



SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL ASTRONOMY
IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST, INC.



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Board of Directors Meeting
Arizona State University – Tempe
School of Earth and Space Exploration Conference Room
Sunday, November 12, 2017 12:00 noon

Present: Bryan Bates – President, Tony Hull – Vice President, Ray Williamson – Secretary, Ric Alling – Treasurer, Greg Munson, Beth Jewell (via telephone). Absent: Chris Dombrowski

Near the end of the workshop, which participants felt was generally successful, SCAAS President Bryan Bates convened a board meeting of those present to explore several questions of general importance to SCAAS membership, as well as to participants in the workshop.

1. Where do we go after the workshop?

- a. Workshop participants generally were very pleased with the workshop, and very much appreciated the work that Ric, Chris and Greg put into the effort. Nevertheless, most felt they could use additional time during the workshop to digest more of the software details. One person suggested that there should be additional levels of the tutorials offered.
- b. It was suggested that a webpage from the workshop be developed and list of resources presented there, as well as additional instructions and tips for the software be presented.
- c. Others suggested that the webpage could constitute the start of a course manual that also includes a section on research design.
- d. Participants also discussed the concern that some might try to rely too much on the software and neglect the very important aspect of ground truth. There is no substitute for being in the field to verify hypotheses.

2. Visioning Project

- a. We are at a time in our evolution as an organization where we need to consider how to proceed in order to grow the society and to provide greater benefits for our members. The Board envisions instituting a visioning process in which we consider our options for fund raising and what we want the society to look like over the next several years. Are there new directions to pursue that fit within our overall guidelines? How will we raise the needed money to expand our offerings to membership? Do we need an Executive Director? Bryan raised these and other questions about our future direction.

- b. Suggestions:
 - i. In response to a discussion about the need for a business plan to guide SCAAS activities and fundraising, Tony offered to create a draft business plan. In further discussion, Ric Alling suggested that his wife might be able to help with the identification of helpful resources for the development of a business and marketing plan. Tony said he would step back and wait to see what help she could give.
 - ii. We can set up an online chat room to discuss issues in cultural astronomy, helpful hits for research, etc.
 - iii. Survey members about their concerns.
 - iv. It was further suggested that we develop job descriptions for board membership.
 - v. We also discussed the need to add additional members to the board. Suggestions are welcome.

3. Other Business:

- a. Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Meeting for 2019
 - i. The SAA 2019 meeting will be held in Albuquerque, NM. Tony raised the question of whether SCAAS should pursue holding a conference in conjunction with the SAA meeting (before or after). Several members thought this was impractical and suggested that SCAAS instead work with SAA to hold a single session, where we could highlight some of the best work and demonstrate to SAA members that cultural astronomy has an important part to play in their research, especially in the Southwest. Tony has agreed to pursue this idea.
- b. SCAAS Newsletter
 - i. Board members were reminded to contribute material to the next newsletter, which will go out to members near the Winter Solstice.
 - ii. Materials can include announcements of new books or articles we should be aware of.
- c. SCAAS WebX
 - i. It was suggested that SCAAS explore the use of a service like WebX to make possible on line tutorials and discussions with the ability to share documents during the sessions. Such a capability would allow SCAAS to hold small, short meetings during the year to present ideas, research results, etc.

Board meeting was adjourned at 1:00PM.

Certified by: Ray Williamson, SCAAS Secretary

Bryan Bates, SCAAS President

December 8, 2017