

**Minutes of the
2020 Illinois Geographical Society Executive Council Meeting
Via Zoom
November 21, 2020**

Meeting was called to order at **9:01 AM** by President Ani Smith.

Members Present: Carmen Masó, Susan Holderread, Len Ealey, Mike Sublett, Ani Smith, Stacey Brown, Joe Kubal, John Kostelnick, Mike Cornebise, Chris Sutton, Judy Bock, Ty Liles, Jill Thomas, and Nick Goodwin

Ice breaker activity- what are you thankful for- the council shared what they are grateful for in 2020 and one thing they are looking forward to when the pandemic is over

Approval of Minutes from previous Executive Council Meeting: Minutes from the Executive Council Meeting of April 25, 2019, in Dubuque, Iowa were reviewed. **Thompson asked for a motion** to approve minutes from the 2019 IGS Executive Council Meeting- **Brown motioned to approve, seconded by Holderread. (Passed Unanimously)**

2019 Annual Meeting Final Report (Smith)

Ani Smith gave a final report on the 2019 Annual Meeting in Dubuque, IA. Total expenses were \$6,077.99. Net to the IGS treasury was \$1,224.01 Total attendees for the conference was 80. There were 57 paid conference registrants. \$7,302 funds in total were received. 42 people attended the Friday field trip and 41 people attended the Saturday luncheon. The council stated they all enjoyed the Annual Meeting in Dubuque and thanked Ani for her dedication in planning it.

2021 Annual Meeting Discussion (Ealey/Goodwin)

Nick Goodwin and Len Ealey gave an overview of the 2021 Annual Meeting which was rescheduled to be held in Vincennes, with the meeting having been planned and ready to go for Vincennes prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Len and Nick reported they were planning for both virtual and in-person options depending on what happens with the COVID-19 pandemic. Chris Sutton mentioned he has had success in doing virtual meetings, having hosted three in the past year. Chris Sutton also mentioned virtual field trips and incorporating story maps as a possibility for a portion of a Virtual Annual Meeting. Stacey Brown mentioned the West Lakes Conference at AAG stating about 80 people attended and that there were an average of 15 people in each session. Judy Bock noted that Zoom conferences have sometimes drawn more people due to no cost and people not having to travel to conferences. Mike Cornebise mentioned the idea of creating an IGS YouTube account as well for the Illinois Geographical Society. Mike Sublett noted Powerpoint presentation regarding the paper presentations fit into the idea of virtual learning very well. Ty Liles mentioned the opportunity of potentially doing the meeting in-person in the fall of 2021. The Executive Council discussed the opportunity of doing the meeting virtually and the fact that it would be difficult to pull off doing a meeting in-person based on

where status is at in regards to the vaccine rollout. The Executive Council decided it would be best to move forward with a virtual conference for the 2021 IGS Annual Meeting with everything going on with the pandemic. **Motion to hold the IGS Annual Meeting virtually for 2021 Annual Meeting on April 29 through May 1, 2021 by Sublett, seconded by Sutton (Passed Unanimously).**

Treasurer Report (Ealey)

Len Ealey gave a report on the treasury report of the IGS. Current revenue is at \$29,386.07. This number is down a bit from 2019. Len met with Larry and Mary-Ann back in March right before COVID-19 to review numbers of IGS. He showed a graph and spreadsheet breaking down assets by the three accounts: checking, savings, and CD. **Motion to approve treasurer report by Sutton, seconded by Brown. (Passed Unanimously) Len noted he will need to be stepping away from the Treasurer position after the end of this term.**

Central Office Report (Masó)

Carmen Masó gave a report on the Central Office. The IGS had 6 grant applications in 2020 and 3 were funded. Multiple institutions applied. U of I and SIUE were among institutions that applied. 10 people attended the Zoom session for research presentations on 10/24/2020. Masó noted we have a total of 144 members in the IGS right now. 9 editions of the *Illinois Geographer* were sold as of 11/14/2020. She also noted she has made some changes to the website online. She has been working on various social media means as well. Executive Council insurance has also been purchased. The Geography career fair at DePaul University was held in February 2020 and it was well attended. Masó sent out letters at the holiday season last year mentioning donations to lifetime members and is talking about sending those out every other year. She didn't want to send that out this year and ask for donations due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. **Motion to approve the central office by Bock, seconded by Holderread (Passed Unanimously).** Talks were had of increasing the research grants to \$750 (currently at \$500) and of possibility of increasing the number of grants we hand out per year. Sublett noted we are still getting lots of participation with the amount being at \$500 and noted that is encouraging. Brown noted the possibility of having a range for certain research grant awardees depending on the project as well. This item will be discussed at future meetings.

ZOOM- do we want our own account?

The Executive Council discussed if they thought it was a good idea to purchase a ZOOM account. Judy Bock talked about the Zoom version she had and that it was relatively inexpensive and allowed the ability to share your screen. Susan Holderread mentioned she has an account and is happy to host. Judy and Stacey also offered to allow the council to use their accounts as well. Plenty of people have zoom accounts on the IGS Council that could be used in the future. The council agreed that it was not necessary to buy our own account with multiple Executive Council members already having a ZOOM account.

Offer one year membership to the 2021 senior award winners

Carmen Masó noted offering one year membership to the 2021 Senior Award winners might be a nice touch to keep them connected to IGS as they go off to college. Sutton mentioned the idea to sponsor a one-year membership to students as well. This was similar to how we did the lifetime membership sponsor challenge in the past.

Other business

Terms expiring on the Executive Council

Retired Geographer- Mike Sublett is stepping away from his role as Retired Geographer. Ani reached out to Larry Resutko to fulfill this position and Len is going to follow up on this as well. Ani is willing to stay on as this elementary member. Susan Holderread is willing to continue to stay on as the secondary member.

IGA Report

John Kostelnick gave an IGA report. He reported the IGA is now a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC). The IGA had a virtual conference “Geography Education in the 21st Century” with 30 plus attendees. IGA also hosted a virtual, two-day GIS workshop for K-12 educators this past June. Kostelnick also stated the IGA is willing to support virtual field trips, story maps, and other media in cooperation with IGS.

The council expressed their appreciation to Len Ealey and Mike Sublett for all their contributions and service to the IGS Executive Council over the years.

Smith asked for motion to adjourn the Executive Council Meeting, **Brown motioned, seconded by Sutton. (Passed Unanimously)**

Adjourned at 10:51 AM

Respectfully Submitted, Nick Goodwin