

TAM Emergency Meeting
March 15, 2019
5:00pm

Location: Fronimo's Greek Café (3242 E Speedway Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85716)

Board Members Present: Olivia Miller, Treasurer (University of Arizona Museum of Art); Gina Compitello, President (UA Center for Creative Photography). *Eli Burke, Vice President (MOCA) and Kat Rumbley, Secretary (ASDM) both voted by proxy.

Attendees: Emily Wolverton (The Mini Time Machine Museum), Heather Ingram (Arizona State Museum), Diane Dittmore (Arizona State Museum), Signe Valentinnson (Arizona State Museum)

5:05pm

Gina Compitello called the meeting to order. Welcome and introductions of attendees.

5:10pm

Emily Wolverton gives brief overview of current situation regarding TAM. Over the last ten years, board positions have been extremely difficult to fill. This has caused many board members to serve multiple terms, causing burnout, or cause others to simply leave positions vacant, forcing the remaining board members to do the work of multiple positions. Emily Wolverton served as Treasurer for over 6 years, unable to simply abandon her role due to the sensitive financial access required of that station; the current Treasurer, Olivia Miller, has been in the position for 4 years despite wishing to step down for the last three years. Emily also reiterated additional considerations which she highlighted in recent correspondence to Janice Klein (MAA):

*Much of TAM's original purposes of cross-promotion and networking have slowly been replaced through simpler, free, and more effective means via social media groups. Even the TAM member brochures – the hallmark of TAM's member benefits for many years – have been rendered virtually obsolete thanks to a quick google search. For those who still prefer a hardcopy listing of Tucson's museums, the Attractions Alliance provides a similar service while also including trackable marketing data through their Passport.

*Most critical of all, no one attends the meetings. No one signs up for workshops. No one engages. Example: TAM offered a \$300 AAM scholarship last year – open to any employee of any member institution – and only one person applied.

* Over the last three years TAM's board has tried many different solutions for increased member engagement, with very little, if any, success. This includes trying different meeting times (morning, afternoon, evening), as well as different meeting schedules (monthly versus quarterly), and different meeting purposes (alternating Business meetings and Social/Networking meetings).

*Recognizing that a simple meetup group for museum professionals would provide much of the same networking and mentorship that newer professionals crave without the burden of membership dues, a governing board, and yearly filing with the IRS.

Diane Dittmore and Gina Compitello both acknowledged that TAM cannot continue to exist in its current form. Structure seems outdated based on what newer museum professionals are seeking many newer professionals cannot attend meeting during business hours and have no desire to attend business meetings on personal time. Diane pointed out that without the support of a director, there is no incentive to attend after-hours meetings and no ability to attend meetings during the workday. Gina reiterated that TAM is duplicating the services of other organizations, which have paid positions, versus volunteers. Emily Wolverton mentioned that Janice Klein (MAA) said that low attendance and shrinking volunteer engagement has been plaguing other Arizona museum organizations, including MAA. Heather Ingram spoke about the TAM

Facebook group, which she created and serves on as an Admin. The Facebook group, if used, can provide the platform for networking that many emerging museum professionals are seeking. Diane mentioned that TAM has had this engagement problem for decades, but it has gotten worse in recent years; now even the brochure seems outdated/unnecessary. Heather spoke about the success of 2018's *Beers with Peers*, which had more attendance than other TAM meetings, due largely to the fact that we didn't have an agenda – just a topic to discuss, and a casual/social component – it didn't feel like “more work.”

Signe also spoke about her own personal experiences as an emerging museum professional and what she would like to see going forward from a group such as TAM. Her experiences and preferences also reflected that she was relatively new to Tucson, so the social component was more valued than the professional development aspects. Signe had also been a part of an EMP group in New York, which she said could often feel not worthwhile. She agreed that most EMPs like herself are seeking opportunities for networking, and are not particularly interested in a structure that is rigid and formal (voting on issues, paying member dues, etc.).

5:40pm

Gina motions for a vote to dissolve TAM as a 501(c)(3). Olivia Miller seconds the motion. All present were in favor of dissolving. Eli Burke (Vice President) and Kat Rumbley (Secretary) were both absent and both voted by proxy in favor of dissolving, making the board decision unanimous.

5:42pm

Emily Wolverton spoke regarding the Articles of Dissolution. She pointed out that TAM's current Bylaws are not in legal compliance with state regulations regarding dissolving a 501(c)(3). Namely, TAM's Bylaws currently state:

“In the event of dissolution of this organization, any assets remaining after the satisfaction of debts shall be divided among the member museums in good standing.”

However, Arizona law states that any dissolved 501(c)(3) must give any remaining monetary funds to another non profit doing similar work. Emily made a motion to amend the Bylaws to be in legal compliance. Gina seconded the motion. Eli Burke and Kat Rumbley voted by proxy in favor of the amendment. With all in attendance in favor of amending the Bylaws to be in legal compliance, the motion passed.

5:45pm

Emily Wolverton, Gina Compitello, and Olivia Miller listed TAM's assets to be included in the Articles of Dissolution:

- *Remaining TAM brochures
 - All remaining brochures will be inventoried. The last two remaining boxes are at The Mini Time Machine Museum. All TAM member institutions in good standing as of 2018 will be contacted and asked if they would like to have a portion of the remaining brochures. Any unclaimed brochures will be given to the Tucson Visitor's Bureau to distribute.
- *Hardcopy files currently in storage at Arizona State Museum
 - Confirm that the files can remain at their current location indefinitely.
- *USB drive of any digital files
 - Confirm that the thumb drive has all relevant and recent digital files from any current board members. Label and file the USB drive with the hardcopy files.
- *Website and domain name
 - TAM's domain name (tucsonassociationofmuseums.org) was purchased through ZappyHost and it auto-renews on a yearly basis. When the TAM card expires, the domain will expire

and not be renewed. The TAM website is hosted by HostGator. It is paid through 11/8/2021. Gina and Emily will edit the TAM website to denote the dissolution of TAM, but will leave all information promoting Tucson museums. The events calendar will be removed and no future posts will be added. When the hosting period expires, it will not be renewed, and the website link will no longer be functional.

*Chase bank account, checkbook, and debit card

- Olivia Miller, Gina Compitello, and former TAM President, Duane Johnsen, will plan an agreed upon time to go to Chase bank to close the account. The date of official closure will be determined by the timeline of dissolution, in the necessary order. Chase bank will issue a check for the remaining balance.

*PO Box and keys

- The PO Box will remain functional until it expires on April 30, 2019. Olivia Miller will not renew the PO Box and will inform the post office to return any future correspondence to the sender.

*G-mail account (tucsontam@gmail.com)

- The g-mail account will remain periodically monitored for all of 2019 by Emily Wolverton. The account will have an auto-response set up to inform senders of the dissolution of TAM. Login information for the g-mail account will be given to all admins of the TAM Facebook group, should they wish to send correspondence to any interested parties outside of the Facebook platform.

*Remaining Monetary Funds

- All remaining monetary funds will be donated to the Museum Association of Arizona (MAA) with the agreement that the funds are to be targeted towards assisting museums in Tucson and the surrounding region, including but not limited to: scholarships, MAA membership dues, travel reimbursement to and from Tucson, guest speakers and workshops in the Tucson area.

A timeline of dissolution will be sent to all members in good standing as of 2018.

6:00pm

Olivia Miller said that she would reach out to TAM's lawyer, our current statutory agent for the Arizona Corporation Commission. We will see what, if any, recommendations the lawyer may offer. Gina and Emily agreed that if the lawyer provided pro bono services, we would like to have his involvement in the dissolution process. However, if there was instead a significant fee for his services, we agreed that we could file the necessary dissolution paperwork on our own.

6:10pm

Gina made a motion to adjourn. Emily seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.