**International Association for Caribbean Archaeology**

**MINUTES of the General Meeting of the XXVI Congress**,

Sonesta Maho Beach Resort, St Maarten, Thursday, 23rd July 2015commencing 7.00pm.

**Present** were Board members: Reg Murphy (President), Yvonne Narganes Storde (Vice-President), David Hayes (Director and upcoming Congress Chair), Gerard Richard (Treasurer), Quetta Kaye (Secretary), *ex-officio* Jay Haviser (2015 Congress Chairman), Miguel Rodriguez (2013 Congress Chairman). Apologies from Josh Torres.

**Opening comments:** The President welcomed IACA members and asked for a minute of silence in remembrance of those IACA colleagues and friends who had passed away (Peter Harris, Alfredo Figueroa,Willem Willems) and sincere thoughts for the good health of long-term members, George Lechler, Kofi Agorsah, Hugues Petitjean Roget. The President noted that Kofi, although he was so unwell, had generously sent $500 to help with expenses towards this Congress.

**1. Report of the 2013 Puerto Rican Congress:** Miguel Rodriguez, past Congress Chairman, thanked the 2013 organising committee for what had been a very successful Congress. A total of 223 participants had been registered, representing 24 countries and islands, where 117 papers and 8 poster sessions were presented. 1,616 members of the general public attended over the five days with 1,565 following the Congress news stream. Special activities included three evening cultural receptions and visits to archaeological expositions, and a day time visit to the Centro Ceremonial Indigena de Caguana and current excavations at Utuado. The week’s activities culminated with an evening of entertainment in Old San Juan. Miguel had brought with him CDs of the Proceedings - on time.

**2. Minutes from 2013** Puerto Rico Congress (available on website for over one year) were displayed and **Approved** without dissent.

**3. President’s report**: Protocol established, the President acknowledged the Honorable Prime Minister of St. Martin, other Honorable Members of Parliament, and representatives of other organizations who were present. He commented that the government of St. Maarten, a newly emerging Caribbean State, had expressed its commitment to “cultural heritage” as a key component in its development, and was establishing a national identity for the Nation. This had been clearly expressed two years previously by His Excellency, Governor Holiday, when he hosted a National Symposium on the role of Cultural Heritage in establishing national identities. The President reported that Dr. Jay Haviser and he had had the privilege of representing IACA at Governor Holiday’s symposium. IACA, perhaps the largest multi-lingual, multi-national, non-political regional organization, played an important role in exploring and defining Caribbean history and heritage throughout the region, and had long recognized the depth and importance of cultural heritage in the Caribbean. The President therefore congratulated the Government of St. Maarten, for this new /continued effort, particularly its contributions towards hosting this Congress. He thanked the prime minister for his words of welcome to the members present and was encouraged by the expression in his earlier remarks of the importance of archaeology and heritage to colleagues in the region.

As President of IACA, he welcomed all members of the organization to the 26th Congress. In particular he welcomed all new members, particularly students, the future of the organization. On behalf of the Board of Directors of IACA, and its members, he thanked the organizers of the event, Dr. Jay Haviser and his dedicated team, and all the volunteers who had made us feel at home in St. Maarten. Events like this were expensive and in these days of scarce finances, all contributions were deeply appreciated. He thanked everyone involved in making this possible. To the performers who entertained in the morning, he thanked for making this opening ceremony an enjoyable and light-hearted occasion; one that would not be forgetten. To those representing our hosting organizations and members of government present, he welcomed them to join with us, to listen to the papers and discussions during this week.

Without further delay, as President of IACA, he declared this, the 26th International Conference for Caribbean Archaeology, open.

**4. Treasurer’s report**: The Treasurer’s financial report for the period December 2013 to 2014 was projected and is attached below. The Treasurer highlighted various items of expenditure and income in the Report before pointing out that IACA was a dynamic association able to carry a credit balance over to 2015. Publication of Henry Petitjean Roget’s two volume book, which it had originally been agreed would be paid for by IACA, in the event the expenses for publication were covered by outside help together with public and private donations. The author had then agreed to return one-third of his sales receipts in order to subside further publications and other IACA operations. The Treasurer thanked the Director of Guadeloupe Cultural Affairs, Mme Dominique Bonnissent, for contributing E9,000 to assist with the organisation of the XVI Congress.

**5. Secretary’s Report:** The Secretary responded to correspondence from IACA members and liaised with the Board, doing her best to answer correspondence as quickly as possible, generally through email. Although correspondence tended to be heavier leading up to or about Congress time, this had been made easier by the efficient and timely organisation of the St Maarten team. Enquiries about Proceedings were now significantly reduced as access to this information was readily available on the IACA webpage and past Proceedings were available on CDs. During the period of Congress she helped to prepare Agendas for the Board and General meeting sessions and took Minutes at both of these which were typed up and submitted as drafts for approval as soon as possible. The Minutes of the General Meeting were then posted on the webpage for all to see.

The Secretary referred to the Press and PR Working Group which she had suggested should be established at the 1999 Congress. However, since her suggestion in 1999 the media world had changed and with communication becoming much faster she had suggested, and the Board that week agreed, that with the imminent retirement of Mary Hill Harris, a new website manager/editor should be charged with upgrading the website and the existing Facebook account, creating a Twitter feed and generally making distribution of information between members, the general public and the media much easier and faster. She had suggested Scott Fitzpatrick as a suitable candidate for the role and the Board agreed she should approach him on this. Fitzpatrick had agreed to be editor/coordinator for both and the Board had recommended this should be accepted.

**6. Website/Newsletter report:** Mary Hill Harris reported that since the Puerto Rico Congress the web site has been updated about a dozen times with news of current Board members, Minutes of the 2013 Congress, details of publications and, sadly, deaths of IACA members. Mary Hill had informed the Board that, after 18 years, she was retiring from editing the site and was now happy to pass on the responsibility to someone else. Since the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology’s free hosting of the web site could only continue while she was editing it, a new host had to be chosen. She said the internet and ways of accessing it had changed a lot since 1997, and new methods such as social media would undoubtedly become increasingly important. However she felt IACA still needed a web site as a general point of contact for the organisation. The Board’s recommendation was the continued registration of the domain name [www.caribarch.org](http://www.caribarch.org/). A more vigorously promoted Facebook should be installed (current page projected to meeting). The Board’s recommendation regarding Scott Fitzpatrick as editor/coordinator for both was noted and **AGREED** by the meeting.

**7.** **Presentation of papers: Review of numbers of papers allowed for first author/second authors:** The Board recommended that the rule regarding presentation of papers be changed to one first author but any number of co-authors in future and this would also be extended to posters. The Board’s recommendation was **AGREED** unanimously. A series of Motions relating to presentations were proposed and withdrawn by Antonio Curet. Finally Curet proposed the **Motion**: “Only original authors can present papers”, seconded by Dan Shelley, which was overwhelming **AGREED**. Three opposed. Christina Giovas proposed the **Motion:** “In cases of documented reason an author will be allowed to have their paper presented by a proxy, given legitimate reason, but the proxy will not be included in authorship unless they had actually contributed to the paper”, seconded by Shaun Sullivan, this Motion was **AGREED** with ten voting against. Discussion followed on who would take authority for making a decision as to validity of reason for proxy and, by show of hands, it was **AGREED** thatwhoever was Congress chair would be responsible for making the decision.

**8.** **Peer reviewing of papers**: Following discussionit was **AGREED** that publication would be open to everyone who presented a paper but those who wished for peer review would ask for review by a review committee. Volunteers were requested among those IACA members present who would agree to be reviewers. A paper was circulated to collect a list of volunteers, which would also indicate language and area of expertise. The Index published with Proceedings CD should indicate which papers were peer reviewed and by whom. **Motion:** “That authors who would like to have their papers peer reviewed should be done by request” was proposed by Antonio Curet, seconded by Mary Jane Berman. This was **AGREED** unanimously.

**9.** **Proposal for creation of Caribbean Environmental Archaeology Interest Group by Christina Giovas and Michelle Lebvre:** The Board recommended that such an interest group should be formed, through the new updated IACA webpage/Facebook. It was explained there were problems under French privacy laws about distributing personal emails. Information was requested on the purpose and goals of such a group. Christina Giovas explained the reasons behind the suggestion were as a communication network, to bring researchers together at Congress meetings, and to effect student participation. She offered to distribute copies of the proposal and also post it on the website. She suggested similar facilities for communication already existed within other interest groups such as those involved in zooarchaeology.

**10. A Supplementary Motion** was proposed by Angus Mol, seconded by Jay Haviser, suggesting “Open access for congress papers which would be made free to all-comers”. Discussion raised points including costs and how IACA could recoup the expenditure involved in publication; that open access would be good for young people and others coming into the Caribbean; that CDs were a waste of time as they could be not be considered as publications; the question whether copyright would be held by individuals; that digitising was democratising and the way to go forward for the future; the problems students currently had in trying to find past articles, scan them and cite papers. The Motion was **AGREED** with two opposing.

**10: Elections and new Student representative on Board/resignation of Lennox Honychurch as Director:** The President announced all positions, with the exception of Treasurer, were up for re-election by paid-up members only. Voting papers were distributed. Nominations were projected on screen and additional nominations requested from the floor. Counting of votes was overseen by Scott Fitzpatrick aided by Katherine Pendill. The resultant nominations were as follows, from which those elected are indicated below in italics and underlined and would constitute the new Board, together with the Treasurer, past President and past and future Congress Chairs:

Nominations were:

**President (1):** *Jay Haviser,* Yvonne Narganes Storde

**Vice-Presidents (2):** Jean Sebastien Guibert, *Jorge Ulloa Hung, Josh Torres,* Henry Petitjean Roget

**Directors (2):** *Christina Giovas, John Crock*, Ryan Espersen, David Hayes

**Secretary:** *Quetta Kaye*

**Student:** *Christopher Velasquez*

**Treasurer:** Gerard Richard

***Ex-officio***: Past President: Reg Murphy

2015 Congress Chair: Jay Haviser

2017 Congress Chair: David Hayes

1**0.** **IACA 2017:** David Hayes, upcoming Congress Chair, announced St Croix as the venue for the 27th Congress to be held at the Divi Carina Bay Resort for one week from July 23rd July 2017. A printed Proposal for the 2019 Congress to be held in Barbados was submitted for consideration. A Proposal for Cuba in 2021 was made by Mirjana Roksandic.

**11. A.O.B:** None

The meeting closed at 9.15pm with an expression of thanks from Jay Haviser, the new IACA President, to Reg Murphy, outgoing President, and previous Board members.

**Submitted to the Board for approval by Quetta Kaye, Secretary, September 4th 2015.**

**Treasurer’s Report:**