



SoCal URISA Meeting Minutes

December 2008

Date: 12/18/2008

Time: 11:00 – 12:00

Place: Conference Call

Attendance: Tobias Wolf, Melisa Caric, Lan Nelson, Russell Mercer, Yuying Li

1. Website Discussion

Russell proposed to move the web hosting from SanDAG to the commercial site of GoDaddy. Currently Socal URISA website is hosted by SanDAG. Due to the restrictions SanDAG posted, the website could be updated in time to broadcast the most recent information to the members and to those who are interested. With the new hosting website, we could manage the website much better and the members could pay their membership dues through Paypal/credit card online, which is frequently requested by many members. Other new functionalities, such as fill in/renew membership application online, will be looked into and developed in the future. The socalurisa.org domain will be transferred as well and will create a new email account. The current gmail account will still be using as backup.

Board members approved the item and Russell will take a lead in communicating with parties that were involved to move the website. Webmaster of the new site will be determined during the next board meeting.

2. 2008/2009 - Programs

a. GIS Day – Recap

Melisa gave a 1-minute recap of the GIS day. GIS day was a great success. The participants toured the facility and met with GIS professionals. People from San Diego County gave a presentation on how the County responded to the fire using GIS. Melisa discussed the SoCAL URISA program, participation, and memberships. Newsletter and membership application forms were distributed to the participants.

Yuying suggested sending out a brief recap of the GIS day to the membership as follow up to enough members' participation for the next event.

b. Holiday Party – Today!

So far, Amy received about 25 reservations from the members. Yuying will prepare the list of active members and membership forms in case people will sign up at the party.

- c. **Next Event? Date & Time**
 - i. **GISP Certification**
 - ii. **SanGIS Data/Imagery**
 - iii. **Charity Events**
 - iv. **HAZUS Presentation**
 - v. **Workshops?**

The first work for 2009 is scheduled in February, detailed date and location to be decided in next board meeting. Currently there are three options.

- 1) Amy is working on to have some URISA certified workshop. She will try to get hold of some of the ESRI people who are certified to discuss the workshop.
- 2) Melisa will contact SanGIS and county for a workshop on SanGIS data/imagery and County fire emergency response.
- 3) Melisa will contact the Hazus group to discuss the potential of put together a HAZUS workshop depending on what cost could be covered by SoCAL.

As for the workshop locations, as many members preferred to have events locally and SoCAL covers a large area, it is suggested to repeat/rotate the workshops at the different locations.

3. Newsletter Update – Welcome Lan Nelson

Lan Nelson will join and help with the newsletter. Welcome Lan! Melisa will invite her to the newsletter production group (Melisa, Blanca, and Amy) monthly call to discuss the contents of the newsletter and tasks to be assigned. It is encouraged that board members and membership to submit their stories and comments to Melisa to be included in the newsletter.

4. Membership Renewal

Yuying sent a membership renewal reminder on 16th and generated some feed back from the potential membership. Members are requesting more tangible benefits from the organization. It is recognized that we need to organize events/workshops through the year and consider the geographic locations to attract more people to participate in the organization.

Melisa will contact Mike Behen from City of Palmdale to see if he is interested in helping with the program outreach in LA County.

Amy is going to Coachella Valley GIS user group meeting in January and will try to encourage membership application during the meeting.

5. Board Members

- a. **Advisory Members – (2) open positions**

We are still looking for people who are interested to fill in the two open Advisory member positions.