

**Agenda / Minutes
Nevada Geographic Information Society (NGIS)
February 2008 Board Meeting
Telephone Conference Call – February 13, 2008**

I. Administrative / Roll Call of Board Members

Meeting called to order by NGIS President Tommie Weckesser. It was determined that a quorum of Board Members were present:

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| Art Ehrenberg | Southern Nevada Water Authority |
| Jan Gould | City of Reno, Nevada |
| Pat Guiberson | University of Nevada, Reno |
| Eric Ingbar | Gnomon Inc. |
| Gary Johnson | Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology |
| Matt Krok | City of Henderson, Nevada |
| Tommie Weckesser | City of Henderson, Nevada |
| Richard Wells | City of Las Vegas, Nevada |
| Sonya Wilson | Clark County Department of Aviation |

Motion to approve the minutes from the November 2007 Board Meeting was made by Gary Johnson. The minutes were approved.

II. Call for Interest for NGIS Board positions

Jan, Sonya, and Art's board positions are open. The position of Vice President is open as well. The Secretary and Treasurer are up every year.

Tommie and Pat will work on coming up with nominations. Pat will get with Tommie when he is in town in March to discuss further.

There was a discussion on existing standing committees – publication, scholarship etc. Art mentioned that any new positions would have to be written into the bylaws. Changes have to be brought up ahead of time and published 30 days in advanced. Any changes would have to be brought up for a vote at the conference and then the bylaws can be changed. Gary would like to see us mentor people into the leadership positions within the organization as opposed to adding additional positions at this time.

III. 501c3 Update

Tommie spoke with Betty Reed from the Foundation Group. Board members should not change during the change process to a 501c3. The process will take 4 to 6 months. Two phases to the process. Both can be done in parallel. It will cost \$1200. The process will involve going over our website and examining every part of

the organization. We will need a sample budget for the process. Gary sent a copy of the office budget to all the Board Members. Art said to include recent conference budgets as well. Gary will send a check sent to pay for the costs of transitioning the organization to a 501c3 status.

Pat asked if it was a good time to also look at any other changes to the bylaws. Art suggested they be looked over and any wording changes should be proposed. Pat would like to look at length of term of the officers and possible wording changes. It will be an agenda item for the board the next time we meet. Everyone will review the bylaws and bring any changes to the next board meeting.

IV. Membership Dues

The Membership committee has proposed a \$25 annual membership fee. Memberships would include a newsletter 4 times a year as well as discounted rates on conferences and workshops. Art suggested a survey to the general membership to get feedback on membership dues.

Pat is currently putting together a 15 to 20 question survey on GIS in Nevada. One goal is to help identify rural and other needs within the state. He hopes to have that link off the NGIS website by the end of the month. Gary thinks the newsletter is a good place to express the advantages of membership dues. He emphasized that word of mouth is also an effective way for the board to spread the word on the advantages of membership.

Under a dues paying system, only members would be allowed to vote at the annual business meeting. Art expressed concern about this approach potentially limiting the membership. Pat suggested we get some data and look at it in April. Tommie asked to see the contents of the survey Pat has proposed. Pat will forward the questions to the board before he launches it to the audience he had in mind.

Art is concerned about the tracking of the dues and how the membership dues will affect the 501c3 status. He suggested looking at other methods of raising funds like grants etc... There was a discussion of hardcopy vs. posting the newsletter on the website. Does NGIS want membership fees to cover the operating office fees as opposed to using the conference to pay for such costs? As we grow the office costs are increasing. It would be best to bring up to the general membership presenting the pros and cons. Jan asked about our long term goals and how they should be influenced. We will discuss further at the next board meeting.

V. NGIS Mission Statement

Sonya and Art have come up with a couple of bullets. It was decided to use the purpose statement from the bylaws:

The purpose of NGIS is to promote professionalism, cooperation, mutual assistance and sharing of knowledge and experience. The organization is committed to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, information and technology as they relate to the advancement of spatial data (GIS) and technology within the State of Nevada.

VI. Newsletter Editor

Tommie got 4 responses for the call for newsletter position. The Board chose Debora Taylor from the City of Henderson for the position. Other folks were interested in serving in a support role. The goal is to get a conference newsletter together before May. Tommie will get with Debora and a few others to see what they can come up with for a conference issue. Pat expressed concern that there might not be enough time to get one together before the event in May. A motion to was made to approve Debora Taylor as Newsletter Editor.

VII. Conference Update

The mailer is printed out and is ready to go out by Friday. Richard asked for some contacts in the rural parts of the state that might be interested in the conference. He is looking to get someone that is working on some of the bigger projects in the state to participate in the event. Feedback was sought from the board members up north.

UNLV will sponsor our lunch speaker. Richard will get with Gary and come up with a way to bill UNLV for that. Art asked about any tax issues that we should be aware of for sponsorship opportunities as we start to ramp up in that area.

Student Scholarships - Pat will work the two \$250 scholarship opportunities into a quick write up and run it by the board before sending out a call to the membership.

McCarran International Airport paid for printing of mailers – the City of Henderson paid for the postage. The Clark County Assessor's office has volunteered to pay for the printing of the program. Tommie said about 10 folks are already signed up for the bowling. There are currently 35 registered for the conference and 7 booths have spoken for.

We are going to start meeting every two weeks until the conference. Gary suggested to keep the conference in front of people using tools like RegOnline and Constant Contact.

VIII. Constant Contact Update

Tommie got our size limitation upped on Constant Contact so we can use more images on what we send out. Tommie asked about the web committee. She wants to add Geno Astarita to the web committee. She wants to list the committee members on the website. Jennifer, Adam, Gary (Chairperson) and Geno currently make up the web committee.

A date for the next meeting was set for March 6, 2008. Tommie will send out the invite.

Meeting Adjourned.