



Approved 6-22-2020

Minutes
APRES BOD & Program Committee Zoom Meeting
March 20, 2020 - 11 AM EST

BOD Members Present:

President: Barry Tillman	Yes	
President Elect: Gary Schwarzlose	Yes	
Past President: Rick Brandenburg	No	(Comments sent via email)
Steve Brown	Yes	
Mark Burow	Yes	
Lisa Dean	Yes	
Bob Kemerait	No	(Comments sent via email)
Chandler Levinson	Yes	
Chris Liebold	Yes	
Henry McLean	Yes	
Nathan Smith	Yes	
Bob Sutter	Yes	
Dan Ward	No	
Executive Officer: Kim Cutchins	Yes	

Program Committee Members Present:

John Cason	Yes
Pete Dotray	Yes
Emi Kimura	Yes
Peggy Dotray	No

Call to Order:

Zoom meeting was called to order at 11 AM EST by President Barry Tillman. The meeting began with a quick overview of Zoom features, potential technology for a virtual Annual Meeting. The Zoom meeting included a poll for today's meeting. *(A hard copy of the poll was sent to all participants by email and is included in the minutes.)*

Meeting Purpose:

The Health and Safety of Everyone is Top Priority!

To Discuss the potential impact of the Coronavirus, COVID-19, on APRES' ability to hold the 2020 Annual Meeting at the Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas in Dallas, TX on July 14-16, 2020. Discuss potential alternatives if APRES is forced to cancel the meeting in Dallas.

Background:

Coronavirus - The coronavirus, COVID-19, is disrupting work schedules and social interaction throughout the United States. Many schools and universities are closed and limiting travel outside their respective states. As of this date, airline travel has not been restricted within the United States.

Omni Mandalay Hotel Contract – As with most meeting contracts, the APRES contract for the 2020 meeting has a cancellation penalty. The Omni contract states APRES is responsible for 80% of its contracted sleeping rooms, meeting rooms and food/beverage guarantee, if the meeting is cancelled. The penalty is \$63,600, unless the force majeure clause is enacted—“acts of God, war, government regulations, disaster, strikes, civil disorder, or curtailment of transportation facilities or any emergency beyond the parties' control, making it illegal or

impossible to perform their obligations...” We are too far out from the date of our meeting for the force majeure clause to come into play per APRES legal counsel and the Omni. As we move closer to the meeting and the pandemic worsens, the Omni will consider a penalty reduction. Postponing the meeting to later in the year is an option without penalty; however, due to peanut harvesting, dates are very limited and many other meetings are in the same situation and will attempt to do the same overbooking the rest of the year. The Omni would not consider holding the meeting in 2021 a non-penalty action. *(FYI...APRES' traditional dates for 2021 are not available at the Omni)*

APRES Financial Condition - APRES has \$268K in bank/investment accounts. Yearly administrative expenses are \$55K. Thanks to the foresight of the Finance Committee setting one-year's budget as a financial reserve goal, APRES is positioned to weather the Omni penalty and lack of income earned from 2020 meeting registration fees.

Plan B Options

Should there be a Plan B? – A discussion on the pros and cons of a Plan B meeting were discussed. A vote to hold some type of virtual meeting passed by majority vote. EO Kim Cutchins will send out an announcement today, advising all of a potential virtual meeting, encouraging all to submit an abstract, and advising a new abstract deadline of Friday, April 10th.

Hotel Cancellation Deadline – June 1st was established as the date when the APRES Board would decide whether to cancel the Dallas meeting and advise potential attendees of the new virtual meeting format.

Plan B Subcommittee Formed - A Plan B subcommittee was formed to draft an outline of a virtual meeting. Members are Gary Schwarzlose, Johnny Cason, Emi Kimura, Pete Dotray, Chandler Levinson, Barry Tillman, Rick Brandenburg, Kim Cutchins. Additional volunteers are welcome. Potential ideas for the virtual meeting:

- * Record all presentations and load to the APRES YouTube channel for viewing
- * Live General Session and symposium webinar
- * PDF of Posters
- * Registration Fee Amount to be Determined
- * Access to Virtual Meeting to be Restricted to Members Only to encourage membership renewals

Subcommittee will meet via Zoom, **Friday, March 27 at 11 AM EST**; Chandler will forward some working points to the Subcommittee prior to the meeting.

2021 Annual Meeting at Hotel Ballast in Wilmington, NC – APRES has an pending contract with the Hotel Ballast in Wilmington, NC, which contains a clause allowing APRES to delay the meeting for 12 months due to extended concerns about coronavirus, COVID-19. The Board agreed to move forward with the signing of the 2021 contract with an amendment to the COVID-19 clause, which states APRES may cancel or postpone due to any pandemic and economic disaster.

Next Board Meeting – The Board agreed to meet via Zoom **May 28th at 11 AM EST** to discuss potential cancellation of live meeting Dallas.

The meeting ended at 12 p.m.

Plan B Options Poll

1. Should APRES work on a Plan B for its 2020 Annual Meeting currently scheduled for July 12-14 at the Omni Mandalay Hotel in Dallas, TX?

Yes

No

2. If you answered yes to creating a Plan B, what part(s) of the 2020 Annual Meeting should be included in Plan B? (*Select as many as you like*)

Proceedings of Accepted Abstracts Only

Live Full Meeting via Zoom

Recorded Full Meeting via Zoom

General Session

Symposium

Breakout Sessions

Poster Session

Committee and BOD Meetings

Business Meeting

Awards Ceremony

3. Decision Date on Meeting Cancellation

May 1st

May 15th

June 1st

June 15th

June 30th

4. If we choose to do a Zoom webinar as Plan B, should APRES charge a registration fee to attend?

Yes or No

5. Registration Fee?

\$25

\$30

\$40

\$50

\$75

\$100

\$125

\$150

\$200