

# Minutes of the First 2020 Council Meeting

Saturday, 21 September 2019  
Sheraton Phoenix Downtown  
340 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004 USA

## Attending:

Carol D. Frost, President  
Mickey Gunter, Past President  
Kim Tait, Secretary  
Thomas Duffy, Treasurer  
Donna Whitney, Councilor  
Jay Ague, Councilor  
Mark Caddick, Councilor  
Przemyslaw Dera, Councilor  
Francis McCubbin, Councilor

## Visitors:

Bryan Chakoumakos  
Michael Brown  
Ann Benbow  
J. Alex Speer  
Rachel Russell  
Hongwu Xu

## Not Present:

Mark Ghiorso, Vice President  
Adam Simon, Councilor

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

## ITEMS

The meeting was called to order by Carol Frost at 2:04 PM. Attendees had been introduced at the 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019 MSA Council Meeting which preceded this meeting, so no additional introductions were required.

Carol Frost outlined the following agenda items:

[1] Approve 2020 Proposed Budget included in the Treasurer's Report, with any modifications as a result of more recent Council-approved actions (Section 4 Appendix B, in the Treasurer's Report for the Third 2019 Council Meeting).

[2] The MSA Treasurer is authorized to conduct the financial affairs of the Society. J. Alexander Speer and Ann Benbow, Executive Directors of the Society, are authorized to write checks and make other forms of payment and transfers on the Society's accounts as directed by the Treasurer and Council actions.

[3] Approve Committee member and chair assignments and other appointed posts (Section 7, Report of the Committee on Committees to the Third 2019 Council).

[4] Hongwu Xu and Don Baker are appointed Editor(s) of the *American Mineralogist*. Ian Swainson is appointed Editor of the *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* and *Monograph* series. Andrea Koziol is appointed the MSA Event Editor for *Elements*. Kenneth W. Bladh is appointed Editor of the *Handbook of Mineralogy*

[5] Mail, telephone, e-mail, and Internet ballots may be used whenever necessary and allowed to conduct the affairs of the Society.

*Mickey Gunter moved that the five items be approved in one motion; Francis McCubbin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

[6] Conflict of Interest Policy: Members signed the Conflict of Interest Policy and these were collected by the Executive Director.

There were no items tabled from the Third 2019 Council Meeting

[7] Future of MSA

J. Alex Speer outlined a few points.

1. Intellectual Property: Intellectual property issues with China do affect the Society, such as Chinese reprinting or translating and printing of *RIMG* volumes, without credit or any payment to MSA. This is a concern.

2. Read and Publish: The Publications Director and Editors need to keep aware of what is developing in publishing, such as “Read and Publish,” and how can MSA participate in these new trends. MSA would need to establish partnerships with some entity, as it is not large enough to negotiate financially sensible contracts with organization with potential authors on its own. There are two routes to “Read and Publish” agreements for MSA through our current partnerships in GeoScienceWorld and with DeGruyter.

3. Cooperation with Other Societies: MSA extends its reach beyond the membership through cooperation with other societies. It reaches an audience of 15,000-16,000 subscribers through *Elements*. As an allied society of GSA’s MGVP Division, MSA has participated in and benefited from the growth in the number of mineralogy and petrology sessions at GSA. MSA has a long-term arrangement with *Rocks and Minerals* that allows it to place a quarter-page ad in each issue (and in the past had the same arrangement with the *Mineralogical Record* but they were uninterested in continuing it. The Geochemical Society joined MSA in producing *RIMG* volumes. MSA has not found productive ways

to set up a partnership with AGU despite several years' serious efforts. GeoScienceWorld is the best example of how cooperation has benefitted MSA.

4. Meetings: MSA has typically had booths at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, annual GSA, and sometimes at GSA sections meetings, AGU, and some Goldschmidt meetings. The Tucson Gem and Mineral show is an opportunity to be recognized by the collecting community and to get to know the dealer community. The cost of a booth at the national Geological Society of America annual meeting has become more expensive each year and sales are low, compared to other meetings. The Executive Directors propose that MSA not have a booth at the GSA Annual Meeting in favor of GSA Sectional Meetings (where more students attend), or a European meeting.

Michael Brown suggested that the decision about having or not having a booth at the National GSA Annual Meeting be part of a wider strategy for MSA.

Carol Frost stated that MSA should define its vision and its direction for the next century, including what the Society stands for and what it does in the world. MSA needs to prepare a vision statement for two different groups: One for the membership, and one for our friends and benefactors (fundraising).

The President and Executive Director will develop a process for this strategic planning effort. Przemyslaw Dera and Francis McCubbin stated they would like to be involved. The President will seek a Membership Committee Chair from among the Past Presidents and prepare a report for the Spring Council Meeting. SoC is to support this.

C. Frost offered an official thank you to J. Alex Speer for his contribution to the Society.

*Mickey Gunter moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Tait, MSA Secretary