

RTS Business Meeting, AAG Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL., April 22nd, 2015, 7:15pm.

Chair: Patrick Brouder

35 members in attendance

Call to Order: 7:19 p.m.

Agenda:

Elections (2015-2017) – close of nominations for various positions (four positions available)

- Nominees:
 - o Piotr Niewiadomski
 - o Steven Erikson
 - o Stephanie Verkoeyen (nominated in absentia for Student Representative – nominated by Sanjay Nepal)
 - o Michael Clancy
- Nominated by email declaration: Vanessa Leon, Sarah Quinlan Cutler, Kathleen Seal, Kaihan Yang (nominated for Student Representative)

Financial Report – info from Adam Keul (Secretary/Treasurer)

- Treasurer's Report provided verbally by Adam
- Account balance at April 1, 2014 was \$3,054.79
- After this year's awards paid out, balance will be \$2354.79

Awards – No Roy Wolfe or John Rooney Award, Student Awards to be decided

- Must see students present their papers before selecting recipients
- Announcement to come via Knowledge Communities and Specialty Group website (in June)

Chair's report:

Roy Wolfe Obituary (is available free to download in *Tourism Geographies*)

27 sponsored sessions this year

250 official members (total fluctuates)

Student Paper Award – 8 interested students, board will decide after conference

40+ Google Community Members

Facebook page – about 58 followers

- Simply called "Recreation, Tourism and Sport Specialty Group"

WordPress Page – Heidi Karst has been managing it (Thanks to Heidi for all her efforts!)

Knowledge Community

- notify people about the different social media being used by the specialty group: Facebook, Google, WordPress, Knowledge Community, Twitter page (@Travelography)...so that people know they exist
- Explain purpose and the uses of the Knowledge Community
- Question of whether to cull the spam and other irrelevant "tweets" from the Twitter feed

Award planning – maybe every year is too much? Question for the Board to consider

- Also, correct these on website:
 - o Dan Knudsen, "University of Indiana" should be "Indiana University"
 - o missing 2007, 2011 and 2012 recipients of Roy Wolfe Award (if they were awarded that year)
- question of whether to open nominations for awards to general membership, rather than only to past recipients...Board should work this year to come up with a process for this

RTS – one group or two or three sub-groups? Knowledge Community vs. Sponsored Sessions!

- most sponsored sessions tend to be "tourism"-related, with not many in sport or recreation
- should we reach out to the sport and recreation researchers to bring about more group activity on their parts? Yes, we should. Steven Ericson plans to assist us with this.

AAG-RTS systems in place by the Annual Meeting in 2016

- Where can we be next year by the time of the San Francisco AAG meeting (Mar 29 – April 4)? We are on the right track but more work is needed from the incoming board

Patrick will find out if our bylaws are archived somewhere and , if not, we will initiate the process of drafting, sharing and voting (at the Annual Meeting in 2016) on a new set of bylaws.

Rudi Hartmann: Suggestion for Special Sessions, AAG San Francisco:

- Tourism to memorial sites for victims of earthquakes and other natural disasters
- Immigrant Communities
- Wine and Food Tourism → Napa Valley

Question of highlighting one session as per AAG practice

- One that might be especially relevant to the venue
- Or one that transcends multiple areas of interest
- Opinion from the floor was supportive of promoting a highlighted session (one that is relevant to the location, San Francisco)

AAG-RTS Board Elections to take place via a Google Form during May with results to be announced by the start of June.

Meeting Closed: 8:04pm