



Minutes
Nevada Geographic Information Society (NGIS)
February 2010 Board Meeting
February 22, 2010
APPROVED

NGIS Board Members Present:

Richard Wells, Karin Hagan, Eric Ingbar, Moni Fox, Adam Johnson, Sonya Wilson, Art Ehrenberg

NGIS Board Members Absent:

Pat Guiberson, Matt Krok, Gary Johnson, Mark O'Brien

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by NGIS President Richard Wells. It was determined that a quorum was present.

Old Business:

- Approval of Minutes of NGIS Board Meeting and Business Meeting at the Conference in May 2009

Eric volunteered to work with Gary and Mark to find the minutes of these meetings. The approval of the Minutes of the NGIS Business and Board meetings at the Conference in May 2009 was tabled until the next Board meeting (April 2010).

- Approval of the Minutes of the NGIS Board Meeting, December 1, 2009

As no one had received a copy of the minutes from the December Board meeting, this item was tabled until the April Board meeting. Karin will distribute the minutes for review.

- Status of NGIS Calendar

At the December Board meeting, Matt had volunteered to talk with Safa about the creation of calendar to post on the NGIS website, likely a MS Word document. As Matt was unable to attend the February Board meeting, this item was tabled until the April meeting.

- Continued discussion of the creation of NGIS Certificates

A template for conference attendance has been created, and we will re-address this issue at the April Board meeting.

- Status of email database updates

Richard stated that the agencies in southern Nevada have updated their addresses. Adam has not yet uploaded the updated database, but said it should work well to have the members update their information through the process at Constant Contact.

- Continued discussion of Membership Dues

Adam suggested that a membership fee adds a sense of professionalism to the organization. Eric stated that \$15 per person per year would cover the costs of the organization (newsletter, Constant Contact, website).

Richard asked if we should bring the question to the membership? Sonya stated that yes, the membership would have to be asked, whether by survey or other means. Richard asked how we would track membership and payments. Adam suggested that there are online resources such as PayPal, or have checks sent to a P.O. box.

Several routes to distribute the survey were discussed: at the conference, by email, on the website, or through Constant Contact. It was determined that an email with a link to the survey would reach most of the membership.

Adam suggested that we need to explain what the membership would receive for their dues. Eric and Adam had ideas for a “package” – a members only area of the website, a membership directory, perhaps a support forum and member discounts with vendors. It was noted that we had a support forum previously, and it had low traffic.

Next steps: Adam and Eric will work on the survey and draft questions.

What is the Board's position on membership dues?

Eric suggested that we go to the membership with pros and cons in the survey. Sonya suggested leaving the entries in the survey blank and letting the membership pick a dollar amount, and let the membership suggest additional services and benefits that they would like to see. Art doesn't think that dues will provide any benefit to the organization, because 1) the conference covers the administrative costs of the organization and 2) if the purpose of the organization is to promote GIS and bring in people, instituting dues will negate that. He also feels that dues of \$5-10 is not worth the bookkeeping hassles. Adam agrees that \$5-10 is not much, but we don't have much to offer the membership yet. Art reminded the Board that agencies aren't covering dues anymore, and Adam agreed that that is a good reason to keep dues below \$20.

Adam and Eric will have a package framework to present at the next meeting, and will email it to the Board for comments.

Karin reminded the Board that if we agree to institute membership dues, we'll also have to update the Bylaws.

- Status of procedural guide for RegOnline

This has not yet been discussed and will be addressed at the next Board meeting.

New Business:

- Close out 2009

This item was tabled, as Gary was unable to attend.

- NGIF update

Richard reported that the IRS representative was confused by NGIF vs. NGIS duties. NGIF has until April 26th to get the final narrative to the IRS. Richard sent question from the foundation's consultant to the NGIF Board, and they will teleconference in March to resolve the questions. Eric stated that the questions will be in regards to how NGIF raises money and how NGIF uses money, which will be used to determine which 501 organization NGIF can be, if any. NGIF must answer clearly.

- 2010 Conference Committee update

Richard passed along the information provided by Matt, who was unable to attend. Registration is online and active now. Art stated that he has renegotiated the room rates to \$25/night for Sunday through Thursday and \$49/night for Friday and Saturday.

Delta State University (Mississippi) who is working with the US National Grid, a military reference grid system, will come in on Monday/Tuesday to offer a class for first responders for free. They've asked NGIS to cover the cost of their rooms. Richard will send out their syllabus to the Board.

Moni asked how one signs up for field trips prior to the conference? There is a \$20/field trip fee, payable at RegOnline, which can also be paid separately from the conference registration fee.

- Officer's slate for June business meeting

Richard reminded the Board that the Nominating Committee is set out by the Bylaws and is chaired by the Past President. This year the Treasurer and Secretary positions will be

open (annual posts), as will three Board member positions (Art, Sonya and Moni). The Board needs to have a proposed slate by the Board meeting prior to the conference. Art suggested posting the need on the website so that the membership can offer suggestions.

- NGIS Bylaw changes

Matt has proposed changes to present to the Board, and will have them at the next Board meeting. Everyone is to bring suggestions as well.

- Creation of a Strategic Plan

Eric suggested using a document that blueprints how to create a strategic plan. Eric and Matt think that this is worth doing, and will circulate example text. At the April Board meeting, Eric and Matt will propose to adopt a strategic plan.

- Nevada User Group Presence on NGIS website

The Northern Nevada User's Group has approached NGIS for webspace, including calendars and social and event information. Adam volunteered to approach the Southern Nevada User's Group, but Sonya stated that there is no active SoNV UG. There is a local Federal User's Group. Should we include the Reno Programming UG, an informal group? Or the So NV Data Committee, also informal? Perhaps just a page with contact information for each of the User's Groups? Should we try to add all the UG event information to the NGIS calendar? It was decided that the Web Committee will convene to address the ideas and limitations.

- Ideas for GeoSpeak

Eric suggested that a teaser should be placed in GeoSpeak regarding the pre-conference course being offered by Delta State University. Eric also said that he'd like to put together an article on a novel approach (LiDAR) on a project he's working on.

Open Discussion

On the NGIS webpage, should we place contact information for the Board members? Those present appear to be agreed to add their contact information to the webpage. The web team will address this.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 19, at 10AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20AM.