

MINUTES OF THE FIRST 2008 COUNCIL MEETING
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Attending:

Peter Heaney, President
Nancy Ross, Vice President
Barb Dutrow, Past President
John Hughes, Treasurer
Mickey Gunter, Secretary
Peter Burns, Councilor
Carol Frost, Councilor
Klaus Mezger, Councilor
Simon Redfern, Councilor
Roberta Rudnick, Councilor

Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director
Robert Dymek, *American Mineralogist* Editor
Gordon Nord, MSA Webmaster

Note: Motions and Council action items are presented in *italics*; SoC = sense of Council, S = second.

The first meeting of the 2008 Council of the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) was held in Mineral Hall F of the Hyatt Regency Denver Hotel, Denver, Colorado.

ITEMS

1. Call to order

President Heaney called the meeting to order at 3:13 pm, Saturday, October 27, 2007, and proceeded to introduce the new Vice President (N. Ross), the two new Councilors (P. Burns and C. Frost), and the new Secretary (M. Gunter). He, along with all the others in attendance, thanked in-coming Past President (B. Dutrow) for the excellent job she had done in the past year as President.

2. 2008 Budget

The 2008 budget was presented and discussed at the Third 2007 Council meeting earlier in the day. A very brief discussion of the budget occurred and it was noted the society's finances are still in good shape, and care should be taken to maintain this status.

R. Rudnick moved to approve the 2008 budget included in the Treasurer's report. S = N. Ross. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Financial Affairs of the Society

C. Frost moved to approve the Treasurer to conduct the financial affairs for the society and the Executive Director to write checks and make other forms of payment and transfers on the Society's accounts as directed by the Treasurer and Council actions. S = B. Dutrow. Motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

4. Acceptance of committee appointments for 2008 Council year

R. Rudnick moved to approve the committee appointments, as amended, and contained in the report from the Committee on Committees made to the Third 2007 Council meeting. S = C. Frost. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Appointment of Editors for 2008

N. Ross moved to continue the appointments of Robert Dymek and Bryan Chakoumakos as editors for the American Mineralogist, Jodi Rosso as the editor of the Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry and Monograph series, Andrea Koziol as the MSA Event Editor for Elements, and Frank Dudas as the Editor of the Handbook of Mineralogy. S = K. Mezger. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Authorization of mail and telephone ballots

K. Mezger moved to allow use of mail, telephone, e-mail, and Internet ballots whenever necessary to conduct the affairs of the Society. S = S. Redfern. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Any Items Tabled from the Third 2007 Council Meeting:

none

8. Other Business

none

9. Future of MSA

The Fall 1996 Council asked that an agenda item on the future of MSA be included at each First Council meeting. P. Heaney came prepared for the discussion with three items (listed below as A-C):

A. The future of the printed version of the *American Mineralogist*: He noted that 44 % of the recent MSA members elected to receive the “web only” version of the *American Mineralogist*. Thus it would seem reasonable to consider the possibility of sunsetting the printed copy of the journal. In the ensuing discussion several points were raised (e.g., perception, cost, print on demand) that need more consideration.

It was SoC that a committee be formed chaired by N. Ross with A. Speer, R. Dymek, R. Russell, J. Hughes (and possibly others) as members.

The charge of the committee would be to provide a report to the Second 2008 Council meeting about the issues involved with moving to all electronic issues of our journal. It was also noted that MSA might want to partner with other societies to explore this issue, especially the Mineralogical Association of Canada.

B. MSA’s web site: Heaney argued we may have some missed chances with our current web site, and that we might want to add more links. G. Nord commented that he would be glad to help in any way, but warned us to provide him what we wanted in favor or telling him what we do not like. He went on to point out that about 50% of the hits to the web site is the “Mineralogy for Kids” link; thus, perhaps we should spend more effort refining it.

It was SoC to form a committee chaired by B. Dutrow with A. Speer, G. Nord (and possibly others) as members.

The charge of the committee would be to review the web site to determine if it needs a redesign (especially the front page), and to explore other sites to add as links (e.g., the appropriate Cutting Edge pages).

C. The State of Mineralogy: Peter is concerned about the (perceived?) decline in the importance of mineralogy in the undergraduate geology curriculum. He proposes we try and gain some understanding of how mineralogy is currently being taught (i.e., single semester courses, integrated into petrology, etc.); we might be able to accomplish this with some type of survey. Another starting point is the mailing list of currently-taught mineralogy courses assembled as a distribution mailing for the Dyar & Gunter textbook.

It was SoC to form a committee chaired by P. Heaney with M. Gunter and other members to be selected in the near future.

The committee would look into developing a survey, and more importantly, determine what to do with the data from it and how to use this process to improve our “state.”

Lastly there were two more areas discussed:

R. Dymek discussed linking membership in MSA and publishing in the *American Mineralogist*.

It was SoC that we would not want to require membership as a criterion for publishing in our journal; however, it seems worthwhile to attempt to get authors to be members and R. Dymek will try and assist with this.

Next B. Dutrow showed off some of the coffee cups she had made with the MSA logo. There were some concerns about logo becoming faded in the dishwasher.

It was SoC she should continue to work on the cups.

10. Adjournment

B. Dutrow moved that the First 2008 Council meeting be adjourned. S = R. Rudnick. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 pm.

Submitted by Mickey Gunter