

Minutes

Texas Chapter, Visual Resources Association
Meeting: February 21, 2008
Hamon Arts Library, Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University
Dallas, Texas

In attendance:

Robert Carter, University of Texas at Austin
Eileen Coffman, Southern Methodist University
Ann Graham, University of North Texas
Kathleen Hamilton, Rice University
Katherine Hooker, Southwestern University
Sigrid Knudsen, University of Texas at Austin
Katherine Moloney, Amon Carter Museum
Mark Pompelia, Rice University
Edith Riley-Peinado, Texas Christian University
Elizabeth Schaub, University of Texas at Austin
Ray Sikes, University of Texas at Tyler
Susan Jane Williams (special guest), Archivision

I. Call to Order

Chapter president Mark Pompelia called the meeting to order at 3:23 p.m.

II. Introductions

Attendees took turns introducing themselves and the institutions they represent.

III. Acknowledgements

Eileen Coffman was thanked for once again expending the time and effort required to host a chapter meeting. Several entities were thanked for making the daylong CCO workshop- a remarkable offering for such a small group- a reality: the VRA executive board and ARLIS-TX/MEX for contributing funds and support, and Archivision for kindly sponsoring lunch. Finally, president Pompelia thanked all attending members, noting that a chapter sinks or swims based on the efforts of its members.

IV. Approval of October 2007 Business Meeting Minutes

A brief discussion was held reaffirming that last meeting's digital consortium dialog was considered separate from the business agenda, and therefore acceptable to have been left out of the minutes. Katherine Moloney moved that we approve the minutes, Ray Sikes seconded, and the motion passed.

V. Secretary-Treasurer Update

Katherine Hooker stated that, as of February 21, she had received the paperwork of 15 chapter members, totaling \$320 in membership dues and donations. Mark mentioned that through Memberclicks on the VRA webpage, he had identified other possible recruits. It is the chapter's intention to encourage more members to join and participate.

VI. Texas Digital Library (TDL) Update

Elizabeth Schaub summarized the follow-up meeting, where she said a positive exchange was had with Mark McFarland and John Legget. They seem committed to moving forward with the vision of the Texas image consortium, which is to work as a group to gain access to images with a volume discount. Sigrid Knudsen, Ann Graham, and Elizabeth have worked on a document/jumping off point for a formal proposal. Elizabeth provided attendees with drafts of TIM, or the Texas Image Management project. It is hoped that this will facilitate discussion and lead to a more concrete proposal. Manakin ("a new modular, customizable, user-friendly interface for DSpace) was touched upon. A formal document written in VR jargon is required, so that the expressed benefits will warrant the large expense TDL will incur. Elizabeth pointed out that our VR needs will continue to grow and move beyond, and the TDL will need to plan for it. The formal proposal will be posted on Google Documents so that interested members can examine it and make suggestions. Some issues, such as the copyright status of legacy collections and secure permissions still need to be fully addressed. The proposal's points will have to be fleshed out individually. Sigrid Knudsen, Anne Graham, and Elizabeth Schaub plan to continue on with this necessary revision. Eileen Coffman suggested issuing a survey to identify opinions and issues which will help as this project moves forward.

VII. Chapter Web Site Development

A chapter member had emailed Mark enquiring about a member directory on the web site, with the added recommendation that we include a technology profile so that members can identify colleagues for site visits or conversations, based on who uses various systems. The group agreed this was a good idea, and Mark promised to investigate the possibility of including this information within VRA Memberclicks. If necessary, the alternative of hosting the information locally will be revisited.

VIII. 2008 VRA Annual Conference, San Diego

With the national conference looming, the chapter needed to discuss the possibility of gathering on a formal or informal level. It was pointed out that another formal business meeting, only three weeks after this one, might not be sensible. It would, however, fulfill the chapter's obligation to hold two formal meetings per year. President Pompelia will post the matter to the chapter electronic mailing list to find out who will be attending and we will come to a decision from there.

VRA's Heidi Raatz contacted VRA-TX, soliciting a chapter donation to support coffee breaks, the members' reception, and other expenses for the San Diego conference. It was reported that all other chapters have already contributed to this cause, except for

VRA-Canada, a similarly new local chapter. Attending members discussed the typical donation amount (in the range of \$175 to \$250), balancing the concerns of our fledgling treasury. Mark stated that the CCO workshop expenses were largely self-contained, and that he foresaw no other major expenses looming. Katherine repeated the current dues sum of \$320. More members and dues are expected to trickle in, and Mark reminded attendees that any further donation checks should be made out to Rice University. A motion to donate \$150 dollars to VRA's San Diego conference fund was called for. Elizabeth Schaub motioned, Ray Sikes seconded, and the motion passed.

VRA's Education Committee supports a free workshop at the national conference for a chapter member who will attend and make a follow-up report. They support at the full-day level, so it amounts to \$95. Mark asked for volunteers amongst those who were already signed up for conference workshops. Sigrid was identified as a possibility. Sigrid and Mark will communicate on this matter, and Mark may call for further volunteers via email.

IX. Next Meeting

Although Dallas has proven a successful meeting place, other locations may be considered in future. It was agreed that major cities would likely provide a larger geographic core of members likely to attend. Mark reminded the chapter that although meeting in conjunction with ARLIS-TX could still be a good possibility in the future, that this year would not work well since ARLIS-TX is meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico. Houston was mentioned as a possibility. Austin was also discussed; the Texas Digital Library is hosting a gathering in June, so a meeting during this time could be beneficial. It was agreed that these are good possibilities, and will be revisited as things unfold.

X. Fall Elections

As per chapter bylaws, two officers are elected on a staggered schedule. Katherine Hooker is serving 2008-09's secretary/treasurer position, and Mark Pompelia is fulfilling the one-year chair/president office. The chapter will need to elect a president for 2009-10, so members were urged to think about volunteering.

XI. Other/New Business

Regarding the Texas digital image licensing consortium efforts, Eileen Coffman has gotten Davis added to the Scholars Resource negotiations. Eileen will ask that accurate, updated numbers be sent to each institution. Sigrid has also been in contact with Renate Wiedenhoft from Scholars Resource. It is hoped that these communication efforts will result in some clear and beneficial figures for participating members.

XII. Adjournment

With no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15.