

Third 2020 Mineralogical Society of America Council Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

10:00 – 2:45 PM EDT

Present:

Officers:

Carol Frost, President
Mark Ghiorso, Vice-President
Kimberly Tait, Secretary
Thomas Duffy, Treasurer
Jay Ague, Councilor
Donna Whitney, Councilor
Mark Caddick, Councilor
Adam Simon, Councilor
Francis McCubbin, Councilor
Przemek Dera, Councilor

Visitors:

Ann Benbow, Executive Director
Glenn Gaetani, 2021 Treasurer
Pamela Burnley, 2021 Vice President
Jennifer Jackson, 2021 Councilor
Robert Bodnar, 2021 Councilor
Rachel Russell, Managing Editor, *American Mineralogist*
Gloria McFarland, MSA IT Specialist

Note: Motions and Council action items are presented in *italics*; SoC = Sense of Council

I. INTRODUCTIONS AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REPORTS

- A. The meeting was called to order by President Carol Frost at 10:00 AM Eastern. Attendees introduced themselves.
- B. Revisions to the Agenda, approval of the Agenda.

C. Frost proposed the following change to the agenda: That Council take a break after Section IV, and then start with the Diversity Task Force Report after that. P. Dera proposed that Council add a discussion of the Crystal Structure Database in the Programs section of the agenda. M. Caddick moved to approve the revised agenda; F. McCubbin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Accept Reports to Council containing no questions, requests, or action items as a group. Reports will be acknowledged by Secretary. [vote]

(American Mineralogist, Editor of the Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry & Monographs Series, FAAC Committee, MSA Society News Editor for Elements, Editor Handbook of Mineralogy, GeoScienceWorld, Publications Director, MSA IT Report, Distinguished Lecture Program, Committee on Committees, MSA Meetings Coordinator, Workshop Committee, Bloss Optical Crystallographic Fund Committee, Kraus Grant Committee, MinPet Grant Committee,

Social Media Liaison, Representatives to ACA, AGI, FM, GIA, GSA, GSA-MGPV, IMA, and SSMP, Special Interest Group on Pegmatites, Special Interest Group on Planetary Materials.)

No reports from: Short Course Committee, Representatives to CMS and GS.

Donna Whitney moved that reports to Council be approved by Council; M. Caddick seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Review of Executive Committee and Council actions.

Council and the Executive Committee took the following actions since the May 9, 2020 Council meeting:

- On May 25, President Frost asked Council by e-mail to approve the minutes of the May 9 meeting. The minutes were approved.
- On June 8, President Frost asked the Executive Committee to approve the suggestion by MSA Lecture Program Administrator Dave Jenkins that final spring 2020 lectures that were cancelled due to the pandemic be rescheduled for fall 2020, either virtual or in-person as decided by the lecturer and host institution. The Executive Committee also approved Dr. Jenkins' suggestion that lecture tours for MSA Lecturers named for 2020-21 be postponed until 2021-22.
- On June 16, President Frost asked Council to approve an addition to the MSA Mission Statement and to authorize the formation of a task force to address diversity issues. The added statement reads, "MSA supports and champions efforts by individuals and organizations to foster a climate of inclusion, diversity, and acceptance in the sciences and in the wider public." Both items were approved.

II. FINANCES

- A. The Treasurer and MSA Executive Director will provide brief updates on MSA finances (Appendix A – Treasurer's Report).

III. AWARDS

A. Roebing Medal

Approve committee choice for the **Roebing Medal: George Rossman** (Appendix B)

M. Ghiorso moved to accept the committee choice; P. Dera seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Dana Medal

Approve committee choice for the **Dana Medal: Sergey Krivovichev** (Appendix C)

T. Duffy moved to accept the committee choice; F. McCubbin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C. MSA Award

Approve committee choice for the **MSA Award: Chenguang Sun** (Appendix D)

M. Caddick moved to accept the committee choice; T. Duffy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Distinguished Public Service Medal

Approve committee choice for the **Distinguished Public Service Medal: Denton S. Ebel**

(Appendix E)

D. Whitney moved to accept the committee choice; J. Ague seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion ensued on whether to rename the award the Distinguished Service Award, as there seems to be some confusion about who is eligible for the award. D. Whitney moved to omit Public in the Award's title; J. Ague seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Fellows

Approve committee choice for the 2021 **MSA Fellows** (Appendix F):

Jeffrey Catalano (US)
Sylvie Demouchy (France)
Pupa Gilbert (US)
Jun-ichi Kimura (Japan)
Othmar Muntener (Switzerland)
Marc Norman (Australia)
Alison Pawley (UK)
Mark Rivers (US)
Ian Swainson (US)
Takashi Yoshino (Japan)

J. Ague moved to accept the committee choice; P. Dera seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEES, OFFICERS, AND APPOINTED POSTS

A. Officer Nominating Committee

Approve candidates for Vice President and two Councilor positions (Appendix G).

After discussion of various candidates and their rankings, P. Dera moved to accept the list of candidates; M. Ghiorso seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Diversity Task Force

Council will consider recommendations proposed by the Diversity Task Force Chaired by Mark Ghiorso and Tyler Spano (Appendix I).

C. Membership Committee

Council will consider recommendations proposed by the Membership Committee Chaired by John Brady (Appendix H).

SoC: Council supports having Membership Committee contact lapsed members each year.

V. OPERATIONS

A. Council Meetings:

Council needs to decide on the date and, possibly, venue for the 2021 Spring Second Council Meeting. [vote]

B. MSA IT Update:

Ann Benbow and Gloria McFarland will give a brief overview of the IT situation at MSA and

proposed changes (Appendix J).

C. Benefactors Committee:

1. The Benefactors Committee asks MSA Council members to relay any prospective donor corporations and contacts therein to Phil Neuhoff, Chair of this committee.
2. The Chair of the Benefactors Committee is pleased to augment his committee with additional members. Council is asked to make suggestions. [discussion]

VI. PROGRAMS: PUBLICATIONS, AWARDS, AND LECTURE PROGRAM

A. *Elements*: Barb Dutrow, the MSA Representative to *Elements* Magazine, has several requested items, the first of which requires Council consideration:

1. Would MSA like to be responsible for producing a regular Minerals Matter column in *Elements*? (Appendix K) [discussion and possible vote]
2. Please send Jodi Rosso any information for People in the News.
3. Please consider proposing an issue of *Elements*.

B. *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry*: Three new *Reviews* volumes are in various stages of production. One (*Triple Oxygen Isotopes*) is due to be printed in late 2020 for a Short Course at the AGU meeting in December in San Francisco, CA. The other two volumes (*New Views of the Moon II* and *Diamonds*) are scheduled for printing in 2021.

C. Lecture Program Committee: The Lecture Program has had to move to a virtual format this fall due to the pandemic. Lecturer Laura Waters is scheduled for two presentations. The in-person program is on hold until the 2021-2022 academic year at the earliest.

VII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND PLANNING

A. Named Gift

MSA has been approached by a member about arranging for a named contribution. Council is asked to consider options for this sort of gift. Typically, a gift of \$100,000, properly invested, could be expected to yield \$4,000 - \$5,000/year. (The Crystallographic Research Grant is \$5,000.)

B. Minerals Day

Ann Benbow will give a brief report on Minerals Day 2020 (October 12) (Appendix L).

C. Study on the Status of Mineralogy and Petrology in Higher Education

Ann Benbow will give a brief status report on the study (Appendix L).

D. Long-term Planning

MSA has a Long-term Planning Committee, but it is not active. Council is asked to consider revitalizing and re-thinking this Committee with MSA's long-term viability in mind. Points to be considered include (among others):

1. Physical plant (office and warehouse space in Chantilly, VA);
2. Move to the Cloud and its implications;
3. How to address the move toward Open Access and full digitization in the publishing world;
4. Possibility of outsourcing some administrative functions;
5. Role of face-to-face meetings for the organization (conferences, Council, etc.);
6. Role of MSA's database and publication assets in the future;
7. Process for deciding on new *Reviews* volumes: Does the current process consider the need and market for the volume?
8. Fundraising: MSA has discussed launching a Capital Campaign. What are next steps for this major project.
9. Succession plan: What happens when staff members retire or move on?