

Plains Anthropological Society Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Pre-Conference Meeting
81st Plains Anthropological Conference
[Zoom](#), Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 11 am – 1 pm CT

Present: Spencer Pelton, Adam Wiewel, John Hedden, Shawn Bubel, Veronica Mraz, Abigail Fisher, Chris Johnston, Dave Williams, Stephen Perkins, Andy Clark, Gary Wowchuck, Cody Newton, Carlton Gover

Absent: Bill Billeck

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Called to order at 10:02

2. Approval of the Agenda
Moved by Bubel, second by Hedden, moved

3. Introduction to New Board Members
Introduced Stephen Perkins and Dave Williams. Tyrel Iron Eyes absent at first, but showed up later.

4. Brief Conference Update (Bubel)
Things have come together. Major challenges that fell into place last week. Secured beer and a venue to serve it at. Last Bubel looked, there are 202 people registered. 88 students. Banquet and keynote are well attended as well. Only around 35 people not attending banquet. Field trips are full for Tuesday and Wednesday. A few spots left for Saturday field trip.

Program being printed today. Enough money to cover it all.

The website has been hard to deal with. Johnston having to respond constantly to changes in registration. People have generally been understanding and willing to pay promptly.

Johnston asked if we're doing curling on Thursday. Nobody would give us ice because curling is really serious in small Alberta towns.

5. Officers' Reports
 - a. President's Report (Wiewel, to be given at the October 16 meeting)
Will give at conference
 - b. Treasurer's Report (Johnston, to be given at the October 16 meeting)
Will give at conference
 - c. Editor's Report (Billeck)
Given by Wiewel. Journal not as far behind as in past. Memoir for 2023 and all but 1 article for rest of 2023.
February 2024 is filled
May 2024 is a memoir that needs final edits
A few articles remain to be reviewed for August 2024

6. Standing Committee Reports (noting issues/business to discuss at the October 16 meeting)

a. Archives (Pelton)

Archives are submitted. Updated on USD archives sensitive materials. We already have a sensitive materials section. Pelton suggested restricting access to sitting President.

b. Bylaws (Mraz)

No changes

c. Conference and Conference Handbook (Johnston)

Conference will be a success. Don't know where it is financially quite yet. Around \$25k USD in account. Treasurer will cover things on US side because exchange is an issue. Invoices come in US dollars. We cannot use POS system for on site registration because of international exchange issues. Archaeological Society of Alberta will use their and we'll reimburse them.

Will add some clarification on roles and responsibilities conference book.

d. Distinguished Service Award (Mraz)

1 nomination came in on time. Exemplar for DSA and awarded it.

e. Ethics and Inclusion (Wowchuk)

Had a harassment claim from previous conference (reported on in last meeting). As a result, it became evident that we need a conference code of conduct to address complaints and a process to deal with them. Hoping to have draft ready for conference. Will be decisions about how and who deals with complaints.

We had a request for accommodations for a student with hearing impairment. We've been working towards accommodating that.

Wiewel added that document Gary put together contains pretty major changes. Board should be prepared to provide feedback. One idea is to introduce ombuds to meeting. Wiewel spoke with SAA ombuds about how they do it and had a very positive conversation with them. Summarized conversation with SAA ombuds.

Before next Wednesday, Wiewel would like to go ahead and get an email out to members about conference conduct. This will be accompanied by an email for safety complaints (safety@plainsanthropological.com). Wowchuck, Wiewel, Bubel, and Clark tentatively assigned to monitor this email.

f. Native American Student Award (Gover)

1 applicant. They will be at conference to accept check. Recommends Tyrel Iron Eyes present award for \$1,000.

Gover specified that the person is Metis First Nations.

g. Sensitive Image Policy (Gover)

Gover sent out 2 months ago, but Johnston says he doesn't see it. Fisher asked that he send again so Board doesn't have to find it.

Board will look at policy and vote on whether to take it to membership at conference.

h. Nominations (Reed)

Timeline: Call for nominations in April 2024. Received 12 nominations. 6 were candidates that ran, 5 declined, and didn't hear from 1 person. Voting closed on September 16th, extended a week for website issues. Reed emphasized the importance of referencing the BoD handbook to understand which committees you might join.

i. Resolutions (Newton)

Ongoing project of compiling names. Johnston mentioned Steve Baker. Clark mentioned Ellen Johnson.

j. Student Engagement (Bubel)

Good decision to transition conference student engagement to a Board member. Students have planned a lot to be revealed at conference. Having a Board member guide the process has encouraged their participation. Promoting free student registration has been a great thing as well.

Hotel is catering student luncheon for a discount.

Received 4 applications for student travel award. Washington State, University of Oklahoma, U of Alberta, and U of Calgary. We have \$5,000 to give, enough to fund all 4. Propose that we allocate \$4,300. Fisher moved, Mraz second, approved.

k. Student Paper Award (Brosowske, to be given at the October 16 meeting)

4 student papers. 2 undergrads and 2 grads.

l. Student Poster Competition (Bubel)

11 graduate student posters. Fisher volunteered to judge. Wiewel and Perkins can also judge. Ryan Breslawski a backup.

m. Webmaster/Website (Collins, to be given at the October 16 meeting)

Website malfunctioned at worst possible time. We need a new website/hosting agreement. Folks Johnston has talked to were either too expensive or unresponsive. Iowa spoke to an outside vendor that fixed the main issue causing problems. We need to move to Drupel 10. Found a company (Codelib) that deals solely in Drupel. One time fee of \$2300 to move hosting and update website. Quarterly maintenance fee is around \$500 (\$2,000 a year). Additional \$500 fee for hosting. Total \$2,500 a year for website. Johnston asking for \$6,000 to make this transition.

Wiewel asked about Drupel 11. Johnston said they've fixed the issue of having big migrations for updates.

Mraz motioned, Clark second, approved.

n. Membership (Fisher)

340 members. Lower than lowest in 2020. 292 individual members, 40 of which are students.

Might want to check in with members who didn't renew.

Pelton recommended building automatic renewal into new website.

Clark recommended making PAS an affiliated organization to the SAA. Will be on new business agenda for next week.

7. Ad Hoc Committee Reports (noting issues/business to discuss at the October 16 meeting)

a. Donna C. Roper Research Fund (Billeck)

b. Financial Review (Johnston for Mitchell, will be given at the October 16 meeting)

c. Editorial Committee (Wiewel)

Not a lot here

d. Endowment Committee (Johnston, to be given at the October 16 meeting)

Will give an update next week.

8. Announcements

Wiewel will send agenda over weekend.

9. Adjournment

Johnston moved to adjourn, Fisher second. Adjourned at 11:57.