

NCAS BOD Meeting
29 January 2023
1:40 p.m.
Zoom

Attendance: LCM, Fitts, Mohler, Cranford, Petersen, McReynolds, Watkins-Kenney, Sussman, Hill, Darden, Schmitz, and Eastman (fashionably late)

Guests: Davis, Beaman

Petersen called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. There was some delay on the link in. Petersen apologized for not sending out news data and back minutes to the two newly seated directors (Sussman and Darden). Sussman introduced herself and said she was excited to be part of the BOD. Darden thanked the BOD for the opportunity to serve and make contributions.

Continued Business:

First item of continued business was a review and discussion of the 15 October 2022 BOD meeting minutes which was held during the fall membership meeting at Town Creek Indian Mound SHS. LCM previously distributed a draft of the minutes for review. Davis pointed out that he was not in attendance and that note should be corrected; LCM noted it for correction. As there were no other corrections noted by the BOD, Cranford made a motion to accept the minutes; seconded by Hill, then approved by the BOD. Petersen asked for a reminder to send a Thank you note the TCIMSHS staff for hosting..

Fitts then presented her financial reports (one annual and one quarterly, also previously sent to the BOD, see handouts). The quarterly report showed that NCAS stock sales at Town Creek went very well, thanks to Beaman and some helpers. Membership numbers also increased slightly from that event. She noted that some of this may have been a result of the NPR radio clip about the Town Creek dig which aired shortly thereafter. Another item noted on the financial report was the latest award winner for the Whitey Graham Award, Aidan Paul (from NCSU) who will submit an invoice for scientific testing as part of his expenses. Fitts also stated we are paid up (current) on our CoAS membership, the annual webpage fee and the NC sales tax. One small glitch came from a cost overcharge due to a membership from Germany (Truist charged \$21 to handle the conversion). She was able to reduce that charge to \$15. Her overall assessment is that we are “growing money” but it is not necessarily reflected in the membership numbers. The Zoom account is paid for one full year. After discussion concluded, the BOD agreed that the meeting at Town Creek SHS was a plus for everyone, as was the NPR radio clip, which increased exposure. Hill made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report, seconded by Mohler and approved by the BOD. Someone noted that it was the first time since 2011 that membership totals exceeded 300. Beaman thanked Fitts for adding membership totals to the financial report.

Cranford presented his editor’s report next. He explained that the 2022 volume is nearly done and will be out soon, that page proofs were sent to the authors for review. He explained the delay was because this will be a very large volume of eight articles, plus an intro and a concluding chapter, coming in at over 230 pages. He is hoping to keep it as a single bound volume, but if the printer cannot accommodate

that then it will be a double volume set. Davis noted that double volumes are not common, and it happened once under Mathis' editorship with Eastman's radiocarbon date issue(s) which ended up being one year late. Cranford did not have a cost estimate yet. He said once that is known he'll report to the BOD. He agreed to put a note on the NCAS Facebook page letting membership know of the delay. So far only one member had inquired about Volume 71, which normally comes out in December. Cranford commented the page proofs look good and the color images will appear online. Davis said Volume 69 is now online in color format.

Newsletter editor, Mohler, then described the upcoming winter issue, which the deadline for submissions is February 3. He plans to include a new membership reminder, including the increase in LIFE category from \$250 to 500, effective January 1 (previously approved by the BOD in October 2022). He also plans to include two articles, one on archaeological evidence of rice cultivation by Wilde-Ramsing, and another one by Jorgensen on Gillis Mill plantation. His digital spotlight will feature "What Remains" podcast, NCDRC Trivia Nights, more information about the African American Burial Ground protection law and highlights for Black History Month. The Activity Page will feature a themed crossword puzzle for BHM, and the location answer for the previous puzzle. Announcements will include the upcoming SAA meeting in March, also the MAAC meeting in MD in March, and SEAC in October in Chattanooga. He will highlight the 2022 SEAC student paper prize winner (now a one-year NCAS member). The RFP for the upcoming year for the WG EA is also to be included. He will do a Save the Date for October 7-8 for the NCAS fall meeting and 90th birthday party. And, as always, he will include a plug for NCAS merchandise. Davis asked if printed copies of the newsletter are still going out, Mohler replied yes to those who requested them.

Beaman provided the BOD a summary of the stock inventory, price updates and recent sales. He stated overall it was a very good year with lots of sales. The new antique gold color t-shirts are selling well. That said, he stated there are "holes" in the stock that need to be refilled before the upcoming fall meetings. Sales last fall (at TC event and on-line) totaled \$657.49 plus sales tax of \$75.51. For the year the total sales came in at \$1, 196.00. SWK asked the BOD what does "retiring" a design (of a t-shirt) mean, will it be an announced close-out, and then be unavailable? Petersen and McReynolds agreed the stone-drill purple shirts should be retired. Davis asked what is the most popular style and color? Beaman replied the Coe point typology shirt has "staying power" but we wish to close it out soon and move on to the newly printed point chronology shirts asap. Beaman asked if we want to reprint the Coe typology shirt, and the BOD agreed, no. Beaman said the shell gorget shirts and the historic artifacts shirt are both still selling well, but slowly. He asked the BOD if we wanted to continue the sweatshirt style, which is still seasonally popular. Cranford asked are you looking to balance the stock level and supply, Tom replied yes, that's the idea to have ample stock in a variety of offerings and closing out the low-sales items or close-out designs. What he orders to restock is dependent upon the level of event, more so than the on-line sales which are steady. Fitts and Cranford suggested we redouble our efforts to get the entire image of the new point chronology on one shirt to replace the old Coe typology. Someone suggested a close out cost of \$10 for the Coe shirts. Hill said he'd like to see more in the way of explanation for the periods shown on the point typology. Beaman stated that the info-cards are still used and go out with the shell gorget shirts. Sussman said an info-card describing the general cultural periods should go out

with the new point typology shirt too. Hill noted the new shirts are still not shown on the NCAS webpage. Beaman's next question was about another style, short-sleeve or long, and neck design. He wants some guidance on what to reorder soon. SWK asked about posters to highlight chronologies or cultural periods and maybe these could be laminated and sold. They would make great teaching tools. LCM mentioned the ones from *Intrigues in the Past* and those once printed by the Friends group and the Charlotte Nature Museum back in the late 1960s. These would need significant updating to be accurate. Petersen asked if there was a copyright issue with the posters or should we just redo it ourselves from more current sources (e.g., Ancient Carolinians). As far as stock items, Petersen also stated he likes zip-up hoodies. He suggested for reorders, just stay with the NCAS logo, gray shirt with a front pocket as a standard backup. As discussed last year, the plan was to do a point typology shirt with the Middle Archaic sequence on it for this year. As for another design idea, Eastman said she'd work on a drawing of the reconstructed pot with an incised rifle, a replica of which was recently given to Davis upon his retirement (replica made by Tammy Bean, based off Eastman's digital measurements). The pot sherd is from Saratown and not from burial context. Someone noted our gorget design was drawn from a funerary objects (were permissions obtained?). McReynolds said we should hold back on the poster design until she can get feedback from the younger NCAS members and what would appeal to them. Other suggestions for stock items discussed were stickers, key chains, and cozies; keeping items small and packable. A different design for a window cling was suggested too, as well as orange (day-glow) pencils with the NCAS logo on them.

Committee reports:

McReynolds presented a short report for the membership committee. She suggested it is time to do a survey of our membership to find out what they want from the society, including clothing items and swag, plus activities. She will create a sample of survey questions to bring to the BOD for review at the next meeting. Once the survey tool is developed, she asked can it be mailed out with the journal to reach all members? Cranford said the journal will go out soon, within two weeks, which may not be enough time to get a survey form together. McReynolds agreed she would need to vet the questions to the BOD first anyway. Fitts suggested that the survey be done online and the link to the form can go out with the journal mailouts. Then the results can be submitted digitally. Another option is that the link can go out with the newsletter. Mohler said he can blast it to all membership currently on-line. He said he's been reviewing the distribution list and has cleaned up some "missing and duplicate data". McReynolds concluded that when the survey tool was ready, it should be blasted out digitally to NCAS membership.

Petersen noted it not too early to be thinking of candidates for the fall election, since two new BOD directors will be needed to replace those rotating off and a new Pres-Elect will be sought. He suggested that asking the membership if they'd like to serve on the BOD should be included in the survey.

Hill presented a brief events committee report basically centered around the benefits of cross-interest advertising between different civic or public groups. Specifically, he noted that the rock-hunters society was one he thought we could interact with, share events, and mail outs. He was a member of the North Carolina Rockhounds which had over 15,000 total members across the state. But he left this group for

ethical reasons. Still, he said the power of cross-interest advertising is to increase exposure and generate greater interests. He will offer more potential connections for cross-events at the next meeting.

Petersen and Hill discussed a recent movie about the Anasazi culture, focused on women in archaeology. Hill questioned whether the term Anasazi is preferred now or is it Ancestral Puebloans? He suggested we do a film review as an event once the movie is out. They also discussed ways to engage our membership through themed workshops and stewardship programs. Petersen will bring some workshop ideas to the BOD soon, patterning citizen archaeologists after citizen scientists' programs. He sees this as a major goal for the NCAS and what we need to be doing, bridging the avocational and professional archaeologists together. Petersen reached out to Flood at OSA asking for opportunities to partner and to the NCAC and RLA. He thinks one workshop could be focused on basic field techniques and recording soil types, drawing profiles, taking photographs, etc. Another workshop could be on basic lab techniques, such as how to wash, sort and label artifacts. He stated that there is a curation crisis in archaeology, and we should learn how to sort and conserve materials. He thinks we should host or partner to have artifact shows across the state, getting our experts on board to help. The NCAS should have a presence at all these types of events if possible. Recording of field finds is also important to keep track of surface collections and basic documentation. He stated that most "artifact shows" do buy and sell artifacts on site, but we should still be there to educate and inform about collections management and sharing resources. Hill, Petersen, and Darden will come up with ideas for these workshops and how to bridge the gap between all groups of citizens interested in the past. Beaman and Cranford offered to help as well. LCM echoed to the BOD that avocational archaeology has always been in the mission statement of the NCAS and we should encourage sharing and keeping this goal front and center, not only to our membership but to others as well.

Schmitz presented her report for the communications committee. She said the group met last week to discuss new topics for the monthly themes on our NCAS Facebook page. They revisited current themes such as Black History Month, Women's History Month, the African American Burial Ground and new laws, and added a Curation theme. These themes will also be used in creating the new workshops. She stated she has access to the NCAS webpage and can begin to make updates and changes. Beaman noted some updates are much needed (addition of journals, stock, announcements and now the new BOD members). She mentioned that a reorganization will be needed with input from the BOD. LCM said it is time the BOD thinks seriously about hiring a person to be our webpage manager, full-time, with the communications committee providing updates and oversight. We should pay for this person's services, and this would bring consistency to the offerings and not create confusion each time we have a BOD election and the webpage POC rotates off the BOD. The NCAS webpage is important and our frontline of communication with our membership and the public, we need it to be functional and UpToDate as much as possible. Mohler asked if this new hire would need to be on the Executive Officer, LCM responded she did not think so, as they don't need a vote. This person would be a hired professional webpage design manager and neutral. More discussion centered on other questions: Can we afford it, where do we look for such a person? And how soon can we get them started?

New Business:

Fitts presented a suggestion to the BOD that we obtain a password manager, a single place where all our current passwords could be stored (for all accounts and links). Those that needed could access this storage link with a master password, protected but accessible anytime. Again, this would prevent having to reissue new passwords when someone rotates off the BOD. She noted that there are several master password links with free applications. Cranford asked about Bit Warden, and Fitts agreed that's a good one. After a few questions, Fitts agreed to bring some examples to the BOD for consideration soon.

LCM then presented tentative plans for a fall NCAS membership meeting to be held in the western part of the state, near the location of the first-ever NCAS meeting in Biltmore Forest 90 years ago. She reached out to Warren Wilson College and secured a venue for the two days, October 7 and 8th. Scotti Norman is the POC there. She envisions a day of presentations by our western colleagues (project updates, new stuff) for the Saturday event, followed by an evening birthday party at the same location. The next day, Sunday, will be a guided tour of Biltmore Estate sites led by Scott Shumate. Overnight accommodations are being researched, but she has secured a sponsor for the catered lunch, and the NCAC agreed to sponsor the evening reception/ birthday party. She also suggested some music and activities, like a silent auction and a raffle. After some discussion, LCM made a motion to secure the dates and funding for the event. Cranford seconded the motion and the BOD approved. LCM will reach out to BOD members and others to assist in the planning and execution of the meeting/activities. Vans will be needed to convey folks from the WWC campus to Biltmore on Sunday morning because parking is limited. And LCM will look into booking a series of hotel rooms at the nearest venue, knowing it will be leaf season, the rooms could go fast. Cranford asked if Joara wanted to do a field day the day before, but LCM said Dave Moore was already on tap for a presentation and planned to bring a display as well. She suggested the spring would be best for a NCAS-sponsored day at the Joara site, and we should ask Moore for recommendations. Beaman is looking into special swag for the 90th Birthday event, and LCM will provide the cake. BOD help will be needed.

Petersen stated he is taking a pause on the Land Acknowledgement Statement for a while to get a better idea of what is called for and what others are now doing. He agreed it is important to communicate between various groups to discuss the best way forward for the NCAS. SWK suggested we have a common theme for the 90th birthday party and invite folks outside the NCAS membership to join. LCM agreed it will go out to a larger group, but the escorted tour on Sunday is limited to just NCAS (permissions required). More to follow on this.

As this concluded the general agenda and there were no further announcements, Petersen called for a motion to adjourn at 3:30 EST.

These minutes respectfully submitted by,

Dr. Linda F. Carnes-McNaughton, RPA

Secretary of the NCAS BOD