

SMMP Membership Meeting

Location: Tucson Convention Centre Meeting Rooms.

(note – contrary to the newsletter and agenda, the meeting location was changed by the TCC from the Crystal Ballroom to one of the smaller conference meeting rooms)

Date: February 14th

Time: 4:00 – 5:00 PM

Attendees: See Attached List – 45 attendees in total, (48 in 2018)

Agenda Points

1. Meeting Called to Order at 4:03 pm
2. MR – Passed around attendee list and all individuals were asked to quickly introduce themselves.
KD – Asked for approval of previous minutes, Approved (AK), Seconded (LM)
Agenda Accepted by JG
3. AD – Read the Treasurers Report,

Overall the 4 accounts are healthy with \$5544.25 at the time of the meeting, for further information regarding this members are encouraged to contact the treasurer AD directly.
4. AD – Read the Membership Report:

There are **180** members:
42 had dues paid up at the time of the meeting OR paid in advance.
111 have dues paid up to 2016-2018
22 members with no payments prior to 2015 were purged from the society and Listserv
There are now no members with unpaid dues prior to 2012
Members were encouraged to pay at the meeting or through paypal
5. VL – Collections and Curators Committee Report.

New curation opportunities had been posted throughout the year on the SMMP website by Tony Kampf, along with any significant developments that he had received from people regarding collections or museums. There had been a lot this year.

AK – Noted that traffic to the website was quite low, so a better method of disseminating new information would be via the listserv. AK empowered members to use the listserv themselves to disseminate new information regarding collections developments, new museums or curation opportunities.

6. LM – Education Committee Report

The Theme for Denver was Mexican Minerals, there were 6 SMMP case participants, which were well received – the winning case was from the New Mexico Bureau of Geology Mineral Museum – some images of the case can be found on the SMMP Facebook page.

As part of an ongoing project to get more engagement between the SMMP as a society and the visiting general public to the mineral shows there has been an interest in piloting curator lead ‘tours’ of the museum cases at the 4 large mineral shows.

Denver was the first of these events and so piloted the project. The goal was to have structured but fun, 20 minute tours from a curator who could tell members of the public about the stories or information relevant to their case and others (SMMP members prioritised!) that they may wish to, or be able to discuss.

A total of 8 tours were performed and were well received. Improvements in communication were needed to ensure better publicity next time.

LM - Thanked the Denver show committee board in helping them coordinate the tours and making it a reality. It was hoped that they would be continued and as the pilot was successful, the Education Committee will strive to promote and undertake tours where possible in the name of the SMMP at the other shows with the collaboration of SMMP member curators present.

Note: The Denver meeting is covered in its own minutes – which can be found here... <http://www.smmp.net/min18s.pdf>)

A question was asked about the specifics of the tours and the format that they were in, LM responded briefly, indicating that the tour was very much the curators choice but the committee together could work on some guidelines.

7. EG – European Report.

St. Marie is a smaller event, but the numbers of attendees are growing, this year 19 individuals were present and as such, it is equivalent to Denver in attendance. Although there is a formal agenda, it was noted that the meeting is a great place to have a less formal ‘chat’ about what is going on in mineral museums in Europe (and worldwide) because of the intimate setting and the small number of people. The attendance is mainly European although Penny from Australia was able to attend!

6 Museums were involved in the Exhibits, and SMMP logos were placed in the cases where member museums exhibited – others were encouraged to do the same, if members of SMMP

12 workshops and lectures were available as part of the public offer, 5 of these had museum involvement.

Updates were given about the facebook page and the IMA. *(This will be covered later in with its own agenda point – Note: The St.Marie meeting is covered in its own minutes – which can be found here... <http://www.smmp.net/min18j.pdf>)*

The Munich Meeting was well attended as usual with 30 attendees, prior to the SMMP meeting an IMA-CM meeting was conducted, the two meetings had previously been combined which has led to a little confusion. To address this, representatives from both societies gave a short presentation outlining goals and the symbiotic relationship of the societies and differences in governance.

There were updates about IMA Melbourne, Denver and much discussion pertaining to the upcoming displays at Tucson – most discussion focused on the difficulty of European Museums being able to bring specimens to Tucson to exhibit, due to local rules and high costs. The Virtual SMMP case concept was suggested by Jolyon Ralph as a way of exhibiting which has been an important SMMP outreach tool during this Tucson and updated daily on the SMMP Facebook page.

A number of new opportunities, conferences and exhibits were announced including the next Mineralogy and Museums (M&M9) (*...again see separate agenda item*)

There was some concern over the methodology used at Munich to create the display theme. This is something that is decided by the show committee, without input of a museum curator. Occasionally the result of multiple museums attending with different objects alongside private collectors and dealers can lead to a confusing narrative or simple errors that may then be unknowingly linked to the museums present by the visiting public. A letter relating to this, with some suggestions of how the SMMP could help, along with some comments relating to the organisation of the show set up was sent to the Munich Show Committee by the Vice President.

7 or 8 museums were involved in the exhibits, due to the over running of the show set up, which took 2 days there was no time to organise the tours that were originally planned. A number of individuals offered to do a tour, but in the end only Vera Hammer was able to give a curator tour on the day. The tour was excellent and well received. It is hoped that others can do this in the future and that there will be more time to disseminate the information regarding the specimens present prior to the show, so that potential curator tour guides can be more confident in the information that they are presenting.

*(Note: The Munich meeting is covered in its own minutes – which can be found here...
<http://www.smp.net/min18o.pdf>)*

8. MR & KT - IMA-CM (Commission of Museums) update

IMA-CM met during the IMA meeting in Melbourne in August 2018. A new IMA-CM board was constituted: Mike Rumsey (NHM London) Chair, Stuart Mills (Museum Victoria) Vice-Chair, Kim Tait (ROM, Canada) Secretary. The board has been approved by a majority of votes from the members (National Representatives).

The vision for the commission is that the IMA-CM will be an international, academic 'voice' acting towards the preservation, collaboration and appropriate use (primarily research), of scientific and/or historic collections containing mineralogical samples. Its remit, does not include the outreach, education and display perspectives that the SMMP has such great expertise in.

A new website is up and running, www.ima-cm.com and is no longer hosted by the SMMP. The website will be developing progressively and will have a link to the Catalogue of Type Mineral Specimens (previously hosted on the SMMP, but an IMA-CM project).

Finally, the M&M 9 conference was announced, to be held July 5-7 2020 in Sofia, Bulgaria. The first circular should be with the various societies in May (*Note: this has now been released in early June*) All are encouraged to think about their attendance and presentations that they may give, it looks to be a great conference and fieldtrip opportunity. It is the only Formal gathering that Mineral Museum Professions have for their work, it only happens every 4 years... and due to the unfortunate events of M&M8, the last one was 8 years ago in Dresden – this is the opportunity to showcase your pioneering new work or development relating to minerals and museum collections/management

9. KD - Jean Demouth Legacy discussion

There is an intention to sponsor a permanent case at both Denver and Tucson in the SMMP's name, which would be dedicated to the memory of Jean DeMouth SMMP case. In order to provide a lasting legacy.

KD indicated that \$500 was necessary for each show in order to do this for perpetuity and that fund raising would begin. It was envisaged that cases at each show will better help embed the SMMP within the wider community.

GH asked if more than \$500 was to be raised what would be done with the rest of the funds.

KD indicated that the board had already thought that buying copies of Jean's Book and donating them (via SMMP in memory in Jean) to new or smaller museums would be appropriate.

10. KD - General Business & AOB

GH reminded everyone about the MSA centennial event, a symposium with 14 sessions, 2 key notes and multiple workshops to be held June 20-21st @ the Smithsonian. Notably there is a session on the next 100 years of mineral museums and collections. Details can be found at www.minsocam.org

It was noted that in a well-timed announcement, considering the Tucson show theme, that wulfenite had been adopted as the state mineral of Arizona.

11. KD & MR - Board of Directors election

Contrary to the newsletter, there were three members of the board whose terms were coming to a close, Anna Domitrovic, Katherine Dunnell and Eloise Gaillou.

A call was put to the floor for the nomination of new board members:

Anna Domitrovic
Katherine Dunnell
Alyssa Morgan
Eloise Gaillou

Were all nominated and seconded by members in the room. In a change to previous years, members were given paper and pen and asked to write the names of up to three choices out of those who were nominated. The votes were put into a box, counted by MR, and witnessed by EA.

The result was that there is no change in the board as Katherine, Anna and Eloise were all re-elected.

12. MR - Election of the Officers

The newly appointed directors left the room to discuss amongst themselves the roles for the coming year, this is the responsibility of the Secretary. All the directors indicated that they were happy to continue in the roles they were already in or had previously held before the election. MR communicated to the board that there were requests from absent members to be considered for specific roles. After some discussion and voting, the unanimous decision of those board members present was that all the board members in specific roles should stay the same, thereby allowing for a longer period of continuity than usual in an attempt to allow projects and ideas to get going.

Board of directors is:

Katherine Dunnell – President ('22)
Penny Williamson – Past President ('20)
Eloise Gaillou – Vice President ('22)
Anna Domitrovic – Treasurer ('22)
Michael Rumsey – Secretary ('20)
Raquel Alonso Perez ('20)
Gail Spann ('20)
Virgil Leuth ('21)
Leslie Moclock ('21)

13. Group photograph and Next Meeting.

Members posed for a group photo and the dates for the next meeting in St.Marie were announced. Friday June 28th 1:30pm – See you there!

Acronyms:

KD – Katherine Dunnell (President)
MR – Mike Rumsey (Secretary)
EG – Eloise Gaillou (Vice President)
AD – Anna Domitrovic (Treasurer)
VL – Virgil Leuth (Board Member)
LM – Leslie Moclock (Education Committee)
AK – Tony Kampf (Webmaster)
JG – Julian Gray, Member
GH – George Harlow, Member
EA – Erika Anderson, Member

Tucson SMMP meeting 2019 Attendees

Maria Alferova	Fersman Mineralogical Museum
Raquel Alonso Perez	Harvard
Erika Anderson	Canadian Museum of Nature
Dmitri Belakovskii	Fersman Mineralogical Museum
Kevin Betancourt	Perot Museum of Nature and Science
Catherine Carter	Arizona Mining, Mineral and Natural Resources Education Museum, (University of Arizona)
Aaron Celestian	Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History
Jean-Claude Boulliard	Collection de Mineraux de Jussieu (UPMC)/(Sorbonne)
Debra Colodner	Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
Kevin Czaja	Harvard University
Peter Davidson	National Museums of Scotland
Michael Evans	Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society
Carl Francis	Maine Mineral & Gem Museum
Eloise Gaillou	MINES ParisTech
Julian Gray	Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks & Minerals
Vera Hammer	Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna
George Harlow	American Museum of Natural History
Alan Hart	Gem-A
John Jaszczak	A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum (Michigan Tech)
Mary Johnson	Mary Johnson Consulting
Reanta Lafler	Colorado School of Mines Geology
Ioan Lascu	Smithsonian Institution
Virguil Leuth	New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources
Tony Kampf	Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History
Kelsey Macnamara	New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources
Leslie Moclock	SMMP
Koichi Momma	National Museum of Nature and Science, Japan
Alyssa Morgan	Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History
Jamie Newman	American Museum of Natural History
Terri Ottaway	Gemological Institute of America
Renato Pagano	Unaffiliated, Milan, Italy
Gina Palculich	Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society
Jim Parrish	San Diego Mineral, Gem & Fossil Museum
Gian-Carlo Parodi	Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle
Federico Pezzotta	Museo Di Storia Naturale
Jeffrey Post	Smithsonian Institution
Ryan Roney	Tellus Science Museum
Mike Rumsey	Natural History Museum, London
McKenzie Santimer	Gemological Institute of America
Donald Jeffrey Self	Sherman Dugan Museum of Geology
Daniel Schlegel	Colorado School of Mines Geology
Christopher Stefano	Michigan Technological University
Gail Spann	Perot Museum of Nature and Science
Kim Tait	Royal Ontario Museum
Kimberley Wagner	Perot Museum of Nature and Science
Robert Weldon	Gemological Institute of America
Debra Wilson	Carnegie Museum of Natural History