

**Meteoritical Society Council Meeting**  
**June 13, 2023, 3 pm - 5 pm (UTC)**  
online only

**Minutes for the 3rd Meeting of the Meteoritical Society in 2023**

**Council Members Invitees**

Nancy Chabot (President)	Elena Dobrica
Guy Consolmagno (Vice President)	Lan-Anh “Ann” Nguyen
Brigitte Zanda (Past President) excused	Denton Ebel
Tasha Dunn (Treasurer)	Alvaro Crosta
Jutta Zipfel (Secretary)	Marina Ivanova
Henner Busemann	Byeon-Gak Choi
Sarah Crowther	

**Guests**

Arnold Gucsik (Budapest 2027)  
Rhonda Stroud (Flagstaff 2027)  
Romy Hanna (Service Award) excused  
Roger Gibson (Barringer Award)  
Jeff Cuzzi (Nier Prize) absent  
Katie Joy (Nominating process)

The following documents were sent to councilors prior to the Meeting:

1. Stroud\_invite letter to host MetSoc 2027.pdf
2. Gucsik\_Letter of Invitation\_MetSoc2027.pdf
3. Service\_Award\_2023.pdf
4. Barringer\_Award\_2023.pdf
5. Nier\_Prize\_2023.pdf
6. Joy\_MetSoc\_Nominations\_process\_v2.pdf
7. AGI.pdf

**Agenda**

1. Welcome from President and review of electronic votes since last meeting 3:00 pm UTC

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|--|-------------|
| 2. Invitations for the Annual Meeting in 2027 – attendance limited to Council-only         |             |
| 2.1. Hungary, Budapest, for 2027 (Arnold Gucsik)<br>10 min presentation + 5 min discussion | 3:05 pm UTC |
| 2.2. Flagstaff, USA for 2027 (Rhonda Stroud)<br>10 min presentation + 5 min discussion     | 3:20 pm UTC |
| 2.3. Council-only discussion and decision on 2027 meeting                                  | 3:35 pm UTC |
| 3. Award Reports – attendance limited to Council-only                                      |             |
| 3.1. Service Award (Romy Hanna)<br>10 min  | 3:45 pm UTC |
| 3.2. Barringer Award (Roger Gibson)<br>10 min  | 3:55 pm UTC |
| 3.3. Nier Prize (Jeff Cuzzi)<br>10 min   | 4:05 pm UTC |
| 4. Discussion of nominating procedures (Katie Joy)<br>25 min                               | 4:15 pm UTC |
| 5. Updates on other Society business   |             |
| 5.1. News from Publication C./Joint Publication C.<br>(Nancy Chabot)<br>5 min              | 4:40 pm UTC |
| 5.2. Request from AGI - Questionnaire on collaboration<br>(Jutta Zipfel)<br>5 min          | 4:45 pm UTC |
| 5.3. Other items<br>10 min   | 4:50 pm UTC |
| 6. Adjourn   | 5:00 pm UTC |

## Minutes

The meeting started at 3 pm (UTC)

### 1. Welcome from President

The president welcomed all attendees. Further she announced all electronic votes that had been approved by council since the last meeting on March 21.

1. Approval of the minutes from the Council Meeting on 21 March 2023 (29 March 2023).
2. Tim Swindle (chair), Tim Fagan, Kuljeet Kaur Marhas, Caroline Smith, Myriam Tellus, Kai Wünnemann for Nomination Committee 2023-2024 (30 March 2023).
3. Support the recommended co-winners of the Pellas-Ryder Award Committee and award both with the full prize money of \$500 each (11 April 2023).

## **2. Invitations for the Annual Meeting in 2027**

### **2.1. Arnold Gucsik invites MetSoc to Budapest in Hungary**

- Budapest and the Novotel Budapest City & Congress Center is presented as the venue for the 2027 Annual Meeting.
- The venue is the largest congress center in Hungary and offers a range of room sizes from small and medium to a large auditorium with 2000 seats; hotel rooms; and rooms for a banquet.
- The venue is easily reachable and connected to public transportation.
- Potential dates are around 16-20 August in 2027 or alternatively in 2028.
- A number of pre- and post-conference field trips can be offered, among these could be a trip to Debrecen-Reform College the site of the Kaba meteorite, Aggtelek Caves, and Ipolytarnóc-Petrified Miocene Forest.
- A local organization committee would comprise seven people.

### **2.2. Rhonda Stroud invites MetSoc to Flagstaff, Arizona:**

- Arizona is a center for meteoritics and associated fields with more than 2 dozen facilities with leading experts.
- The last meeting in Arizona was 20 years ago in Tucson.
- Flagstaff is reachable by car, flight or even train from LA.
- It offers to be a starting point for many field trips.
- The venue will be located on the NAU campus with one hotel on campus and three more in the neighborhood; for students dormitories would be available.
- The option for a hybrid meeting is given.
- The largest auditorium has 860 seats. Combining two smaller rooms out of three with 200, 350 and 150 seats each could also be explored if it reduced costs.
- Registration fees for a comparable meeting in 2023 (Asteroids, Comets, Meteors) amounted to \$737 per full member and included daily breakfast and lunch and an opening reception and banquet.

The following discussion from council favored Flagstaff as host for the annual meeting in 2027. Council strongly encourages that the application for Budapest in

Hungary will be re-proposed when considering the Annual Meeting for 2028. The major bonus for Flagstaff was that the three upcoming meetings until 2026 will be held in Europe and one in Australia. Given the large proportion of North America based members among the membership, it was felt that about one third of the meetings should be regularly held in North America.

There was additional discussion that future organizers should be reminded to consider venues offered at lower costs, as this can be a barrier for members to attend meetings because of high costs. A more extended discussion on the topic of meeting costs in general was suggested to occur at the August Council meeting.

**Move** by Denton Ebel: **Select Flagstaff as the host for the 2027 Annual Meeting.**  
Second by Guy Consolmagno.

Motion was approved unanimously with 11 votes in favor.

### **3. Award Reports**

#### **3.1. Service Award**

The secretary reported on behalf of Romy Hanna who was unavailable.

The Membership Committee presented its rubric and explained how it evaluated the nominations for the Service Award 2024. It had considered six nominations out of which a first and second choice for the recipient of the Service Award was presented. Council had the final selection.

**Move** by Jutta Zipfel: **Select the first choice for recipient of the Service Award from the Membership Committee as 2024 awardee.** Second by Denton Ebel.

Motion was approved unanimously with 11 votes in favor.

During this discussion, there was a serious concern raised about one of the nominees by one of the Councilors. The president took the action to follow up with that Councilor after the meeting, to ensure the concern was captured and passed on to the Membership Committee files as appropriate.

#### **3.2 Barringer Award**

Roger Gibson reported on the Barringer Committee's evaluation of two nominations for the Barringer Medal and presented their first choice.

Council recommended to the Barringer Committee to actively encourage nominations among colleagues and to review the bylaws and rules for this committee and to ensure they capture the information wanted to get in future nomination packages.

**Move** by Jutta Zipfel: **Select the first choice for recipient of the Barringer Award in 2024.** Second by Elena Dobrica

Motion was approved unanimously with 10 votes in favor. (One Councilor was temporarily absent because of computer problems).

#### 6.1. Nier Prize

Since Jeff Cuzzi was not available, the secretary presented the selected choices for the Nier Prize recipient in 2024. Council was very much in favor of the first choice recipient for the meteorite focused contributions of the nominee.

**Move** by Denton Ebel: **Select the first choice for recipient of the Nier Prize 2024.** Second by Elena Dobrica

Motion was approved unanimously with 11 votes in favor.

#### 4. Discussion of nominating procedures

Katie Joy, member of the 2021-2022 nominating committee, presented ideas about how to change the nominating procedures to avoid unconscious or even conscious bias and become more inclusive. The suggestion was that self-nominations should be allowed and that the membership should, similar to other societies, vote for nominees. In advance to the council meeting, a written statement with the suggestions was circled among councilors.

Council members discussed the proposal and voiced their opinions. In general there was consent that the proposal had raised a valid point. However, it was unclear whether the proposed measures would lead to a better process. However, the proposal should be considered a starting point for a more extensive discussion, not only among councilors but by seeking opinions of other society members, such as through conversations at the upcoming UCLA meeting. Future discussions should involve the current nominating committee once they have completed their efforts on nominating a slate of candidates.

Some general points and thoughts raised by councilors during the discussion were:

- The Meteoritical Society is small in comparison to other societies that vote. This would have the consequence that not enough votes are casted, and that only those known individually will receive a vote.
- The current process does seek out candidates that would not have applied themselves, as voiced by multiple members currently on council.
- The current system gives more options to consider balance, and hence may be better than others.
- Self-nominations should also be considered.
- There will be no best system. No system will be able to avoid bias.
- The discussion should be brought to other committees, e.g., membership committee, as councilors are arguing from "within" the system.

- Seeking a broad range of diversity among the nominating committee to ensure a diverse nomination process should be mandatory.
- Define clear guidelines for the nominating committee for the pre-selection of nominees.

## 5. Updates on other Society business

### 5.1 News from Publication C./Joint Publication C.

The president reports that there are currently discussions with Wiley on the publication of MAPS that are led by the executive committee, publication committee and with the editorial board. More insights are needed and there will be more to be reported and discussed at the August Council meeting in UCLA. The president reports that a search is underway for the next Executive Editor of GCA, with the search being led by the joint publications committee. More details on this will also be reported the August Council meeting.

### 5.2. Request from AGI - Questionnaire on collaboration

The secretary reports on a request from the American Geophysical Institute (AGI) to fill in a questionnaire on collaborations. The questionnaire was circled among councilors prior to the meeting. At this state it remained unclear whether, and in which form, a collaboration with AGI could be of potential benefit for the Society. There was consent though to fill out the questionnaire, and wait for the next steps from AGI.

### 5.3 Other

#### 5.3.1. Membership Committee - Bylaw changes

The secretary reports that the Membership Committee suggested two changes to the bylaw 18.

Article 18, Number 2: add text "The Committee shall operate under rules approved by the Council" .

Article 18, Number 4b: Change text from "Candidates may also be selected directly by the Membership Committee" to "Candidates may also be nominated by members of the Membership Committee at any time"

The latter was suggested to remove the impression that a Service Award Winner would not go through the regular nomination and review process by the committee.

**Move** by Jutta Zipfel: **Approve the bylaw changes for article 18, numbers 2 and 4 as suggested by the Membership Committee.** Second by Tasha Dunn

Motion was approved unanimously with 11 votes in favor.

#### 5.3.2. Membership Committee - Rules for the Service Award

The secretary reports that the Membership Committee created rules for the Service Award to post on the website. The suggested rules were circled among councilors prior to the meeting. They were modeled after rules already posted for Leonard Medal and Jessberger Award.

**Move** by Jutta Zipfel: **Approve the Rules for the Service Award as suggested by the Membership Committee.** Second by Denton Ebel

Motion was approved unanimously with 11 votes in favor.

#### 5.3.3. Newsletter

The secretary informed council members that guidelines for a monthly newsletter were drafted from the chairs of the Membership Committee and the Outreach Committee, and the secretary. Currently there is a prospective candidate to become editor.

**6. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm (UTC).**