

MINUTES of the GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING of the 28th IACA Congress held at the Hilton Hotel, Barbados, on Thursday 25th July 2019 at 6pm.

Present as guests: Representative for the St. Vincent/Grenadines Kalinago People: Augustine 'Sardo' Sutherland; Former chief of the Kalinago People on Dominica: Irvine Auguiste; Cuban Representatives for IACA Cuba 2021 nomination: Yadira Chinique de Armas, Ulises Miguel Gonzalez Herrera, Esteban Ruben Grau Gonzales-Quevedo, Silvia Teresita Hernandez Godoy and Racso Fernandez Ortega.

1) The President, Jay Haviser, reiterated his comments from the opening ceremony in extending thanks to the Barbados 2019 organising committee and chair, Kevin Farmer, his staff at the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, and many others on Barbados and elsewhere, including the Museum's Director, Alissandra Cummins, and programme organizer, Matthew Reilly. He thanked them for so successfully taking on the challenge of hosting the 28th Congress of Caribbean researchers whose goals and work were helping to revitalize and bring a more confident understanding of Caribbean heritage – particularly apt in having the theme “Re-examining Self”. This Congress was the third time Barbados had hosted IACA congresses – the first being 1967, the second in 1991. He declared the Congress to have been a great success and looked forward to welcoming participants to future Congresses, particularly those new to IACA.

- The President asked for one minute's silence to remember colleagues who had passed away since the last Congress among whom were Louis Allaire, Edie Sare, and Erwin Crespo.

- The President reported that Proceedings from the 2017 St Croix Congress had been delivered on memory sticks, and had been distributed initially to those who had presented and submitted a paper at St Croix, and subsequently, as there were sufficient available, to others who had attended but not presented. The point was made that all Proceedings are available by public access on the dLOC website. The President thanked all who had made this happen.

2) The Minutes of the 2017 General Business Meeting were projected: These Minutes had been on-line since November 2017. With no comments forthcoming, a Motion to approve was made by Mirjana Roksandic, seconded by David Watters and **approved by show of hands**.

3) Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Gerard Richard, described the financial situation 2017-2018 when it was agreed that membership fees should be collected by the Treasurer at the same time as registration fees and would cover two years. At the St Croix Congress 64 memberships were recorded, as opposed to 2015 when there were 97 members attending. Expenses were boosted by sales of CDs and books. Regarding revenues for 2019, two grants had been received from the French Ministry of Cultural Affairs for organisation of the 28th Congress and further grants from the General Councils of Martinique and Guadeloupe were being sought. The financial account for the 2019 year would be presented at the next Congress and, he concluded, the financial situation of IACA remained satisfactory, thanks in large part to the financial contributions from the French nation and the local councils of Guadeloupe and Martinique.

The Treasurer's Report was approved by the GBM and the President thanked Gerard for his tireless work.

4) Secretary's Report: The Secretary, Quetta Kaye, reported that Congress years were usually fairly busy and this year has been no exception. The complexities of putting on a Congress were many and varied and most definitely were not an easy task to undertake, but she had helped where she could, when she could and we were able to see for ourselves the excellent product of the endeavours of the BM&HS organising committee. Otherwise she believed that a primary role of the secretary

of IACA was to liaise between the Board and to keep contact with the membership so that information could be sent both up and down the line - not always easy with members as scattered as IACA's. But being Secretary was a role which she enjoyed, and she urged people not to hesitate to contact her if there were things which needed clarification, wider dissemination or for more information. The Secretary also urged members to make contact with those who headed any of the working groups, such as environmental archaeology or on climate change issues, as all such groups would benefit from additional support.

5) Website/Facebook Report: <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/iaca/>. Scott Fitzpatrick encouraged people to send in notice of fieldwork opportunities, reports and news from the islands and that people should feel free to post to the website any things which they would like to share, whether photos, fieldwork opportunities, or any other matters. The Facebook page was an excellent way in which members could keep in touch, share views and generally communicate.

6) EU data compliancy: As IACA's HQ is in Guadeloupe there is an obligation to abide with EU regulations in respect of data compliancy and, after investigation by the Board, it was determined that IACA was in compliance.

7) 2021 29th Congress; The nomination of Cuba for the 2021 Congress was presented by Yadira Chinique de Armas talking to her powerpoint presentation. She said how much she and her delegation had enjoyed being in Barbados and working with this "big family" and looked forward to doing so again in 2021. The potential Cuban Congress would be under the auspice of the Antonio Nunez Jimenez Foundation. The plans were that accommodation would be in the Hotel Melia, in Matanzas, a Spanish/Cuban coproduction where Cubans could go without restriction. International flying options were available to Varadero or Havana – both with easy links to Matanzas. The package proposed would include everything that might be needed: rooms, food, drinks, transport from airports, coffee breaks, lunches in the Salon International, with all technical services and maximum capacity for 100 seats, plus an IACA committee room and tours to various archaeological sites, caves and museums. A final ceremony would be held in the elegant 19th century Teatro Sauto which would include a final banquet. Provisional prices were given as for 7 nights and 8 days, shared room 1,406 COC; private room 1,706 COC; Visa 40 COC; registration 120 COC; students 50 COC. Currently 1 COC equals ca. US\$1. It should be noted that applications for funding from several organizations to pay for logistics could significantly decrease the calculated price. Dates: last half of July 2021. Visa applications for academics should be applied for three months in advance with included abstracts of papers or at the moment of abstract submission (if earlier). Nomination for Cuba as host for 2021 was given **unanimous approval by show of hands**.

Gerard Richard reported a preliminary nomination for Guadeloupe as the 2023 Congress but this was yet to be confirmed. It was agreed this proposal should be pursued.

8) Protocols for future Congress organisers: Protocols had been distributed by email. The additions to the IACA by-laws would make it even more clear how future congresses must be organised. **Accepted by majority.**

9) IACA logo: a competition for the design of a new IACA logo was launched - with free life membership as the prize. Gerard Richard described the process for submitting designs to create a new visual identity for IACA open from the 31st July to 31st December. Contestants should provide the following information: first name, surname, postal address and email. In cases where the contestant did not wish to have his/her name published online, a pseudonym should be provided. Designs should be sent to International Association for Caribbean Archaeology IACA, 137 Impasse Majoute 97100 BASSE TERRE, GUADELOUPE (FWI). The contest is open to everyone. No subscription fees are required. Participation in the contest means the contestant fully agrees to

commit to the entire set of rules.

10) Update on Josh Torres' coastal site loss/management proposal: John Crock presented reports on the following two interest groups. The St Croix congress had agreed to a coastal site loss/management group being established. Josh Torres and John Crock agreed to pursue coordination of the group. Following Hurricane Irma and Maria in 2017, the priorities shifted to post-disaster assessment. John Crock and Josh Torres created a questionnaire and distributed it to the membership. Josh organized a web-meeting with Isabella Rivera, who is working with a student on an application for hand-held devices to record site information and site damage assessments. Crock asked for comments and ideas to keep this group activity going so that it would be able to do continue to work to prioritize threatened sites by island and help mobilize interested IACA members to assist poorly resourced regions whenever possible.

11) Caribbean Environmental Archaeology Interest Group: John Crock reported that Christina Giovas and Michelle Lefebvre, coordinated a session outside of IACA at the 2016 SAA meeting in Orlando. These Caribbean-focused papers were ultimately published in the Journal of Environmental Archaeology online in 2017 and 2018 and in the print journal in 2019. People can contact Christina and Michelle who continue to lead this interest group.

12) MOTION: Jalaludin Khan (Trinidad and Tobago) proposed the following Motion which was read to the meeting by the President: “Given the continuing threat by commercial development to the historic and prehistoric environment throughout the Caribbean I propose that, as an international organisation, IACA should institute a pan-Caribbean database of sites which could enable planning and control mechanisms to be put in place so that protective measures can be applied in advance of permission being granted for commercial development to take place. While having no legislative power, IACA is able to make representations to the appropriate planning officials – for example in St Lucia in the example about which we heard on Monday – to call for a halt to development of endangered sites until a comprehensive archaeological survey and assessment can take place and, at the same time, call for archaeological heritage management and protective planning legislation for vulnerable sites to be enacted.”

In replying the President agreed to support taking the initiative to recommend policy structures for dealing with these issues which could be sent to the respective ministries on various islands. He suggested that submissions of this kind, with a covering IACA letter, could be a way forward with the nations of the Caribbean coming together to promote these kinds of actions. Alissandra Cummins said the idea had merit and a clear need had been expressed, but IACA needed to be aware that there had been initiatives attuned through the OAS. The OAS study reviewed existing legislation with Caribbean representatives and a draft recommendation for how member states should update their legislation had been prepared. It would be useful for IACA to see how this had developed.

A supplementary motion, raised by Quetta Kaye, proposed that a single archaeologist on each island was needed to create an inventory of endangered sites which could be sent to IACA as the overall “authority” and which would then be able to be forwarded to the appropriate authorities. The Motions were seconded by Adolfo Lopez Belando and **approved by show of hands.**

Adolfo Lopez Belando then raised a point about rock art in the Caribbean, which was recognised by UNESCO as endangered. He would like to see rock art mentioned in three languages on the IACA website. **This suggestion was agreed by show of hands.**

13) Election to replace retired student representative: Nominations Brittany Mistretta (US) nominated by Antonio Curet, seconded Miriam Rock; Tibisay Sankatsing Nava (Aruba), nominated

by Corinne Hofman, seconded Alissandra Cummins; Miriam Rothenberg (US), nominated by Elizabeth Clay, seconded Diane Wallman. Each nominee in turn described their archaeological experience and the value of student representation on IACA. Ballot papers were distributed to registered members. John Crock and Gerard Richard counted paper ballots with the result: Votes cast by 63 members and results: BM 9, TSN 17, MR 13, **winner and elected as student representative on the IACA Board** by 4 votes Tibisay Sankatsing Nava.

14) Review of 2019 Congress by Congress Chair, Kevin Farmer. The theme “Re-examining Self” very much reflected archaeology in the mid-21st century. It was generally agreed that the Congress had been very enjoyable, with excellent food, and delegates numbering 122 (34 students, and 88 regular members). He mentioned there had been challenges due to funding: that Barbados was in recession and had been placed in an IMF austerity package. It had cost US\$134,000 to run the Congress. He suggested IACA should look at how costs could be dealt with going forward, perhaps calling more on private individuals. In this case they had managed with help from Guadeloupe and Martinique governments providing funds. Collaboration and dialogue across countries was needed, especially those with Caribbean ties. He mentioned programme changes in the organisation of this year’s Congress’s papers and the various discussions which had taken place, especially by those faced with on-going development issues and the politics of the region. He suggested a history of IACA needed to be written. The organising committee thanked all who had helped to pull this Congress off. Jay Havisier, Doug Armstrong, Quetta Kaye, Gerard Richard, Matthew Reilly, Scott Fitzpatrick and John Crock were all presented with gift bags. Thanks went also to Tibisay Sankatsing Nava and her group for their collaboration. The Congress Chair announced that papers for publication in the next Congress Proceedings were due to be received by the end of September 2019. The chair of the editorial committee would be Alissandra Cummins who would ensure publication before the next Congress and there would be the creation of a dedicated website for downloading Proceedings. The Chair thanked all for sharing their research and pointing ways for everyone to go forward. The President thanked the Congress Chair for all his good work.

15) A.O.B.

a) Henry Petitjean Roget: Made the point that at first IACA was created and then later MAC both with researchers in archaeology, conservation, education and now sciences were included. He asked why IACA didn’t combine with MAC to get more energy and send IACA abstracts to MAC. A Motion for this combined procedure was then proposed by Henry Petitjean Roget, seconded J Khan. **Approved by majority show of hands.**

b) Michael Siedlaczek: Thanked the Congress family for consideration in helping St Lucia to deal with the problems which the island had. Noted.

c) Laurent Jean Pierre: offered thanks, on behalf of St Lucia. He mentioned the 4th Congress had been held in St Lucia and quoted Derek Walcott in thanking all those, especially those elders who had kept the institutional memory alive, who had helped in whatever capacity and sent good wishes to all.

d) Alissandra Cummins: called for papers to go into a booklet for a conference on conservation she was organising with Dr Innis. She asked for assistance to support this conservation effort.

e) Ivan Roksandic: Rock art - IACA should write to the governments of Caribbean countries so they know that IACA is concerned about rock art, petroglyphs etc. He suggested governments would then pay more attention to this topic and look for ways to protect such sites. The President responded that Roksandic should feel free to submit information.

f) Patrick Brasselet: stated the Congress had created a new interest in archaeology and wished to thank Mr Khan for his proposal.

Meeting closed 7.40pm.

Submitted for approval by the IACA Board by Dr Quetta Kaye, hon Secretary, 10th August 2019.