie Newman, American Museum of Natural History
Bill Wray, Wray Mineral Museum	James Hagadorn, Denver Museum of Nature and Science
Penny Williamson, University of Wollongong	Jeff Self, Sherman Dugan Museum
Gail Spann	Catie Carter, Arizona Mining, Mineral, and Natural Resources Education Museum
Mike Wise, Smithsonian Institution	
Michael Evans, Fallbrook Mineral Museum	
Gina Palculich, Fallbrook Mineral Museum	
Bruce Geller	
Rick Sauers, Western Museum of Mining & Industry	