



SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL ASTRONOMY  
IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST, INC.



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SCAAS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
9 April 2018, 6:00pm MDT  
Teleconference

Bryan Bates, President; Tony Hull, Vice President; Ric Alling, Treasurer; Ray Williamson, Secretary; Greg Munson; Chris Dombrowski, present

**Bryan Bates called meeting to order, 6:04 pm.**

**Old business**

*Approval of minutes from February 19 & 20*—approved unanimously

*Status of incomplete minutes July 24 & Oct 9, 2017*—Tony reported that he had completed the 24 July minutes and had sent them to Brian for review. He needs the audio recording to complete the 9 October minutes and Greg offered to send Tony the link.

*Status of signed office responsibility agreements*—following the 20 February board meeting, Bryan confirmed the assignment of officer responsibilities with an email, which he had asked for signature confirmation that they had been received and agreed to. Several board members had forgotten to return them, and promised to do so. Tony wanted to discuss his assigned responsibilities with Bryan and will do so shortly.

**Committee reports:**

*Treasurer*—Ric reported that the treasurer's report had been sent out earlier and had also been included in the Equinox Newsletter, but they needed approval of the board. All present voted to approve said report.

*Status "Workbook" per Tempe conf.*—Ric's and Chris's intention was to create a workbook for the workshop that serves as a "how to" for using the software that we installed in our computers. Ric is making slow but fairly steady progress on the effort. He would like to have it available for members to add their own experiences with using the software and envisions the product as acting as a conversational style blog.

*Publication Committee*—Greg submitted his report to the board prior to the meeting. In the meeting he summarized that report: 1) the publication committee is making slow progress on reviewing draft conference papers and receiving revised papers from authors; 2) Greg put together a draft budget (with Bryan's input) for publication. The budget includes funding for obtaining and transcribing for review contributions from our Native American colleagues. Ray has recorded a statement from Dan Simplicio, but has not completed transcribing it. We would like statements from the other Native American participants in the conference; 3) we then discussed where we can find the money for publication. In Greg and Ray's views, this discussion is a bit premature because we need to have an attractive product to show prospective donors. Nevertheless, the committee is

exploring different possible funding sources. We also discussed use of the CAMF to help support this effort (perhaps as matching funds). Tony agreed that we should consider using part of the CAMF but averred that we shouldn't use more than a few percent of it for this purpose. Among other things, the CAMF was set up to assist education of cultural astronomy, and publishing a credible publication would certainly fit this intention.

*Membership Committee*—Tony reported that there hadn't been a Membership Committee meeting but that he had worked on crafting a membership survey. Ric suggested that we start the process by putting possible survey questions into a Survey Monkey tool and have each board member respond. This would allow us to test out the questions and refine it for the overall membership. All agreed that this would be a good way to proceed. Tony and Ric will work together on this effort.

*Life-time Membership proposal*—We deferred discussion on this item until a later meeting.

*Ben Sorrell guest membership*—Bryan mentioned that he had discussed with Ben Sorrell, a Navajo working at the Navajo cultural center in Window Rock, AZ about becoming a member of SCAAS, especially because Ben has a degree in Museum Management and Ethnoastronomy. Yet, Ben is not able to come up with the yearly fee at this point. Bryan suggested offering him a guest membership, to which all agreed. Tony offered that this was a very good use for the CAMF, to which Ray agreed. Tony noted that this month marks the fourth year since Carol was brutally murdered in her home, and that Carol would certainly approve of this use of the funds.

*Technology & website/ social media*—prior to the meeting, Chris sent a report to the board, which outlined his views of our current arrangements for these elements of SCAAS electronic communications and media. Chris recommended that each board member set up their own Dropbox account, which would enable us to use the SCAAS Dropbox account more readily. He recommended keeping the current Wild Apricot account for the website, email, and membership database. He will be scouting for a cheaper alternative, if possible, since Wild Apricot is raising its prices substantially in June. Currently, there seems to be no better alternative and switching service to another provider could be costly in terms of time and money.

*Pecos Conference*—Ric reported that he intended to attend the conference, which will be held 9-12 August in Flagstaff and will send out a note when the conference website is ready for registrations. He also offered to help staff a SCAAS table if others attend and want to pitch in. Ray, Greg and Tony intend to attend. Bryan also, if he is free at that time.

## **New Business**

*Business Plan*—Bryan pointed out that he had planned to work on a business plan for SCAAS but is finding it very difficult to do it because of the other calls on his time. Ray offered to help with this effort because it is extremely important to all of the things that SCAAS would like to accomplish over the coming months and years. The two will get together soon on the issue. Greg is also very interested in it.

*Next member conference*—Bryan has been talking with two individuals connected with Northern Arizona University's Native American programs about holding a joint conference in Flagstaff, AZ. The rest of the board felt that this was a good idea and would strengthen the SCAAS connection with the Native American community. Bryan suggested that one theme could be Native American science, which, while broader than cultural astronomy, also fits well with our interest in Native American cultural approaches to the land and sky. Among other things, NAU has a mandate to educate Native Americans. We selected tentative dates of 24-27 April 2019 for the conference. Bryan will discuss it with his contacts at NAU and report back.

*Board Membership:*--Bryan raised several questions related to board membership.

- 1) Review proposal for Board Member dues payment policy—board members need to be current in their membership dues to remain on the board. Board members agreed that if a lapse in the dues occurs, there could be a flexible period to allow the lapsed member to rectify the situation, since dropping a member is considered a very serious matter to be avoided if possible.
- 2) Standards for new Board members—Bryan pointed out that all new board members need to be approved by the board. This is necessary to ensure that each board member meets appropriate standards.

*Board Member Selection and Election*—Bryan raised additional issues that needed discussion and resolution. All agreed that one or two additional members are needed to fill out the SCAAS board, with the two most important skills or experience being: fundraising and archaeological experience. The steps to achieving a “full” board include:

1. Discussion of skills needed to enhance board and when we need to bring them on;
2. Announcement of need in newsletter;
3. Nomination and selection of candidates;
4. Board candidate discussion, and interviews, if appropriate
5. Election and announcement of new board members.

### **Special thanks for a good job completed.**

Bryan issued a special thank you to William Seven and to Greg Munson for again completing and distributing the Newsletter on time. It is excellent! The board is reminded to submit material for the Summer Solstice newsletter.

<b>Future Meetings:</b> Executive Committee	May 14, 6pm MDT
Board of Directors	July 2, 6pm MDT
Executive Committee	August 5, 6pm MDT
Board of Directors	October 16pm MDT
Executive Committee	November 12 6pm MST

### **Adjournment: 7:28 pm**

Minutes submitted by:

Ray Williamson  
SCAAS Secretary  
April 10, 2017

Minutes certified by:

Bryan Bates  
SCAAS President  
April 11, 2018