

MINUTES OF THE SECOND 2007 COUNCIL MEETING
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Attending:

Barb Dutrow, President
John W. Valley, Past President
Peter Heaney, Vice President
John M. Hughes, Treasurer
George E. Harlow, Secretary
Jean Morrison, Councilor

Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director
Rachel Russell, Managing Editor, *American Mineralogist*
Gordon Nord, Webmaster (arrived later)
Francis O. Dudas, Editor of the Handbook of Mineralogy
George A. Lager, Editor, *American Mineralogist*
Bryan C. Chakoumakos, Editor, *American Mineralogist*

Note: Motions and council action items are presented in *italics*; SoC = Sense of Council, S = Second.

The second meeting of the 2007 Council of the Mineralogical Society of America was held in the conference room at the MSA Business Office, 3635 Concorde Parkway Suite 500, Chantilly, VA USA on June 1, 2007.

ITEMS

1. Call to Order

President Barb Dutrow called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM, Friday, June 1, 2007, and each person attending introduced themselves and their position with respect to MSA. Dutrow welcomed everyone to the MSA offices and suggested council members take the time to introduce themselves to the staff. She commented that the Society is healthy, with a growing membership, on-going progress with fund raising in that the President's challenge had received more than \$15,000 in additional contributions, cost controls have reduced some expenses, but that attention to income must be maintained. Barb thanked Alex for his hard work, in particular, success with bringing the office of the Clay Mineral Society under the umbrella of MSA and working toward the same end with the Meteoritical Society. She commented on the success of and increased MSA visibility by presenting the Distinguished

Public Serve Medal (DPSM) to Marie Huizing at the Tucson Mineral Show banquet.

2. Additions to the Agenda.

Two action items:

a) From Rachel Russell, the Managing Editor of the *American Mineralogist*, she needs a sense of Council about the future for a new technical editor for the crystal structure data in *Am. Min.* as Bob Downs and his former student, Richard Thompson, can no longer carry out this task.

b) As a non-revenue income source, B. Dutrow has revisited the ideas of the former Arts Council and had example polo shirts made with the MSA logo. She believes they could do well at the MSA booths and serve to advertise MSA when worn by members. She seeks approval to have 50-70 more made in time for GSA. After a short viewing of the prototype shirts,

John Valley moved to authorize Barb Dutrow to have shirts made with MSA logos for sale by MSA. S = J. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Third 2006 Council Meeting and First 2007 Council Meeting. J. Hughes noted that there were inaccurate credits of seconds to motions by John Valley that should have been J. Hughes. The secretary apologized sheepishly for the error.

P. Heaney moved to approve the Minutes of the Third 2006 Council Meeting and First 2007 Council Meeting with amendments. S = J. Valley. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Accept Reports to Council containing no questions or action items as a group. Reports will be acknowledged by the Secretary.

Financial Advisory & Audit Committee, Nominating Committee for Officers, MSA Representative to the GeoScienceWorld (GSW) Advisory Council, MSA Series Editor of the *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* & Monograph Series, MSA Society News Editor for *Elements*, Editor *Handbook of Mineralogy*, MSA Representative to the *Elements* Executive Committee, Short Course Committee, Outreach Committee (K-12), Outreach Committee (Databases), Lecture Program Committee, Lecture Program Coordinator, Roebling Medal Committee, MSA Award Committee, MSA Webmaster, Distinguished Public Service Award Committee, Nominating Committee for Fellows, Kraus Crystallography Grant Committee, Mineralogy/Petrology Grant Committee, Representative to ACA, AGI, CMS, EMU, FM, GIA, GS, IMA, and Special Interest Group on Pegmatites and Planetary Materials.

An additional note: the FAC report was prepared by Bob Tracy despite the extenuating circumstances at VPI. Council conveys an additional thank you to him as well as to Ross for their reports during this trying time.

J. Morrison moved to accept these Reports to Council. S = P. Heaney.
Motion passed unanimously.

The Executive Director had noted that Council should read all these reports, but we might be particularly interested in the Lecture Program Coordinator report wherein are included comments received thus far from this year's host institutions. When the topic of outreach by other organizations comes up, there are many who feel that MSA is not doing outreach, at least as defined by the programs of these other organizations. As can be seen by the comments on the MSA Lecture Program, this program is having an impact, along with the MSA website, *Elements*, and MSA-Talk list-serve.

In response, B. Dutrow suggested that by more publicly distributing these testimonials (by institutions that were visited by MSA Distinguished Lecturers); we would enhance the program and document its impact.

It was the SoC that the Lecture Program Coordinator be encouraged to publish the testimonials on-line on the MSA website and, perhaps on occasion, in Elements, after securing permission of the writer.

5. Review of Executive Committee actions—President's Report:

Pres. Dutrow reviewed her report and the actions of the Executive Committee.

Her report:

a. MSA activities in response to the 2006 Gemological Research Conference sponsored by the Gemological Institute of America. After the strong encouragement at the 2006 3rd Council Meeting, she contacted Jim Shigley and Brendan Laurs about plans for the next meeting and the desirability of including MSA as an organizing society and met with them at Tucson. She learned that the next GRC is planned for 2009 and received positive feedback about MSA's participation. This discussion is addressed formally, later, under Item 23.

b. Because of requests for changing the venue of the MSA Award, guidelines have been proposed for changing award venues: MSA council remains flexible on award location for presentation of the DPSM, which will be considered by Council at the time the awardee is approved. Roebling and MSA awards are connected to the MSA luncheon and should remain at the GSA meeting except under extenuating circumstances.

c. Likewise, the venue for the Dana Medal presentation has been an issue. Two options have potential: 1) Continue moving the presentation among several different venues, or 2) establish a specific meeting for the presentation. The movement among several meetings has not enhanced the visibility of the presentation, but the Spring meeting dilemma has not been resolved. Consequently, President Dutrow recommends reconstituting the ad-hoc long-range planning committee and charging it with recommending to Council the optimal venue for presentation of the Dana Medal. Her recommendation for members include Past President Valley, as chair; Rod Ewing (a Dana Medal recipient at AGU and past president); Bill Carlson (a Dana Medal recipient at Goldschmidt and past president); Frank Spear (a Dana Medal recipient at Frontiers and past president); a MSA-AGU liaison (Roberta Rudnick); the meetings coordinator (Ross Angel), and any one else deemed necessary by John Valley.

Barb suggests that the outgoing President ask awardees specifically whether they will 1) accept their award and 2) accept it at the standard date. If the awardee demurs, the Pres. should ask for a response by a particular date. Further discussion was tabled to the afternoon (see Item 25.).

d. Barb reviewed the changes to the agreement with Clay Minerals Society about their business functions being handled in the MSA business office. She noted that the agreement with the Meteoritical Society, under consideration now, will look very similar.

e. Barb noted the approval of the Bloss Trust agreement that assigns the copyrights of his books and a portion of the royalties to MSA. An amendment to the F. Donald Bloss Crystallography Fund Trust agreement has been developed and discussed in the Executive Director's report.

Finally, President Dutrow said she had sent message of thanks and MSA cups to retiring Committee chairs Mike Holdoway (FAAC), and Bill Carlson (DPSM) and also a note of thanks to David von Bargan who administers Ask-a-Mineralogist .

6. Determine the member and institutional *American Mineralogist* subscription rates for 2008 and member dues. Treasurer John Hughes presented these topics.

a. *Set dues for membership in the Society.* Because of a recommended increase in *American Mineralogist* subscription rates, there is no dues increase requested for 2008. Dues for Members and Fellows will remain at \$55, Students will remain at \$10, and Senior Members and Senior Fellows at \$0. Sustaining Membership will remain at \$150 + regular dues. Dues were

last raised for regular members in 2003 for calendar year 2004, and for students to \$10 in 2006.

J. Hughes moved to retain the present dues rates for 2008. S = P. Heaney. In the discussion that followed, it was suggested that the fund-raising letter to Senior Members and Senior Fellows (those over 65+ years of age and retired) include a reminder of this dues rate. Motion passed unanimously.

b. *Early online renewal discount.* Members and Fellows who renew online before 10/31/2007 receive a \$5 discount; encouraging members to renew early and online represents a significant cost saving for MSA.

J. Hughes moved to continue the online renewal discount for 2008. S = J. Valley. Motion passed unanimously.

c. *Set the member subscription rate American Mineralogist for 2008.* Propose to continue differentiating between domestic and foreign member subscription rates to reflect actual costs of producing and mailing *American Mineralogist*, and also to continue to shift a portion of first-copy costs (5%) from Institutional Subscribers to Individual Subscribers, as begun at this time last year. Hughes proposes that a U.S. member subscription price (paper and electronic) be set at \$60 (currently \$50), and foreign member subscription price be set at \$70 (currently \$60), and a member electronic-only subscription be set at \$30 (currently \$25).

J. Hughes moved to set the subscription rates for the American Mineralogist for 2008 at \$60 for members with US mailing addresses, \$70 for members with foreign addresses, and members with electronic-only subscriptions at \$30. S = J. Valley. Motion passed unanimously.

d. *Set the institutional subscription rates for 2008.* Propose to continue differentiating between domestic and foreign institutional subscription rates to reflect actual costs of producing and mailing *American Mineralogist*, and also to continue to shift of a portion of first-copy costs (5%) from Institutional Subscribers to Individual Subscribers.

J. Hughes moved to set the U.S. institutional subscription price (paper and electronic) at \$775 (currently \$725), and foreign member subscription price be set at \$800 (currently \$750). S = J. Valley. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Updates from the Treasurer and MSA Executive Director on MSA membership numbers, subscriptions, and MSA finances.

J. Morrison asked Treasurer Hughes how the Life Memberships were priced. He responded that the price was set by the MSA Bylaws at 25 times the current dues. This should yield an amount that when invested to equal the cost of a subscription plus an inflationary increase in perpetuity.

B. Dutrow requested that Treasurer Hughes review the current price of a “life membership” and propose an updated amount at the fall council meeting. This will have to be voted on by the membership.

John Hughes believes Council should anticipate when there will be no more paper printings of the *American Mineralogist* so that a decision will be required on what will constitute the copy of record of the journal.

Hughes was asked about the disparity between the profit and loss shown in the reports. He responded that no investment income is shown on the spreadsheets or capital gains, which would yield a net increase in income.

Executive Director:

a. Alex reported that MSA had 2237 members as of April and 2261 as of June 1, the trend of which suggests we will exceed the 74 new members or renewals required to carry us above the 2006 membership total of 2335.

b. Alex reported the cash and investment balances of MSA, indicating that one of the checking accounts had been established for *Elements* to separate and make operations smooth. The MSA checking account was changed from a Commercial Checking to an Advantage Interest Checking Account at Wachovia. The Advantage accounts have lower fees and earn ~5% on the balance.

c. Alex reported that the deadline on applications for Student Research Awards had passed, with 2 applications for the Kraus Award and 7 for the Min-Pet Award.

Upon reflection of the loss of members to at least one award committee, Barb Dutrow noted that there is no mechanism for filling vacancies. It was suggested that Alex and Barb, with input from the Council, develop suggestions for filling a vacancy that occurs in any office or committee and have a discussion at the Fall council meeting.

8. Report from the Committee on Committees:

Peter Heaney presented the report of the CoC, and a review was carried out on the listings to assess the rankings.

J. Valley moved to confirm the revised list of potential committee members and chairs and authorize George Harlow, as MSA Secretary, to contact individuals in the order listed (except when restricted by guidelines for

the position). S = J. Morrison. Motion passed unanimously.

There was subsequent discussion on the activities of the Financial Advisory and Audit Committee and the advisements of the Auditor. J. Hughes and J. Speer reiterated that the oversight by the committee was not onerous in that much of the investment part is dealt with by Wachovia and that MSA accounting practices are now in conformity with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP).

9. The Chair positions on the Benefactor Committee need to be filled.

Barb noted the recommendations listed in the report of the Committee on Committees. She reported that Dave London, who had been chosen as the Chair for Corporate Giving, informed her that he believed this position would pose a conflict of interest, and so declined. Barb agreed to contact the potential chairs about taking on the responsibilities.

Barb Dutrow then raised a question about the problem with dropped membership and whether we need a membership committee. There was a general agreement that this is a good potential role for Sorena Sorensen.

It was SoC for the Secretary to contact Sorena about her interest in handling dropped memberships.

10. Report of the MSA Meetings Coordinator: two recommendations regarding MSA meeting representatives.

a. Consider the nomination of Joe Pyle as MSA representative to Spring AGU. He would recommend that this appointment be made for 2 years (2008, 2009 meetings)

b. .

There was little discussion as this recommendation was considered to be a good one.

b. Nominate a person to be MSA representative to the Goldschmidt conference, possibly Tracy Rushmer. Is anyone on both the GS and MSA Councils? No – only one GS councilor is a former MSA member (Andreas Luttge)

There was a brief discussion of about Goldschmidt meetings when the meeting is abroad and lacking input by GS. No specific action was recommended.

The topic of the need for a new Meetings Coordinator was raised

Action item: Peter Heaney volunteered to contact Council members to attempt to identify a new Meetings Coordinator.

11. Peter Heaney, a member of the Nomination Committee for Officers, recommended he should no longer be a member because of his other MSA duties. Bob Downs, the Committee Chair, requests that a replacement be found soon for this term (2006-2008).

Peter suggested drawing a third person from the list for the Nomination Committee for Officers presented the CoC report. There was a general concurrence.

It was SoC for the Secretary to seek 3 new members for the Nomination Committee for Officers.

12. Report from the *American Mineralogist* Editors and Managing Editor.

They remind us that George Lager's term of office ends during the summer of 2008. George Lager expressed similar surprise that his term is only a year from being over and felt satisfied with how his term has transpired. Rachael Russell stated that MSA's president had generally led the search process in the past, and she provided the list of Associate Editors as a good starting point for finding a new Editor. She mentioned that a call for volunteers for Associate Editors via the MSA-talk list server had been successful, whereas a similar talk-list request for volunteers for a book editor had not. After a brief discussion it was agreed that a new Editor would need to be found and engaged by the end of 2007 to pick up the reins from George during the summer.

Action item: Barb said she would start putting together a list of names with the help of the Editors and Council then begin contacting individuals.

13. Report from the MSA Representative on the GeoScienceWorld (GSW) Board of Directors

Alex Speer's term expires in Fall of 2008, and he cannot succeed himself on the Board, so we need to identify a new representative. MSA and GSW need someone with some knowledge of or inclination to learn about electronic publishing and a co-operative organization such as GSW, and who has a commitment to put in the time. Alex reminded Council that as a founding member, MSA maintains permanent representation on GSW Board, whereas newer publisher members rotate in and out, and that founders represent a majority of votes on the board.

There was an immediate concurrence on Doug Rumble, the current

representative to the GSW Advisory Board, as the appropriate candidate for the Board of Directors.

P. Heaney moved to nominate Doug Rumble as the next MSA Representative to the GSW Board of Directors. S = J. Valley. Motion passed unanimously.

Alex pointed out that this will leave a vacancy on the GSW Advisory Board as the same person cannot fill both positions. Barb suggested a former editor, or better, Rod Ewing, the MSA President who initiated *Elements*. *It was SoC we should ask Rod* if he would accept this appointment.

Frank Dudas arrived, and so as to use his time efficiently, we advanced to Item 20 in the Agenda.

20. Report of the editor of the *Handbook of Mineralogy*

Frank Dudas discussed his progress and philosophy in approaching the updating of the *Handbook of Mineralogy*. He has organized a group of eight others to assist with mineral and anionic groups (e.g., tourmaline group or phosphates). Gordon Nord has been helping to get files loaded to go on line; LaTeX sources have been converted to Htm and then to MySQL as a database. He looks at the Handbook as a secondary source to bring data together and validate the sources. Barb Dutrow thanked Frank for his efforts and report and for traveling to DC for the meeting.

Return to the regular order in the Agenda:

14. Report from the Dana Medal Committee.

The committee recommends that Council revise the criteria for the Dana medal to read:

"For the purpose of this award, the term "mineralogical sciences" is defined in its broadest sense and mid-career candidates should *have received their terminal degree no more than 25 years prior to January 1st of the year in which the medal is awarded.*"

President Dutrow reminded Council that as the award is presented essentially one year after the medalist is selected that the *italicized* wording be modified to: "*have received their terminal degree no more than 25 years prior to January 1st of the year in which the medalist is selected.*"

J. Valley moved to approve the change to the wording of the criteria as

suggested by the Dana Medal Committee and amended by President Dutrow. S = J. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

Barb commented that this change would become effective after the next (2008) Dana Medalist is announced.

15. Operational items from the Executive Director:

a. Council needs to confirm that the Third 2007 and First 2008 MSA Council Meetings will be held in Denver, CO on Saturday 27 October 2007. The MSA Management Committee meeting will be held Friday afternoon or evening 26 October 2007.

P. Heaney moved to set the dates for the Third 2007 and First 2008 MSA Council Meetings as Saturday 27 October 2007 in Denver, CO and the MSA Management Committee meeting on Friday 26 October 2007. S = J. Morrison. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Council needs to give some indication of its intention about Spring 2008 Council meeting. It could be in conjunction with 2008 Goldschmidt Conference, Vancouver, BC, Canada; 2008 Spring AGU, some other meeting; or in the offices at Chantilly, VA. Whatever is decided, it is best to have sufficient time to work with the organizers to plan and include MSA events and booth.

It was the SoC to have the Spring Council meeting in Chantilly.

c. Council needs to decide where the 2008 Dana Medal, normally given at the spring meeting attended by MSA, will be presented to Thomas Armbruster.

A short discussion revolved around the recent scheduling problems with awards. There was a consensus that some further clarification of the 2008 meeting commitments was needed as well as a discussion with Thomas Armbruster. Therefore, *the discussion on a venue for the 2008 Dana Medal was tabled until later (see Item 25).*

16. Report from the MSA Representative to the Society of Mineral Museum Professionals:

George Harlow would like Council to consider a draft position statement on Institutional Natural History Collections (Rocks and Minerals) and how to present or promulgate it to Society members. The proposed text:

“Preservation of Natural History Collections: Minerals and Rocks

Preface: In light of recent regrettable losses of important mineral collections from a

university and a natural history museum, it is important for the geological community to recognize the importance of preserving these collections. The vicissitudes of scientific and societal interest must not be allowed to cause the loss of irreplaceable natural samples.

Mineral and rock collections are a natural adjunct to mineralogical and petrological research. Their preservation is required as the foundation of the scientific information derived from them as well as the record of deposits and outcrops from which they were derived. Many classic or type localities for minerals and rocks have been lost due to extraction or destruction from mining, construction or landfill, so that collections comprise the only extant samples. As institutions, such as colleges, universities, and museums, invariably sponsored the creation of geological collections created by their staff, it is incumbent upon them to maintain them and have policies for ensuring their preservation in the event such collections are no longer considered relevant to the institution's mission. Preservation must meet the criteria of both sustaining the integrity of samples as well as their accessibility for scientific research and education."

He is unaware of any other position statements that the Society may have had on any such issues, so he is open to a discussion with Council members and the Executive Director on how to proceed if the concept of a statement is endorsed.

Peter Heaney, while supportive of the intent and motives, was concerned that MSA has no criteria or procedure for adopting a position statement and felt it necessary to step back and evaluate any impacts and a process. Questions that need to be addressed might include any implied costs, risks, or liabilities for MSA. He also suggested that a Sunset Clause may be needed to avoid retaining statements that become outdated.

Pres. Dutrow suggested that an ad hoc committee was needed to develop criteria for evaluating and adopting position.

After George Harlow volunteered to chair the ad hoc committee and asked Peter Heaney and John Hughes to participate, *it was the SoC to create an ad hoc committee* to develop criteria for adopting position statements by MSA and present a report for comment by the Membership. George suggested he would ask Jeff Post to participate as he has been involved with the issue for some time.

17. Response needed to a letter received by the Executive Director from Michael J. O'Hara.

The letter from Michael J. O'Hara expresses concern that between 1999-2003 Ikuo Kushiro (Roebing Medalist 1999) received major awards from the AGU, MSA, EGU, GS, and the Geological Society (of London) – all apparently based on similar nominations that claim achievements for which priority lies with himself and his colleagues. The letter is accompanied by several pages of documentation in an appendix. The Executive Director assumes that an identical letter was sent to the other four other societies.

All agreed a diplomatic response is warranted. There was a general agreement that as the recipient of the letter, Alex Speer should respond. The rest of the discussion dealt with the detail, or lack thereof, that should go into the response, as well as the tone.

It was the SoC that Alex would draft a letter and circulate it to the Executive Committee prior to sending it to O'Hara.

18. Report by the MSA Representative to on the GeoScienceWorld (GSW) Board of Directors

Alex Speer recommends that MSA approve the Electronic License Agreement (ELA) Addendum to extend its participation in GeoScienceWorld (GSW) through the end of 2008. He recommends that Council designate the MSA Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of MSA.

Peter Heaney moved to approve the ELA Addendum and authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of MSA. S = J. Valley. Motion passed unanimously.

19. Report from the Short Course Committee – one action item:

a. The Short Course Committee recommends that Council give final approval for the short course “*Minerals, Inclusions and Volcanic Processes*” from Keith Putirka and Frank Tepley III to proceed. It is expected that the volume will have a 2008 production and publication date if approved.

J. Hughes moved to approve the recommendation to proceed with the short course “Minerals, Inclusions and Volcanic Processes” from Keith Putirka and Frank Tepley III. S = J. Morrison. Motion passed unanimously.

The executive director commented that we need to do a follow-up with DOE on extending funding for the short course program we have been receiving for some years now.

21. Report from the *ad hoc* Publications Committee

Chair, Peter Heaney, reports that because so many deadlines have not been met for the textbook, “*Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy*,” the Committee cannot yet recommend publication of this textbook to the Council. They continue to view the book with enthusiasm and endorse the authors’ efforts to complete it. The contract remains under review, and he hoped to offer Council a recommendation with respect to the contract at the meeting, but

outstanding issues remain. Peter is cautiously optimistic.

At this point Barb Dutrow excused herself from the meeting because of any perceived conflict of interest with a competing textbook (Dana's *The Manual of Mineral Science*).

Alex reviewed some of the specific details: 728 pages, 5000 copies for a unit cost of \$13.36, not including 700 review copies, looking at a copy price of \$70 to \$100. Alex said MSA would need to sell 1000 copies to cover the cost, which he felt was likely. However, covering the cost of the free copies may be a problem. Therefore, he would prefer that MSA receive royalties from the start rather than having them withheld until all of the costs are paid, as presently called for in the contract. At this point council members wanted a chance to look at the drafts of the book, so the topic was tabled and the meeting broke for lunch.

Lunch Break: 12:30 PM

Reconvene: 1:10 PM

22. The Executive Director received a message from Friso Veenstra, Geosciences Editor at Elsevier, inquiring whether or not MSA would be interested in assuming responsibility for the *Virtual Journal Experimental Earth*, edited by Don Dingwell. The journal highlights articles in experimental mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, geophysics, volcanology and tectonics that are published in twenty international journals by presenting or linking to their abstracts.

Barb said she was willing to respond to Don and would highlight MSA's activities of hosting a website, a talk-listserver, Ask-a-Mineralogist, etc., but that we would not be interested in taking on the *Virtual Journal*.

The SoC was for Barb to respond to Don Dingwell and Alex to respond to Friso Veenstra.

Digression to discuss an Arts Council proposal.

Barb recounted how she made T-shirts for the 75th Anniversary of MSA, so she has revisited the concept with polo shirts. She, again, showed off a variety of shirts with the MSA colored-tourmaline logo which cost \$20-25 to make and should sell for \$35 each. There was a general enthusiasm for the shirts and idea.

J. Valley moved to authorize Barb to produce 50 shirts and market them through MSA outlets. S = J. Morrison. Motion passed unanimously.

23. President's Recommendation for Co-sponsorship of 2009 Gemological Research Conference (GRC) with GIA.

The President recommends that MSA agree to sponsor at least one of the technical sessions at the 2009 Gemological Research Conference (GRC) and to indicate our willingness to encourage participation among our members in the 2009 GRC conference. George Rossman, MSA Representative to GIA, tells us that there are discussions underway among him, GIA staff and MSA officers about the possibility of a research symposium on gem minerals, and possibly a short course on the topic of the gem minerals. The specifics:

Proposal: Agree to sponsor at least one of the technical sessions at the 2009 GRC meeting and to indicate our willingness to encourage participation among our members in the 2009 GRC conference. (MSA representative to GIA, Dr. George Rossman is also in contact with the organizers and will likely submit future action items).

Identifying likely chairs for this session can derive, in part, from the MSA Representative to GIA, who attended the previous GRC (George Rossman); from others who attended the first GRC (e.g., David London, George Harlow, Jeffrey Post, Rod Ewing, Nancy McMillan); and from Council after the specific session or sessions has/have been identified. (I am also willing to participate in furthering our interaction with GIA and would be happy to act as an organizer).

Allow the President to begin discussions with a group of selected individuals to evaluate the feasibility of a hosting an MSA workshop prior or post GRC on "Teaching Gemology in a University Setting."

The short discussion was supportive and enthusiastic, with the main concern being the costs associated with the project.

J. Hughes moved to authorize Barb to negotiate with the GIA about sponsorship of at least one scientific session at the next GRC and look into the feasibility of a connected workshop on "Teaching Gemology in a University Setting." S = J. Morrison. Motion passed unanimously.

24. Establish guidelines for changing an award's venue.

Proposal: Guidelines for changing an award's venue: MSA council remains flexible on award location for presentation of the DPSM, to be considered by Council at the time the awardee is approved. Roebling and MSA awards are tied to the MSA luncheon and should remain at GSA except under extenuating circumstances.

With little discussion, the SoC is to follow this guideline for the venue of the DPSM and for the other awards, as well.

25. Recommendation for an *ad hoc* committee to advise on the venue for the Dana Medal.

The MSA President recommends appointing an *ad hoc* long-range planning committee charged with recommending to Council the optimal option for the

venue of the Dana Medal presentation. The committee should not only explore venues, but also what MSA's expectations and obligations would be of committing regularly to a single meeting.

Proposal: In concert with the earlier suggestion by President Valley, recommend appointing an *ad hoc* long-range planning committee and charge them with recommending to Council the optimal option for the venue to present the Dana Medal. Impact of the Frontiers meeting on the spring meeting schedule and award presentation should also be considered.

This *ad hoc* committee should be chaired by Past President Valley, be populated by the meetings coordinator, Rod Ewing (Dana Medal recipient at AGU and Past President); Bill Carlson (Dana Medal recipient at Goldschmidt and Past President); Frank Spear (Dana Medalist at Frontiers); MSA-AGU representative (Roberta Rudnick) and others as deemed necessary by Past President Valley.

Alex Speer pointed out that the Geochemical Society does not usually coordinate with other societies unless such organizations are local to the venue.

John Valley said he had moved forward with the design and focus of the committee, adding Andreas Luttgé, Sue Brantley and Bob Bodnar. He planned focused discussions about the options with GS versus our present bouncing around to different meeting venues. Questions arose about the immediate future: Spring AGU Joint Assembly in Fort Lauderdale (May 27-30), Goldschmidt in Vancouver (July 13-19), and the GAC/MAC meeting in Quebec (May 26-28).

P. Heaney moved to select the 2008 Goldschmidt Conference in Vancouver as the venue for awarding the Dana Medal to Thomas Armbruster. S = J. Valley. Motion passed unanimously. If this decision turns out to be problematic, the fallback position is to present the award at the GAC/MAC meeting in Quebec.

26. Issues relating to the International Mineralogical Association (IMA).

a. The MSA President had invited Prof. Yamanaka, the current IMA President to attend the meeting. Unfortunately, Professor Yamanaka did not attend the meeting.

b. The Executive Director pointed out that it is not too early to think about whether or not MSA wishes to have an exhibit presence at the 2010 IMA General Meeting in Budapest, Hungary 29 August -3 September 2010. It is being organized by the mineralogical societies of Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia.

The SoC was to plan for such a presence and to keep IMA informed of our interest in the 2010 meeting being in the U.S.

c. Bob Downs, in his efforts to construct freely available mineral databases, reports he requires an official IMA approved list of minerals. After many requests to the IMA nomenclature commission, they recently posted a copyrighted PDF made by Ernie Nickel to their website. Unfortunately this PDF has severe restrictions, it is password protected, cannot be printed, copied, etc. and is not useful as a digital resource. Any efforts by the MSA to convey its support of the database efforts to IMA would be appreciated.

There was little discussion and *a SoC that the MSA representative to IMA contact the IMA* and encourage it to release a list of approved and grandfathered mineral names.

21. Return to Report from the *ad hoc* Publications Committee

Barb Dutrow excused herself again from this part of the meeting.

A telephone conference call occurred between Darby Dyar and Council to resolve outstanding budget, contractual, and publication date issues.

Agreements were reached, and everyone expressed enthusiasm for the project and looked forward to the publication of the new textbook.

Barb Dutrow returned to the meeting and was informed and content with the results.

27. Adjournment

P. Heaney moved that the 2nd 2007 Council meeting be adjourned. S = J. Morrison. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Harlow, MSA Secretary