

ASSOCIATION OF IOWA ARCHAEOLOGISTS
Business Meeting Minutes
Anamosa Library and Learning Center
Anamosa, Iowa
June 5, 2010
10:00am – 3:00pm

1. The meeting was called to order by President Nurit Finn at 10:05am.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2009 Meeting.

Minutes were approved as submitted. m/s/c.

3. New Member Applications

Shane Pickett and Joe Tiffany were applicants for Fellow membership. Murray Grant was an applicant for Student membership and Shirley Schermer was an applicant for Adjunct membership. The prospective members were asked to leave the room during the voting process. The members were accepted into membership. m/s/c.

4. Election of Officers

President-Elect: Mike Perry was nominated for this position. m/s/c.
Mikes term will run from 2010-2013.

5. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer reports current balance of \$1,596.10 as of June 1, 2010. New revenues for 2009-2010 (\$854.09) include \$850.00 in membership dues and \$4.09 in interest dividends. Expenditures (\$667.56) include \$500.00 for Iowa Archaeology Month as approved by the membership at the 2009 Business Meeting, \$117.56 in expenses for the 2009 business meeting, and \$50.00 in reservation expenses for the 2010 business meeting. A complete financial report will be made available June 30, 2010, the end of the fiscal year.

Treasurer has contacted the IRS in regard to Form 990-N (Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small tax-Exempt Organizations whose annual gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less). This can be completed electronically by submitting an e-postcard. If an organization fails to file they will automatically lose their tax-exempt status. The organization is in good financial condition. Treasurer's report was approved. m/s/c.

Due to nonpayment of dues for three consecutive years Nancy Hodgson and Kira Kaufmann were dropped from the membership rolls. Due to missing the last three meetings Colin Betts was also dropped from the membership.

6. AIA Consulting Organizations List

As of June 1, 2010, eleven organizations are included on the AIA's web site under the Professional Consultants List. Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center (MVAC) applied for inclusion on the Consulting Organization List; Joe Tiffany will be the contact person for MVAC .

7. Committee Reports

A. Historic Contexts Committee (Members: Withrow [chair], Alex, M. Finn, Rogers, Jones, Peterson).

The Historic Contexts Committee met in September 2009 with Withrow, Alex, Rogers, and Peterson as participants. Randy Withrow reported that the committee has reviewed information regarding existing context information and is looking into the possibility of an AIA-sponsored workshop or training session for developing historic contexts. Cindy Peterson reported that she had contacted the National Park Service for a representative to instruct a workshop for AIA members. Matt Donovan reported that the DOT is in the planning stages of bringing all the consultants to a central location for a workshop or meeting. Withrow stated at this time the committee didn't know the costs associated with this type of workshop or training session. The committee will continue developing the workshop idea and report back to the membership.

B. Guidelines Committee (Doershuk [chair], Withrow, Thompson, Higginbottom, Jones).

John Doershuk reported that the committee did not meet, and that the guidelines would be discussed later in the meeting.

C. Digital Documentation Committee (Artz [chair], Lensink, Whittaker, Jones).

Joe Artz reported that the committee did not meet. The group discussed how each organization was making progress toward the goal of expanding digital records including compliance reports.

8. Agency Updates

A. Iowa Archaeology Month

John Doershuk reported for Lynn Alex who was absent. John provided information concerning Iowa Archaeology Month 2010, with RAGBRAI as the focus once again. This year there is limited funding, but plans are to participate in Hooverfest, Iowa State Fair, and the Meskwaki Powwow as in past years. A motion was made to provide \$500.00 in support of the 2010 Iowa Archaeology Month. m/s/c.

B. SHPO Update

Doug Jones reported that the consultants list will be leaving the SHPO website at the end of the month. Things have been very busy with over 800 new projects submitted by the end of May. Stimulus money, including from the Department of Energy, has greatly affected projects.

Phyllis Ewing has been relieved of her duties as superintendent at Effigy Mounds National Monument due to recent issues; Interim superintendent is Michael Evans. National Park Service representatives recently met with SHPO, OSA, and tribal members. An internal audit has found more than 80 projects which did not go through the Section 106 and Section 110 consultation processes, with many adverse effects to the monument. Tribes and SHPO have requested that the NPS go through the formal designation process to get EFMO designated as a traditional cultural property. Jerome Thompson suggested the AIA send a letter to Steve Adams, director of the NPS Midwest Archaeological Center in Lincoln, NE. A motion was made for the AIA president to write a letter as soon as possible and send out to the membership for comments. m/s/c.

Jerome Thompson reported on the new Lyon County casino impact on the Blood Run site. The casino site is 3-4 miles northwest of the site boundary, and well beyond any sensitive areas.

C. OSA Update

John Doershuk reported that Professor Thomas Charlton, longtime professor of anthropology at the University of Iowa, passed away suddenly. Matt Hill commented that there may be a public ceremony planned. Steve Lensink is now the oldest practicing archaeologist in the state.

Doershuk also reported on budget and funding issues. Last year's budget cuts were buffered by stimulus money that will not be available this fiscal year, but there will be no personnel cuts as a result. The OSA basement is in the process of being converted into a modern repository with an estimated 27 years of storage capacity; construction should be complete this fall.

Steve Lensink reported that the OSA has created a Xythos account for document sharing, which is a web-based file storage system allowing users a simple way to upload, store, and access, retrieve, and share files via the Internet. This service will be free to all AIA members who have current I-Sites licenses and are willing to share electronic publications they have available. The fee for use by those not sharing documents will be \$25 dollars per document request. The OSA would prefer the final product of the report in a PDF.

Joe Artz reported that I-Sites has been moved to the Iowa DOT portal and problems should be directed to Colleen Eck at OSA. Both the I-Sites Pro and I-Sites Public versions have been updated. OSA has established a data sharing

agreement with Iowa DOT to host the I-Sites Pro map service. Site number checkout, NADB and ISF access, and other database functions continue to reside on a secure, UI web server.

9. New Business

A. IDOT Workshop

Matt Donovan reported that Judy McDonald is retiring, with a reception on June 24th. The position should be filled later this fall or winter. The Iowa DOT is taking over the hosting part of I-Sites. Our in-house capacity is with ArcMap applications. The Iowa DOT is going to be stressing the need for Arc layers and GIS coordinates to all consultants. They are also working on a two day workshop in Ames and would like to involve the AIA, perhaps as part of our annual meeting. Donovan will report back to the group as plans progress.

B. Iowa Legislative Action-Amendment 5351 of House File 2531

Jerome Thompson reported that shortly before the house session ended there was an amendment added which states that the SHPO shall be no more restricting in their recommendations than the federal agency for which they are consulting. Requests from the AIA, Sierra Club, ACRA, Preservation Iowa, and David Gradwohl were submitted to the governor urging him to veto it. Over 160 rural electric cooperatives participated in an email campaign to influence passage. The law passed with an effective date of July 1.

SHPO is not discontinuing the guidelines, but would like to remove them from their website as there is a belief that the guidelines are standards. Section 106 verbiage may be able to be cut out of the guidelines because it can be found elsewhere on the SHPO website. A motion was made to accept the "Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Iowa" as the title for the guidelines. m/s/c. A motion was made to host the Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Iowa on the AIA web page. m/s/c.

Nurit Finn suggested more people get involved in the guidelines revision, with each organization represented in the AIA having at least one person working to help get them done in addition to the guidelines committee members. A recommendation was made to draft a revised version of the guidelines by October 1st.

C. Preservation Iowa-Opportunities for collaboration (Rod Scott)

Rod Scott discussed the history and mission of Preservation Iowa and their programs to help protect the state's most endangered properties and resources. There was discussion of collaborations between Preservation Iowa and the AIA to work together on issues that pertain to both, including grant opportunities.

D. Strategic Planning

Nurit Finn opened discussion on short and long term goals for the AIA. It was suggested that the group look at what other similar statewide organizations are doing. A motion was made to authorize the board to begin discussions about strategic planning. m/s/c.

10. Other Business

Matt Hill reported that the UI Department of Anthropology is planning for its future and discussing the creation of a MA program in Cultural Resource Management. Cindy Peterson discussed State Preserves Board activity in regard to archaeological sites.

11. The business meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

2010 Members in Attendance

Joe Artz
Dave Benn
Lowell Blikre
Jim Collins
John Doershuk
Brennan Dolan
Matt Donovan
Michael Finn
Nurit Finn
Don Gaff
Chad Goings
Kathy Gourley
Murray Grant
Mike Gregory
Dan Higginbottom
Matt E. Hill
Daniel Horgen
Sarah Horgen
Doug Jones
Steve Lensink
Edward Lueck
Carl Merry
Blane Nansel
Mike Perry
Cindy Peterson
Shane Pickett
Melody Pope
Christy Rickers
Melanie Riley
Leah Rogers
Lane Shields
Joe Tiffany
Randy Withrow

Guests in Attendance

Barbara Mitchell
Rod Scott
Jerome Thompson