

MINUTES
SOUTHWESTERN ARCHAEOLOGY, INC
SPECIAL Meeting of Board of Directors
10:00 AM (MST)/11:00 AM (MDT), Thursday, May 6, 2021
By teleconference through Microsoft Teams

Meeting was called to order at 10:07 am (MST) by President David Purcell

In attendance: David Purcell, President and Treasurer
Janet Hagopian, Vice President, (joined at 10:50 am)
Kimberly Spurr, Secretary
Chuck Riggs, 2021 Pecos Conference Organizer
Fumi Arakawa, 2019 Pecos Conference Organizer
Kellam Throgmorton, Cordell/Powers Prize Committee Liaison

Absent: Ethan Ortega, Information Specialist

- 1) Approve the minutes from the Southwestern Archaeology, Inc. Board Meeting on January 25, 2021. The minutes were sent the Board members for review on April 23. Kellam motioned for approval, Fumi seconded, unanimously approved.
- 2) Update of SWA financial position, January 25, 2021 to May 5, 2021, by Treasurer David Purcell. SWA currently has **\$111,826.19** with **\$24,453.93** in the Pecos Conference account and **\$87,372.26** in the Cordell/Powers Prize account, reflecting payment of Arizona Corporation Commission filing fee (\$10.00 on April 13, 2021). Note that there is also **\$9,480.00** in the Annual Conference account under Chuck's control not included in the total above. The only expense so far this year is the annual payment to the Arizona Corporation Commission, which keeps us in good standing as an Arizona corporation for another year. David submitted our financial documents to Stephens and Company for our 2020 tax filing on April 24, 2021. They are complete and will be submitted to the IRS today. Kellam reports the C/PP committee has not made any investments yet with the money taken out of the CD last December because the interest rates are so low and the amount is still small as an endowment. Board discussed options for a "capital campaign" to raise enough money to make an endowment possible if the conference happens this year and there is enthusiasm again; Kellam will explore that idea with the committee.
- 3) Report on organizing for the 2021 Pecos Conference in Mancos, Colorado, by Chuck Riggs. Colorado ended state-level oversight of the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency on April 16. La Plata County is currently at the lowest level of emergency (Level Blue), under which we could hold Pecos Conference with social distancing and masks. The remaining questions are whether we can expect enough participants for the event to be financially viable and whether we can keep participants, vendors, volunteers, and contractors safe. *[Note that this discussion occurred the week before the CDC retracted their recommendation for masks and social distancing for vaccinated people]*

Board had a lengthy discussion on whether and how to hold Pecos Conference this year. All agree it is not realistic to require proof of vaccination at this venue but it is likely that most attendees will be vaccinated if they are able, and those who are not comfortable in a concentrated social situation likely will not attend. Options discussed for safety include not having a dance, having container meals instead of a buffet line, designating the tent into vaccinated space (closer chairs) versus not vaccinated spaces (wider chairs), having a larger tent, having more toilets, and not holding a reception in a small space. Kellam and Kim report on recent conversations with colleagues that indicate lots of enthusiasm for the conference and concern about losing interest and attendance if we cancel again this year. These seems to be little enthusiasm for a virtual conference.

Board decision is YES, we will hold the conference near Mancos on August 5-8. Chuck will consider the modification discussed above in making final plans. He has not engaged a caterer yet and one idea is to invite 4-5 food trucks instead of a buffet, which would spread out the people among vendors and spread around the economic benefit of the conference. Kim asked about volunteers and students to help organize, Chuck thinks he can find enough people; we can also add a question on the registration form about volunteering to help at the conference. Another topic from previous conversation is whether we need some sort of security. Chuck will make some inquiries report back. Chuck and Ethan will coordinate on content for the website, with plans to open registration on June 1.

Chuck has been in contact with Tom Rice at the USFS, who agreed SWA can legally hold the conference based on current guidance. Yesterday Tom Rice contacted Chuck about a potential conflict, however, and Chuck responded that Pecos Conference has priority. *[Chuck contacted Tom after this meeting and verified our status]*. Chuck recently reached out to Native attendees at SEAC to get reactions to that conference offering free admission for Native people. The Board supports free admission for Pecos Conference and discussion ensued regarding how to verify status (census number, tribal membership card, honor system, etc.). Because we already require a student ID for that category of registration, we will request either a tribal ID or a census number for those seeking free registration.

Tom Windes is concerned about the long obituary list that will be necessary this year after missing the conference last year. Discussion of options ensued. Chuck proposed putting biographical information on the website, with a simple recitation of the list of people at the Business Meeting, without details about their lives or careers. Board agreed to this plan.

- 4) Update from Information Specialist Ethan Ortega on the status of 'Equality and Inclusivity' officer/position/committee discussed at the last Board meeting. Ethan was not available for the meeting, see Administrative Issues below.
- 5) Update from Kellam Throgmorton on activities of the Cordell/Powers Prize Committee. The committee has made a few tweaks to the judging criteria that expand the option of presenting on public archaeology projects in addition to more traditional research. He will ask the committee whether to make a one-time exception to increase the age criteria to 31

years, to cover people who might have 'aged-out' last year when the conference was cancelled. Once the committee finalizes the criteria, Kellam will send that to Ethan to post on the website.

6) Administrative Issues

- a) Amend the Bylaws, Article 4:Officers, Section 9: Duties of the Treasurer to give the Cordell/Powers Prize Liaison signatory authority on the Cordell/Powers Prize checking account, to allow more efficient management of those funds. David sent the revised Bylaw text to the Board on May 5 for review. A motion to amend the Bylaws was made by Kim, seconded by Janet, and unanimously approved.
- b) Amend the Bylaws Article 6:Execution of Instruments, Deposits and Funds, Section 2:Checks and Notes to remove the requirement for all monetary transactions to be witnessed and counter-signed. This will allow more flexibility for the conference organizer and C/PP committee liaison, but oversight is still in place by the Treasurer in the annual audit process. David sent the revised Bylaw text to the Board on May 5 for review. A motion to amend the Bylaws was made by Kellam, seconded by David, and unanimously approved.
- c) Amend the Bylaws, Article 4:Officers, Section 3:Election and Term of Office to change the election from the Board of Directors to the membership at the August Business Meeting, per the revised Bylaws. David sent the revised Bylaw text to the Board on May 5 for review. A motion to amend the Bylaws as made by Kim, seconded by Chuck, and unanimously approved.
- d) Appoint Ethan Ortega as Director of Equity and Inclusivity, per Article 3:Directors, Section 1:Number, and per discussions at previous Board meetings. Motion made by Fumi, seconded by Janet; unanimously approved.
- e) No further information on Pecos Conference 2022 at or near Pecos NHP. David has not heard from Jeremy Moss or Gary Newgent regarding this event since our last Board meeting but did get an inquiry from Gary about the status of 2021. Brian Kenny floated the idea of having Pecos near Folsom, New Mexico, in 2022, but did not offer to organize it there, and has not found someone there who is interested in organizing.

7) Other Old or New Business: None

8) Next regular meeting will be at the Business Meeting at Pecos Conference unless Chuck feels there are issues that need to be discussed, then we can call another virtual meeting.

9) Adjourn; motion by Kim; seconded by David; adjourned at 11:22am (MST).