AGIC 2025 Conference Committee Meeting Notes
Thursday, September 18, 2025
10:00 am

In Attendance:
Robert Bush
John Danloe
Jami Dennis
Samantha Dinning
Sage Donaldson
Shawny Ekadis
Nicole Funicello
Deborah Glogoff
Teresa Gregory
Sarah Hess
James Lambert
Seth Lewis
Bill Nye
Jennifer Psillas
Gene Trobia
Steve Whitney
Troy Wiora

Committee coordination and meeting operation:
- An overall goal for the 2026 conference is to get more committee folks involved in leadership roles.
  - Consider soliciting based on specific tasks, as opposed to simply asking folks to volunteer in general.
  - Emphasize that we will work with folks to transition duties over a period of time, as opposed it getting dumped on them.
  - Review the committee roster for inactive folks.

Action Items:
None

Outreach Committee Report:
- Gearing up for social media posts on this year's conference.
- Let Sage know if you're interested in getting involved.

Action Items:
None

Budget:

- No discussion

Action Items:

None

Venue coordination:

- People liked the food; people hated the food, and the buffets at all meals was a hit.
- The hotel is still too run-down.
- 2026 –
    - Label food as vegetarian or not.
    - Ensure that the detailed menu is sent out to the attendees.
        - And have a copy at the registration desk.
    - Some folks noticed food being recycled from one day to another.
- 2026 dates –
    - 8/24-28/2026 –
        - Two weeks before Labor Day.
        - First day of classes for UofA.
    - 9/28-10/2/2026 –
        - Two weeks before GIS Pro 2026 (10/12-15).
        - Another group has requested this week.
        - School breaks may be in this timeframe.
        - Federal fiscal year, but don't think it is an issue if it starts in Sep.
    - Why don't we do this in the Spring?
        - Conflicts?
            - Spring break.
            - Students and finals.
        - Would need to push it to 2027.

Action items:

None

Event Management Platform Coordination:

- Provide guidance early on for working with Eventsquid.
    - Ask them if they are working to provide an actual app.

Action items:

??? – Ask Eventsquid if they have considered developing an actual app.

Conference Communication:
- No discussion

Action Items:
None

Agenda & speaker coordination:
- More time to network was a big hit.
- Reduced lunch speakers was mixed, but leaned toward more "free" networking lunches.
- Hands on workshops conflicted with sessions – strong push for having them on their own dedicated day.
    - Nix the computer lab?
        - Would open room for more technical sessions.
- Keynotes: Jazzmen was a hit; Tim's talk was mostly well received but marred by technical glitches.
    - Try to keep presentations simple, and avoid switching between slides and live stuff.
- Lightning talks got high marks – wish more folks stuck around for them.
- Thursday night social + Iron Cartographer = Great; the skit, not so much – reviews ranged from fun to cringey (probably about a 28% on Rottentomatoes' tomatometer)
- 2026 –
    - Continue with a keynote and one lunch speaker.
    - Lunch table discussion topics were well received.
    - Potential keynote/lunch speakers –
        - Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, Census head of geography, and could present on how "the census is using AI to save 1.5 billion dollars on the 2030 census".

Action Items:
None

Exhibitor/sponsor participation:
- No complaints from vendors, and high marks for booth setup and interaction.
- Sponsors liked having attendees lunch with them in their booth.

Action Items:
None

Registration:
- No discussion

Action Items:
None

Maps & Apps Challenge:
- Maps & Apps, well run, but the voting was still confusing to many folks.
    - Go back to Survey123 via AZGeo? -> a lot of work
    - Go back to paper ballots, and registration folks could keep track, possibly via Survey123.
    - Use a QR code and tickets for apps? -> a lot to manage?

Action Items:
None

Scholarships:
- No discussion

Action items:
None

Awards:
- No discussion

Action items:
None

Printing:
- No discussion

Action items:
None

Computer labs:
- No discussion

Action items:
None

T-shirts:
- 2026 –
    - Review size quantities for ordering.

Action items:
None

Order Materials:
- No discussion

Action items:
None

Attendee Packet/Supplies:
- Consider providing paper copies of the agenda? -> <mark>Yes</mark>

Action Items:
None

Social Events:
- Scavenger hunt got positive comments.

Action Items:
None

General:
- Buddy system was all good.
- Standing item – Anything from this meeting to put into the annual accomplishments.

Action Items:
None