



Minutes of the Popular Culture Association Virtual (Zoom) Governing Board Meeting, March 3, 2023, 5:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada).

Chair Colleen Karn and President Sue Matheson called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm; Secretary Beth Downey called the roll and confirmed the existence of a quorum.

Voting members present: Sue Matheson (President), Nicole Freim (VP Area Chairs), Brenda Boudreau (VP Awards), Debbie Phillips, Robin Reid, Jen Atkins, Peter Cullen Bryan, Colin Helb, Beth Downey (Secretary), Colleen Karn (Chair), Tiffany Weaver (Treasurer)

Voting members absent: Sherry Ginn (VP/President-Elect), David Moody, Elwood Watson (VP Diversity)

Non-voting members present: Kathy Merlock Jackson, Phil Simpson, Gary Burns, Melissa Vosen Callens

Non-voting members absent: Carl Sederholm, Novotny Lawrence, Lily Kunda

Ethics Issue: Bryan moved to go into executive session at 5:06, in light of the sensitivity of the ethics case and privacy of the member involved; Karn seconded. Two motions were approved during the session. Downey moved to exit executive session at 5:52; Karn seconded.

Cancel contract with Seattle Sheraton: Sheraton may let us cancel for 2029, with only a \$51K penalty, but PCA must give them a decision by March 9. Matheson made a motion to cancel and pay the penalty, Reid seconded. Matheson and Meeting Expectations agreed PCA shouldn't book conferences more than three years out in the future, and that Seattle has lost the organization money in the past. Phillips agreed for the reasons stated; while Bryan said we need to be places where it's accessible, or even consider a virtual year. Boudreau asked how much money was lost, but those records have been lost. Matheson reminded the board that San Antonio and San Diego were in the red, too. Freim asked what size future conferences we are contracted for; maybe if we had a smaller room block that would help, plus we may go hybrid someday. Some members were hesitant because PCA is already borrowing from the Endowment, and now we're asking to borrow more. Karn: we need a location that people WILL want to go to; proposes Las Vegas or Florida. Karn called the vote; 6 yes, 2 no, 3 abstained. The motion passed; Matheson and Meeting Expectations were directed by the board to negotiate the buyout with the Seattle Sheraton.

Meeting Expectations & RebelMouse: The new website will feature the conference abstracts in addition to the following information: title, presenter, subject area and email address. They needed to know if PCA wanted this 1) available to the public, 2) if so, what information would be displayed and when (before or after approval?), and 3) if this



would include withdrawn and rejected abstracts? Matheson disagreed with posting *any* abstract/presenter information; she knew presenters in the past who had papers plagiarized. She indicated that the PCA could become involved in court cases arising from ideas in abstracts and intellectual property stolen. Downey felt otherwise; publishing abstracts is a matter of open access, facilitating scholarly communication, networking and exposure to publication opportunities. Further discussion: only approved abstracts would be posted, *not* withdrawn or rejected ones. PCA can leave it up to presenters; they can choose to post all the information, some, or none. The default would be *off*, members would opt in. The entire paper is not posted, and if someone else tried to pass off an abstract as theirs, it being on PCA's website would only prove originality. Plagiarism is not prevented by not posting abstracts; we must trust that our members abide by academic integrity principles. Karn made a motion to allow approved presenters to "opt-in" to having their paper information public on the website and which info (name, email, area, title, abstract). Weaver seconded. The vote was called; 7 yes, 1 no, 1 abstained, motion passed. Matheson wanted her "no" vote in the record.

Reallocation of Colin Helb's work: Helb's term on the board ends with the 2023 conference. Karn and Matheson will work with RebelMouse/Meeting Expectations re: his work on the present contract; this would be part of negotiations for the next contract. PCA will ask Kristen/Meeting Expectations if they can take over Google Workspace.

Historical Recording Coalition for Access & Preservation: Burns said the PCA has been a member of this coalition since 2011, along with the Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC), the Music Library Association (MLA), and the Society for American Music (SAM). Main activity has been to promote the Music Modernization Act (MMA) enacted in 2018, which among other things establishes public domain for sound recordings outside of the copyrighted time period. HRCAP has been dormant since 2018; do we want to remain a member of the coalition? There are still initiatives that the coalition can help support and promote; orphaned works, fair use, best practices, born-digital recordings, and future copyright issues. Burns made the motion to stay in the coalition; Karn seconded. Vote was called and passed, 8-0.

President's Report: Travel grants have been awarded, room block continuing to fill. Print program production will be completed on Monday. Conference page on the PCA website is now complete. Working closely with Meeting Expectations on items regarding the on-site delivery of the conference; they will send out a form next week so board members can sign up to work at the Registration Desk and Book Room. Continuing to receive eleventh hour payments from presenters; attrition is well under 10%. **Book room vendors:** McFarland, Intellect, Scholars Choice, Bloomsbury, University Press of Mississippi, University of Rutgers Press, University of Texas Press, University of Iowa Press, Lexington, Palgrave, University of New Mexico Press, AM Digital, and University of Indiana Press. **Program/Website Ads:** Intellect, Scholars Choice, University of Rutgers Press, University of Kentucky Press, University of Oklahoma Press, LeHigh University Press, Department of Popular Culture BGSU, Ray



and Pat Browne Popular Culture Library BGSU, Liverpool University Press, The Journal of Popular Culture, Journal of American Culture, University Press of Mississippi, University of California Press, University of Indiana Press, University of New Mexico Press, Wiley, and University of Rutgers Press. Will contact Lawrence, Sederholm, and Simpson about their tables and setting up the raffles. **Awards:** still need bell hooks and Area Chair awards ASAP. **Tours:** 71 signed up for Alamo tours, Ghost Tours will be online for sign-up next week. Need to strike the **Emergency Planning Committee** and have a Point of Contact during the conference, need volunteers. **Finally**, Ed Janak needs mentors for the mentoring program; please email him to volunteer.

Reminder about Bylaws Documents to Review: Karn asked the Board to review the bylaw revisions to be voted on at the April Board meeting.

Panel assistance: Freim informed the board that due to a handful of area chairs not attending the conference, that there are some panels that will need moderators. She will contact the board via email in the next week about volunteering to chair at the conference.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Humbly submitted,

Beth Downey, PCA Secretary