

Plains Anthropological Society

Zoom Board Meeting – October 30, 2020

Meeting called to order at 1:06 pm by President Mary Adair

Those present include: Mary Adair, Kelly Pool, Cherie Haury-Artz, Lauren Ritterbush, Robert Hoard, Brandi Bethke, Brendon Asher, Courtney Ziska, Richard Meyers, Chris Johnston, Wendi Field-Murray

New Board members for 2020 are present: Nancy Arendt, Alison Hadley Hilburn, David Posthumus

Welcome and a change to agenda from Adair – She would like to cancel the 2nd Board meeting which was scheduled to follow immediately after this one. The second Board meeting will be rescheduled to follow the PAS business meeting on November 30.

Hoard moved to accept agenda with that change. 2nd by Ritterbush. Motion passed without objection.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from July and October. Two corrections were offered. 1. Correcting the spelling of Bob Hoard's name. 2. Student Affairs Committee chairperson will be determined by the students at a time to be determined by them.

Hoard moved to accept the minutes as amended. 2nd by Field Murray. Passed with no objection.

New Board Members Nancy Arendt, Alison Hadley Hilburn, David Posthumus were introduced.

Committee Reports:

In the interests of time complete committee reports were circulated to Board members prior to this meeting. This discussion will focus on questions and issues raised by those reports.

- a. President's report – accepted with no discussion
- b. Treasurer's report – 2019 was a financially down year probably due to one-time expenses and the fact that the 2019 Conference lost money (ca. \$3700). Johnston does not consider this drop to be alarming, 2020 is on a much better track because less has happened due to the pandemic. The year will probably be down because membership is down. Many individuals are spurred to renew their memberships at conference time and the absence of a conference will be felt.
No audit is recommended for this year. Johnston will continue to monitor accounts.
Johnston will continue to update the handbook. One update he recommends is to require conference hosts to report expenses within 60 days of the end of a conference. This will allow us to track expenses better. Johnston has

a template budget sheet to help conference hosts plan and track expenses better. He has already been discussed this with Doug Bamforth who is hosting the 2021 conference in Boulder.

Haury-Artz moved to accept treasurer's report. 2nd by Ritterbush. Passed with no objections.

- c. Editor's report – Hoard has no concerns for the coming year. Submissions are up and there are enough articles for the next volume. The length of time between submission and response is about two months. Submissions are mostly articles, no memoirs have been submitted lately.

Hoard extended his compliments to Matt E. Hill who did a great job as book review editor and to Mary Hoard who served as assistant editor.

He recommends that we sign with Taylor and Francis. The new contract is for five years with a one year breakout clause that will allow either party to withdraw at will. Adair and Hoard have interviewed other presses. They learned there are serious issues with institutional memberships if we change presses. Currently we get a wide distribution of 3,000 institutions with Taylor and Francis that other presses cannot provide. Hoard and Adair believe the problems with issue distribution have been resolved and that we are getting a much better response now when problems arise. Hoard is helping develop a format that will help authors and publisher to work through editorial issues.

Hoard's term is ending. So far no one has stepped up to take the position. Hoard is willing to stay on until a new editor is selected and will help bring them up to speed.

Asher moved to approve the editor's report. 2nd by Ziska. Passed with no objections.

- d. Membership Committee– Field Murray reports that membership is down by 80 this year, probably because there is no conference. Many renew their memberships to attend the annual meeting. Student membership is down by half, emphasizing how important the conference is to bring the organization to students' attention. Field Murray agrees with Adair's suggestion in the President's report that we should be aggressive to reminding people to renew. Ziska and Ritterbush are working with Field Murray to come up with new strategies for recruiting new members. It will also be necessary to get membership rates updated on website before we begin our membership drive. We should also include something on the web site to tell members who to contact if they are missing journals. The site will also remind joint members to be sure to clarify which member the journal should be sent to.

The members of the Board would like to give Wendi Field Murray a big shout out for the wonderful job she has done on the membership committee. Haury-Artz moved to accept the committee report, 2nd by Bethke. Passed with no objection.

- e. Distinguished Service Award report – The committee has approved a recipient for the DSA. They will be notified soon and a video will be made of them receiving award. The video will be posted on web and an announcement will be made at the Business Meeting on November 30. An announcement will be put on the web site immediately after the November 30 meeting and will be published in journal at a later date. The individual will also be recognized at the 2021 conference. Ziska will create links to announcement for the web site.
- f. Nominations Committee – Field Murray would like to thank Lauren Ritterbush for help finding six candidates for the 2020-2021 board. A total of 102 people voted, approximately a quarter of the membership. This is generally consistent with past elections. Interest in serving was good and Field Murray has compiled a list of people who are interested in the future. Adair suggested next committee think about people who have specific skills that will be necessary for particular board positions (for example, web site management) when nominations are solicited in the future. It should be made clear to potential board members what the job entails.
- g. Web Site – Ziska reports that the web site is more stable now. This year has entailed a lot of trouble shooting and some issues with system and working with Iowa seem to be getting cleared up.

Social Media: Johnston has started a Twitter page with the handle “Plainsanthro”. Instagram was previously handled by the Student Affairs Committee but seems to have fallen off with the membership turnover.

- h. Student Affairs Committee – Brendon Asher who serves as Board liaison contacted Chairperson Carlton Gover to find out what the Student committee has been up to this year. Gover reported that they haven’t done anything this year because the pandemic has up-ended many student’s lives and the cancellation of the conference when they usually get together. Asher reminded them that they need to fill positions etc. Asher and Courtney Ziska are trying to decide what their role is as advisers. Clearly the students need some guidance and prodding but they should be allowed to make their own plans and decisions. It was recommend that Board advisors should stay below the radar and only offer suggestions or advise for activities that they could pursue.
- i. Student Paper Competition – Last year’s winner was invited to submit her paper to the journal for publication but has not done so. It was suggested that other entrants should be encouraged to submit their papers as well. The 2020 competition was cancelled in absence of the conference.
- j. Native American Student Award – Two applications were received this year. One applicant was ineligible because he had received the award before. The second applicant, a Canadian citizen, will be awarded \$1000 dollars. Meyers will notify her and her college advisor and Johnston will make arrangements for payment. Concerns were raised about the limited number of applications. It was suggested

that next year's committee work on changing language in the announcement to be more inclusive since "Anthropology" often carries negative connotations for word for Native people.

- k. Student Posters Competition – After numerous announcements and reminders no submissions have been received to date. The deadline in October 31, the board recommend that the deadline not be extended and if no submissions are received in the next 24 hours the competition will be suspended.
- l. Archives – no issues. Haury-Artz submitted the materials from the 2019 Conference and Board meetings to the archives.
- m. Resolutions – The format for resolutions is different this year because there is no conference. The committee will remove the section about the student poster competition since no one participated. Adair will read the resolutions during business meeting at the end of November.
- n. Ad hoc Committee: Back Issues – Because of COVID restrictions there has been no access to back issues. We will leave it as is.
- o. Donna Roper Award – There will be two recipients this year. The committee may need to ask future applicants to clearly express how award will fit into their research.

Old Business.

The 2020 conference is cancelled, as a result the harassment and discrimination workshop has been moved to the 2021 conference.

Continuing discussion of By-Laws changes. One proposed change is to have the president elected by the membership rather than by the Board. It has also been proposed that the President will serve a two year term. These are major changes and will require a great deal of explanation and discussion. Adair doesn't feel that it will be productive to bring them up at the up-coming Zoom business meeting because of the limitations of the format and the likelihood of low attendance. She proposes that we form a committee to flesh out these and other bylaws changes for consideration at a later date. An explanation will be developed that explains what the proposed changes are and how they will be implemented etc. Johnston and Hoard suggest that the committee circulate an explanation of the changes and solicit feedback from membership ahead of face to face discussion. Adair is willing to serve on committee. Johnston and Pool also volunteer. Johnston suggests soliciting at least one non-board member to serve. Perhaps Mark Mitchell who originally proposed the changes and maybe someone who is opposed for a different point of view. Hoard will provide the committee with the material that he has already assembled regarding these changes. Other proposed changes relate to removing anachronisms from the description of the secretary position (e.g., references to the organization seal and a book that used to be passed from one secretary to the next).

Continuing discussion of plans to increase membership: It has been proposed that we should take steps to promote membership to CRM institutions and ask academic institutions to

promote the benefits of membership to their students. Field Murray is willing to help compose a letter outlining the benefits of membership for both professional organizations and students. Johnston proposed establishing a monthly lecture series. Discussion: This is a good idea but it may be difficult to get presenters and participants on a regular basis. Perhaps it could be focused on current and on-going research. Short, informal presentations of recent fieldwork or current projects. Another proposal is to create a section in journal for similar reports on current or on-going research topics. Johnston and Hadley Hilburn are interested in working on these ideas. Posthumus suggests that pod-casts could be a good format for these kinds of presentations. Audio presentations might be more accessible. We might invite Carlton Gover and other students to be involved since Gover is already doing something like this.

2020 Business Meeting keynote speaker: It was proposed at our last meeting that we consider having a keynote speaker to draw interest to the 2020 virtual business meeting; however, Adair was unable to find anyone willing to undertake a major presentation. There will not be a speaker this year. A recorded Distinguished Service Award presentation and acceptance will be played. And the winners of the NASA award, Student Paper competition, and the Donna Roper Award will be announced. Relevant committees will try to get photos of award winners for the presentation.

Future PAS meetings on agenda. Thanks to all for rearranging meetings after the pandemic forced cancellation of the 2020 meeting. We need to contact the people planning the Topeka meeting to see if they want to issue an invitation now at the 2020 Business meeting or wait until the 2021 meeting when a formal vote will take place.

New Business:

The summer of 2020 brought up many racial issues. PAS expressed our support for those struggling with the issues but we feel that we should find way to take action to back up our words. Bethke and Haury-Artz will explore how other institutions are dealing with these issues and will try to come up with some ways for PAS to deal with them.

Chris Johnston is willing to continue as treasurer for another term. During this time he will begin to search for another person who is willing to take the job and will start training them. THANK YOU CHRIS for all the work you have put in and for being willing to continue for another term!

2020 Schedule business meeting – We need to provide membership with 20 day notice before a business meeting. Adair suggests we call the meeting for Monday November 30. The meeting should take about an hour, no more. Proposed time of 4 to 5 pm Central Time. Bethke will monitor the chat and field questions that might arise.

Adair will put together agenda and circulate for approval along with reports to be approved.

The second board meeting will be held immediately after business meeting on Nov. 30, 5-6 pm Central Time.

Student travel grant not on agenda but it will be renewed for next year conference.

2021 Conference dates – We have proposed dates of October 14-17 and November 3-6 but the hotel wants to see the football schedule before they confirm. Doug Bamforth seems to favor the November dates. The possibility has been raised of holding a joint conference or establishing some other link with the Rocky Mountain conference. We will wait to see what they have in mind and we know more about the conference dates. Either way they have agreed to not schedule their meeting at a time that raises issues for us.

Motion to adjourn made by Hoard

2nd by Johnston

Meeting adjourned at 3:14 pm

Minutes by PAS Board Secretary - Cherie Haury-Artz