



IAJGS Board of Directors Meeting
Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers
Boston, MA
Cambridge Room
Saturday, August 3, 2013

Summary Minutes

Present:

Michael Goldstein (President), Jan Meisels Allen (Vice President), Joel Spector (Secretary), Paul Silverstone (Treasurer)

Daniel Horowitz (Director), Kahlile Mehr (Director), Mark Nicholls (Director), Jackye Sullins (Director); Nolan Altman (Director)

Anne Feder Lee (Immediate Past President)

Guests:

Hal Bookbinder; Banai Feldstein; Marlis Humphrey

Absent:

Jay Sage (Director)

Board Actions Subsequent to the Previous Board Meeting:

The Board confirmed the approval of Membership: Kremenetz District Research Group and the approval of 2016 IAJGS Conference Contract (Seattle).

Minutes

The Minutes of the Spring 2013 Board Meeting were approved, as amended.

Stern Grant

A summary of the Stern Grant recommendation was and a motion proposed that the nominations for Oded Yarkoni Historical Archives of Petah Tikva were to receive the Stern Grant (\$3,000) and Gesher Galicia Website were to receive the Stern Grant in honor of John Stedman (\$3,000) should be put to the Annual Meeting. The recommendation was approved by the Board.

Annual Meeting: Agenda

Items, including an additional item on the 2014 International Conference, to be included on the Agenda for the Annual Meeting were approved.

IAJGS Archivist

The creation of the position of IAJGS Archivist was discussed by the Board. A motion was proposed and passed to the effect that: The IAJGS create a position of archivist; the IAJGS Archivist would be accountable to the President and would serve at the pleasure of the IAJGS Board; the Archivist would submit a job description prior to the next Board Meeting. It was agreed that Joel Spector would be appointed as IAJGS Archivist.

Conference Reports:

Salt Lake City 2014: The Conference Co-Chairperson reported that most of the leadership positions had been filled; those filled and still to be appointed were reviewed. There would be a meeting of the conference leaders at the Boston conference. In addition, meetings had been held with FamilySearch and Ancestry. All guest rooms at the Hilton would have fridges and the Harmon's store would stock additional kosher food. The website was beginning to be built based on previous sites. Signage at the hotel would be digital, allowing changes to be made easily. Flyers and pins would be available at the SLC information table at the current conference. A prize draw would also be held for people enquiring about the conference. A possible change in the Family Finder was discussed and it was suggested that individuals with similar interests would be automatically matched

IAJGS Yearbook

The Yearbook Editor reported that an abbreviated Yearbook would be included in the 2014 conference syllabus. A volunteer was needed to take the Yearbook on. A suggestion was that it be put online, with each society having the ability to update/amend its own entry.

Raffle at Conference

The arrangements for raffles at conferences were discussed.

Israel 2015: The Conference Chairperson announced that the conference contract was in final stages of negotiation. A static home page was being available on the IAJGS website; and conference circulars were being placed in the conference bags. The Conference Committee was being appointed, with a financial chairperson still being sought. Oversight of conference financials was discussed by the Board, including allocation of profits.

Seattle 2106: It was reported that the hotel contract had been signed. IAJGS needed to establish a good record of direct billing to reduce the chances of being required to pay conference venue costs up front.

Conference 2017: There was discussion of potential sites, primarily Orlando and Atlanta. Atlanta had the biggest US airport, but land transportation was a problem but it had a reasonably good Jewish community, but there was not much to do in the city. Orlando and all of Florida had low hotel rates in August.

Eastern Europe Conference:

It was suggested that the level of support amongst genealogists for having a conference in Eastern Europe should be assessed prior to any commitment to a conference there. It was also suggested that should there be a conference in Eastern Europe ancestral tours should be arranged before and after the conference to encourage attendance.

Conferences General

It was suggested that all material relating to setting up and running conferences should be in one place to help those running future conferences. It was suggested that this could be done through a Dropbox account. It was reported that work was being done to develop a consistent method of categorizing and counting attendance at conferences. It was felt that the Board should be looking at the overarching policy for inviting lecture proposals at future conferences. It was also suggested that there should be some higher level metrics for measuring success of conferences.

Committee Reports

Membership Development: A motion proposing two new members of the Committee: Merle Kastner (Montreal) and Genie Milgrom (Florida) was approved.

EU Data Protection: The PRAMC Committee Chairperson requested approval of a letter regarding the issue of the draft European Union (EU) legislation, which threatened access to vital records and other data. The arrangements for sending the letter were approved.

Other Discussion Items

There was discussion of changing the IAJGS's 501 (c) (3) status to a 501 (h). Advantages and disadvantages were presented. The decision was taken not to change status to 501 (h).

There was discussion of the possible membership in IAJGS of some non-JGS organizations. It was suggested that the membership cost be based on the number of individuals in each group who actually pay for things rather than total membership.

The IAJGS Cemetery Project was reviewed.

Gifts were presented to departing Board members Past President Anne Feder Lee and Secretary Joel Spector.