

ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, February 17, 2020 (v. 2)

1. Welcome (Owens)

- Meeting began at 11:00am EST / 8:00am PST via Zoom

2. Attendees (House)

- Mary Whitton (Meeting leader)
- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum (minutes)
- David Brock
- Carol Hutchins
- Roy Levin (dropped off early)
- Bernadette Longo
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Erik Rau
- Len Shustek
- Kim Tracy
- Amanda Wick

Guests:

- Charles House

Committee members not attending:

- Ursula Martin
- Jeffrey Yost

3. Minutes from November and January meetings (Almstrum)

- November minutes: No comments. Accepted as version 1.
- January minutes: No comments. Accepted as version 1.

4. Status of Turing update (Levin)

- Most of what has happened during the past month has involved David Brock and David Jefferson, discussing collaborations between the History Committee and the Computer History Museum.
 - The CHM will conduct any interviews that are of mutual interest. This would create a complementary situation. Roy talked to Pat Ryan, who seemed happy with the potential arrangement. David Jefferson will do the initial scheduling, but the interview and processing will be done by the CHM, with travel support from the History Committee budget (for the interviewer from the CHM). At this point, they are discussing four interviews in the area of Artificial Intelligence. It would include travel for two CHM employees, the interviewer and the videographer. They will

need to work out the IP issues (copyright held jointly or another type of agreement; both are non-profits). Another advantage is storing the interview in more than one place.

- Roy exchanged email with Tom Haigh, who is happy to do as many snippets as we are prepared to pay him to do. He will do much of it during his sabbatical this spring.

5. Heritage update (Almstrum, Wick)

- Initial version of website is established.
- Amanda and Vicki will meet in the near future to discuss the site and add to it.

6. Budget (Rau, Whitton)

- Erik had distributed a link to the Google doc with the budget. Discussed several points.
- Everything essentially identical to last year with two exceptions:
 - Additional travel money to act as ambassadors to SIGs, etc.
 - Budget allocated for Turing snippets. This is a one-time “catch-up” figure.
- Roy’s discussion of Turing interviews: Unsure how many can be completed. The clock is ticking on several potential interviewees, so important that the budget is set to allow these to happen. For 2022, reevaluate based on the CHM collaboration during 2021.
- Discussed on-going funding for the ACM Award project for which Chuck is project leader. The original amount was budgeted for three years, so need not be in the History Committee budget. We expect we will decide to continue the project. For 2022 budget planning, must add a line item for continuing these efforts.

7. Face-to-Face meeting in March in Chapel Hill (Whitton)

- The hotels will be booked for us at AC Hotel by Marriott.
- Mary is planning activities for during the day on Monday, as well as for Monday and Tuesday dinners.
- Mary will add the hotel spreadsheet on Google drive. Each of us is to add our arrival and departure times, as well as our cell numbers.
- David Brock will be visiting Ursula during the time of the meeting. Sachin will also miss the meeting. Barbara hopes to find a time to patch in the missing committee members by phone or meeting software. Uncertain about Len’s intentions to attend or participate.

8. India Oral History update (Maheshwari)

- There has been progress in contacting one of the three interviewees, as well as an interviewer. Expect to schedule that interview in March.
- Little progress with Mr. Kohli. Discussed the strategy for getting it scheduled.
- The third interview is the simplest. Ready to begin the conversation with the interviewee and the interviewer.
- Sachin anticipates it would be advantageous for him to be physically present for all three interviews, so he will plan this into his own schedule.

9. Fellowship committee (Tracy)

- By the deadline we had received 19 separate submissions for the HC Fellowship, some of which appear very good. A couple of the submissions are incomplete (missing a reference letter or resume).
- Kim has added a summary spreadsheet to the Google drive, as well as the proposals themselves.
- Kim wants to meet with the sub-committee to review the submissions and make recommendations. The sub-committee will provide a summary and recommendations, to be discussed during the March 17th meeting. The total amount budgeted is \$16K.

10. Web work (Tracy)

- The new website (under development) is located at historydev.acm.org.
- It would make sense to launch this soon and improve over time. This was approved.
- Wants committee feedback about whether anything important is missing.
- Suggestions:
 - Move list of previous committee members to be a link from the current committee members page, rather than a separate menu item.
 - Mary reacted to the brown color.
 - Barb: Meeting minutes page -- how much should remain? Are we going to clean this up? At this point, we have not fully decided what to do. We can discuss at the F2F meeting and how to finalize the minutes.
 - Comment on navigation to home: Currently inconsistent, not always easy to see how to return to the home page.
- Briefly discussed the idea of a History Committee logo. Roy offered a cautionary note that the ACM identity must be treated very carefully.

11. ACM Award Winner Interviews (House)

- Recently, Chuck interviewed Deborah Estrin, a winner of the Athena Award. During the interview, Deborah shared information about her mother, Thelma, who did early computer graphics research and biomedical research. Many of Thelma's had significant papers in her sister Judy's basement in California. whose papers could be very valuable for a PhD thesis perhaps. Deborah said she might be able to help make the papers available if we can arrange to engage an appropriate person. Chuck has found four major interviews with Thelma Estrin and several papers from the 1960s era.
- David Brock reported he has recently done interviews with Julie Estrin and has discussed the potential for getting the mother's story out.
- Chuck requested 15 minutes on the agenda for the F2F meeting.

12. New topics

- Before the F2F meeting, think about committee membership and whom we might invite to round out committee membership for the next year. Len has retired from the committee and David Brock now represents the Computer History Museum.

13. Next meeting Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at Chapel Hill (F2F)
14. Conclusion 11:59 EST / 8:59 am PST