



SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL ASTRONOMY
IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST, INC.
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Minutes
SCAAS Board of Directors Meeting
Feb 20, 2018: 5:30 - 6:30pm MST
Teleconference

Bryan Bates - President, Tony Hull - Vice President, Ric Alling - Treasurer, Ray Williamson - Secretary, Beth Jewell, Greg Munson, Chris Dombrowski

Call meeting to order 5:30 pm.

1) Recalling the January 15 meeting.

This meeting opened with several mea culpas related to the poor decorum during the 15 January meeting. Bryan reminded us that we need to work together, respect differences of opinion and allow people time to speak. He apologized to the Board for his part, saying that he failed to provide sufficient information ahead of time related to a proposal to hire an executive director for the society. Other board members, including Tony, Ray, and Greg, also apologized for their role in the tense discussion.

2) Individual consultation with each board member re: SCAAS priorities

One of the important things that came out of the January 15 meeting was the concern that board members might each see the role of the society differently. Hence, Bryan asked to meet over the phone with each Board member to hear their views about the way forward for SCAAS. He mentioned that he had good, constructive conversations with all Board members. These consultations resulted in the following important top three priorities expressed during the phone meetings, which illustrate that there is considerable uniformity in what board members see as the role of the society and their responsibility to the membership:

- a. Education should be a major thrust of SCAAS activities, through the newsletter, website, conferences and workshops.
- b. Publication of papers from SCAAS conferences is important.
- c. We should focus on working with archaeologists, including helping them understand what cultural astronomers do and why. It is also important that cultural astronomers understand more about the archaeological research process and how we can fit into it.

Greg pointed out that all of these items fit within the SCAAS By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation. We do, however, need input from the SCAAS membership regarding their views of priorities and ways to involve them more deeply in activities. Beth suggested

that we could help archaeologists by providing professional observations of potential archaeoastronomical sites. Greg added that we could also help our own membership by promulgating rigorous methods of documentation and analysis.

Greg noted that the group, Project Archaeology (<https://projectarchaeology.org/>) is looking for materials to publish for its series of educational publications. SCAAS could provide some archaeoastronomical examples for that series.

Others suggested that SCAAS could provide talks and presentations about cultural astronomy to the public. One thought would be to take interested parties to a site and show how we determine that a site might/might not contain astronomical alignments of significance.

Ray pointed out that as we review priorities we should take a careful look at the SCAAS mission statement. The current one is too long and complex. It should be no more than one sentence, if possible, so it can be easily memorized and stated when someone asks about the society. Others agreed. Ray offered to draft a new one, based on the current statement.

3) The Wells Fargo Bank account. We discussed the need to have a third person on the account.

Ray Williamson offered a **Motion** to add Bryan Bates, President of SCAAS, as a signer on our account with Wells Fargo Bank. Ric Alling, Treasurer of SCAAS, will remain a signer on the Wells Fargo Bank account. Greg Munson will remain a signer on the Wells Fargo Bank account although his position has been changed from President to Board of Directors. The **Motion** was seconded by Ric Alling. The **Motion Passed** by unanimous vote.

4) Review of significant points from Feb 19, 2018 Exec Committee meeting.

- a. Bryan offered a summary & review of duty distribution in lieu of hiring an Exec Director. See appendix to the Ex. Com. Meeting minutes, 19 February 1918.
- b. Bryan also asked if any changes were needed at this time. No one saw the need to change any of them yet.

5) Question of a members meeting

- a. Bryan raised the question of when to hold a members meeting. The SCAAS by-laws call for a members meeting ever two years, at least. The last meeting was during the 2016 conference in Cortez. Because time was short for this meeting we deferred the topic until the April 2 Board meeting and make it a priority. Time is short to begin the process for a fall meeting. In the meantime, Bryan said that he would send a proposal around for us to contemplate.

6) Formal SCAAS Presence at SW archaeology or rock art conferences

- a. Pecos – This will be held in Flagstaff, (Aug 9-12). Ric offered to staff a table there if we wanted to have a presence at the conference.
- b. Other possible conferences are the Utah Rock Art Research Association (URARA) (Oct. 3-8, Bluff) and the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists (CCPA), date unknown. Discussion of these conferences was deferred till the 2 April board meeting.
- c. SAA 2019 consideration- Tony has been in discussion with the conference organizers, and will report at the 2 April meeting.

7) Publication update & current plan for financing.

- a. The publication committee has sufficient publishable articles to begin the process of seeking publication funds. We are working toward a proposal to the Ballantine Foundation (local SW Colorado).

8) Miscellaneous items.

- a. Notes and other materials from the November workshop. These are being prepared and tested for inclusion on the website.
- b. Chris Dombrowski has agreed to take on the role of technical manager, looking after the database on Wild Apricot and possibly GoDaddy.
- c. Tony has agreed to take on the responsibility of leading development of a membership survey. Beth has agreed to help.

9) Adjournment at 6:36 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Ray Williamson
SCAAS Secretary
March 5, 2018

Minutes certified by:

Bryan Bates
SCAAS President
March 6, 2018