

Minutes of the 2002 GENERAL MEETING OF
GLOBAL MURAL, ARTS AND CULTURAL TOURISM ASSOCIATION

Chairman, Karl Schutz called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on 15 October 2002, in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

Members present were:

Virginia Terry; Ely, Nevada
Colin Williams; Victoria, B.C.
Maxine Miller; Moose Jaw , Saskatchewan
Gordon, Baron of Prestoungrange; Northamptonshire, England
Jane Bonnar; East Lothian, Scotland
Lorraine Clark; Ely, Nevada
Darl Clark; Ely, Nevada
Cim MacDonald; Chemainus, B.C.
Ray Kinsman; 29 Palms, California
Joanne Klassen; Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
Virginia Womack; Tehachapi, California
Doris Bucklin; 29 Palms, California

Also present was Ed Spear of Ely, Nevada. Karl welcomed the Board. Maxine indicated that the conference would be small but assured the group that it would be of high quality.

1. *Minutes from the last General Meeting on 27 October 2000* were distributed to the members. Karl pointed out the list of committees which had been formed at that meeting and commented that each had resolved to be inactive during the past two years. He said he expected that in the future communication with the general membership would be handled largely by email and that this might well be more effective.

2. *Decisions on Future Conference Venues:* Karl felt that for planning purposes by the membership it was important to make decisions on conference sites two sessions in advance. The group agreed that during this meeting the sites for both the 2004 and 2006 conferences would be determined. He announced that the group from Ely, Nevada had expressed interest in hosting the 2004 conference and invited Ed Spear to begin his presentation.

3. *Bid to Host 2004 Conference:* Ed distributed brochures concerning lodging, restaurants, available activities and points of interest. He then went on to make a very interesting power point presentation suggesting that the 2004 conference be held September 21-25 . He pointed out that Ely has a full convention facility, 600 hotel/motel rooms and that four properties were within easy walking distance of the convention center. For those who chose not to travel by automobile there were commuter flights and bus service from Las Vegas. There was some discussion concerning the fact that the anniversary of the GMACTA is on 12 September and that it would be appropriate to celebrate the event during the conference.

4. Bid to Host 2006 Conference: Gordon and Jane distributed brochures concerning the Prestoungrange Murals Trail in Scotland and a variety of booklets about the history of Prestoungrange. They also made a great presentation and those in attendance immediately began making plans to attend. They said that the town of Prestonpans where the murals are located has no immediate hotel accommodations but that there was ample lodging in nearby Edinburgh and a wide choice of attractions and activities from which to choose. They felt that late August 2006 would be an ideal time for the conference as visitors could also attend the Edinburgh International Festival and Edinburgh Castle Tattoo.

5. Acceptance of Conference Bids: By show of hands Board members voted to have the 2004 GMACTA conference in Ely, Nevada; and the 2006 GMACTA conference in Prestonpans, Scotland.

6. WebSite Development and Hosting: Karl briefly discussed the GMACTA website. It was originally set up by Paul Marciano who later became too busy to maintain it. While it could and should have great potential as a communications mechanism with our members, during the past two years it had been neglected.

Gordon stated that he was willing to take over as WebMaster and provide the Server facilities free of charge for at least the next two years, and the Board accepted his generous offer. Gordon said that he had a well qualified supplier BisWeb led by Matt Boffin in Oxford, England, who could handle this. He then explained the origins of the team which had created the websites for the first university business school 100% on the internet and also the first publishing house to have their entire library of journals on the internet.

A discussion followed concerning the types of information which should be included on the new website which had already been constructed as a prototype. Most importantly it was agreed it should include murals from the various mural cities searchable by subject, text description, artist names, etc. It was felt that perhaps mini meetings could be held over the internet, votes could be taken, and possibility of a chat room was also mentioned. It was suggested that only members could have their murals included on the website as high caliber could be assured. It was agreed this was a sound approach but there could be merit in using inclusion as a basis for encouraging membership. Collaboration with MuralsRoutes in Ontario was included in this strategy.

Gordon said that only the webmaster would be empowered to post material on the website, except in the Chat Room/ Workshop fields. He also thought that as such a small organization (42 founding members) the GMACTA should be inclusive rather than exclusive and emphasize the benefits of belonging.

7. Financial Report: Karl reported the bank balance as \$2,862.22 and reminded the Board that in 1998 David Carver of York, PA made a most generous donation of \$1,000, most of which was used to develop the web site.

8. Other Items: Maxine announced a few schedule changes for conference workshops and then mentioned a few of the kinds of presentations which had been arranged: promotional potential of the internet, tourism professional, and some surprises not in the program including a

mystery tour on 29 October which transpired to be a rendezvous with the RCAF Snowbirds who alas could not fly because of a very low cloud base.

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With all business completed the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.