

## Minutes

Texas Chapter, Visual Resources Association  
Fall Meeting: October 29, 2007  
Hamon Arts Library, Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University  
Dallas, Texas

In attendance (12):

Sharon Gouwens, Texas Christian University  
Rita Lasater, University of Texas at Arlington  
Eileen Coffman, Southern Methodist University  
Sondra Brady, Baylor University  
Ray Sikes, University of Texas at Tyler  
Julia Deal, Texas State University  
Mark Pompelia, Rice University  
Edith Riley-Peinado, Texas Christian University  
Elizabeth Schaub, University of Texas at Austin, School of Architecture  
Ann Graham, University of North Texas  
Sigrid Knudsen, University of Texas at Austin, Department of Art and Art History  
Katherine Hooker, Southwestern University

Sigrid Knudsen called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

1) A recap was given, explaining actions taken since the chapter's meeting at the 2007 VRA Annual Conference held in Kansas City, MO. The members of the steering committee were acknowledged: Sigrid Knudsen, Mark Pompelia, Katherine Hooker, and Bobby Anderson (who was unable to attend). The Chapter's bylaws, after being revised by Mark Pompelia, have been formally accepted by VRA's executive board, as confirmed by president Macie Hall. A VRA-TX listserv has been set up at Rice University, and members were added and identified from the VRA website's membership directory.

2) Thanks were given to key members involved in organizing the fall meeting. Eileen Coffman was thanked for hosting the meeting, Sigrid Knudsen for leading it, and Mark Pompelia for coordinating dates with the meeting of the ARLIS-TX-MX chapter.

3) New Business: The VRA-TX chapter has not been dissolved, despite its recent lack of activity. The overarching goal of the meeting was to decide whether or not the chapter should continue as a formal entity and take the necessary steps, or if it should instead transform into more casual interaction.

The precedent of dissolving a local chapter was discussed. A group in New England did not want the formality of becoming a chapter, and instead choose to gather casually. The benefits of official chapter status were then discussed, including the possibility of gaining funds from the VRA for educational opportunities, the ability to access accumulated knowledge, and the chance to reach those members who are unable to attend the

association's annual conference. It was generally agreed that forging ahead as a chapter allows Texas VR professionals to form as a unified front to face bigger issues, such as standards and consortia.

A discussion was held regarding each action required to sustain the chapter:

- a) *Approval of the bylaws.* These have already been revised and accepted by the VRA; the notable change being a decrease in the number of officers needed. Instead of four officers (president, president elect, secretary, and treasurer), the chapter now only needs two (chairperson and secretary/treasurer). This change addresses the fact that in the past the chapter has found it very difficult to find volunteers to fill these positions. A decrease in the number of positions therefore leads to a better chance of chapter survival.
- b) *Approval of the two required officers, chairperson and secretary/treasurer.* The duties of each were reviewed: the chairperson is responsible for arranging the required two annual meetings (keeping in mind that there is no quorum needed), steering the meetings, and contacting and making reports to the VRA's executive board. The secretary/treasurer takes notes at the meetings, handles correspondence, collects membership dues, and acts as bookkeeper for a bank account established at Rice University.

Sigrid Knudsen pointed out the support that could be derived from the VRA's website, and also from members with leadership experience in the ARLIS/TX-MX chapter, namely Elizabeth Schaub and Mark Pompelia. Members were encouraged to volunteer no matter their backgrounds. Although officer selection could take place via e-mail, it was decided to take advantage of momentum and try to identify officers on site.

Acclamation of officers: two volunteers were eventually identified to fill the necessary positions. Mark Pompelia will serve as the chapter's chairperson for 2008. Ray Sikes from UT Tyler will become chairperson for one year beginning in 2009 under the guidance of Mark Pompelia. (The idea of establishing co-chairs was considered, but it was agreed that this would not be added into the bylaws since it would require two volunteers each time.) Katherine Hooker agreed to serve as secretary/treasurer for two years (2008-2009), under the mentorship of Elizabeth Schaub.

The respective one year and two year appointments will officially commence in January 2008, and will be announced to the VRA executive board. The steering committee will continue through this calendar year and, either the committee or the new officers submit a report for the VRA annual conference in San Diego, California. It was agreed that a staggered officer timeline would be beneficial, as it will prevent the slate of officers turning over in the same year thus leading to smoother transitions.

- c) *Agreement on a dues structure.* The annual fees will ideally cover what we want to accomplish as a chapter such as contributing towards funding a CCO training workshop. The possibility of electronic banking, like Paypal, was discussed, but the annual fees were found to be unattractive. Instead, Mark Pompelia has accounts set up at Rice University that could be used as long as the secretary/treasurer handles the bookkeeping.

After comparing similar organizations' fees structures, the annual membership dues were settled at \$20 for a full member, and \$10 for a student. Mark Pompelia will work on drawing up a membership form.

- d) *Future meetings schedule and locations.* CAA will meet in Dallas, February 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008. Mark Pompelia and Eileen Coffman (local contact person) are finalizing a CCO training workshop to take place on February 22<sup>nd</sup> with funding from the VRA. The workshop will feature speakers such as Eliza Lanzi and Susan Jane Williams. This would be a convenient date and location to hold the second meeting, as mandated by the bylaws.

Another likely meeting time would be during the San Diego conference, between March 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008. It was agreed that Dallas worked well as a convenient city with a high concentration of VR professionals. Austin was also mentioned as a possibility. Official notice of the date and location of the chapter's mandatory second meeting for the year will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.

4) Other Business: The question arose as to what the relationship is between the VRA-TX chapter's and Oklahoma. Bobby Anderson from the steering committee is from Oklahoma, and it was asked whether or not the chapter's name should be changed (citing the ARLIS/TX-MX chapter as an example). It was revealed that the chapter is officially open to VRA members from any state, and therefore it was unnecessary to revise the bylaws to completely change the chapter's name.

The question of merging or otherwise combining the VRA-TX chapter and the ARLIS/TX-MX chapter also arose. It was acknowledged that the local ARLIS chapter is very strong and thus difficult to create a formal tie with. A similar situation occurred when VRA and ARLIS/NA looked at joining but officially decided not to, simply keeping independent but affiliated status. As was very nearly the case with this meeting, VRA-TX and ARLIS/TX-MX will aim for overlapping programming in the future.

5) All actions required to continue VRA-TX as an official local chapter either accomplished or set in motion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.