

Minutes
Technical Standards Council
Wednesday, 21 October 2015
Westgate Las Vegas Casino & Resort
Las Vegas, Nevada

Presiding co-chairs:

Mike Garl; Mike Garl Consulting LLC; P
Mike Wood; Mike Wood Consulting LLC; P

Recording secretaries:

Karl G. Ruling; PLASA North America
Erin Grabe; PLASA North America

Members in attendance:

Matthew Antonucci; Contract Services Administration Trust Fund; P
Louis Bradfield; USITT; A
Jerry Gorrell; Theatre Safety Programs; USITT; P
Mitch Hefter; P
Fred Kosiewski; Walt Disney Parks & Creative Entertainment; Walt Disney Company; P
Jules Lauve ; Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.; Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants; P
David E. Miller; Walt Disney Parks & Creative Entertainment; Walt Disney Company; A
Eddie Raymond; IATSE Local 16 (PLASA NA Chairman); P
Alan M. Rowe; IATSE Local 728; IATSE Crafts Advancement Program ; P
Lori Rubinstein; PLASA North America; exf
Bill Sapsis; Sapsis Rigging, Inc.; P
Steve Terry; Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.; P
Ken Vannice; Ken Vannice LLC; P

Visitors present:

Kent Jorgensen, IATSE
Roger Lattin, IATSE
Heather Rowe, CSATF
Richard Nix, Entertainment Structures Group (arrived at about 17:00)

1 Opening remarks

Mike Garl called the meeting to order at 15:07. He welcomed all and asked that personal devices be set to silent. He also issued a plan of action to the group in case there is a need to evacuate.

2 Attendance and membership

Matt Antonucci introduced Heather Rowe, and asked that she be added as an alternate for CSATF.

2.1 Taking attendance

An orange sign-in sheet was sent around.

2.2 Welcome to visitors

Mike Garl welcomed the visitors present.

2.3 Introductions

2.4 Call for quorum

There are currently 14 votes possible. A quorum is 8.

A quorum was announced present by Mike Garl.

2.5 Consensus body

The consensus body during this meeting, including those not present, was:

Delegate	Representation or company	Voting status
Jules Lauve	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	P
Kimberly Corbett Oates	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	A
Eugene Leitermann	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	A
Matthew Antonucci	Contract Services Administration Trust Fund	P
Larry Schoeneman	DesignLab Chicago, Inc.	P
Steve Terry	Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.	P
Edwin S. Kramer	I.A.T.S.E. Local 1	P
Alan M. Rowe	IATSE Crafts Advancement Program	P
Eddie Raymond	IATSE Local 16 (PLASA NA Chairman)	P
Ken Vannice	Ken Vannice LLC	P
Mike Garl	Mike Garl Consulting LLC	P
Mike Wood	Mike Wood Consulting LLC	P
Mitch Hefter	Mitch Hefter	P
Bill Sapsis	Sapsis Rigging, Inc.	P
Jerry Gorrell	USITT	P
Louis Bradfield	USITT	A
Fred Kosiewski	Walt Disney Company	P
David E. Miller	Walt Disney Company	A
	Total	14

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

See TSCmin08-2015.pdf.

Mitch Hefter moved to accept the August meeting minutes as drafted. The motion was seconded and approved by a show of hands with one abstention.

4 Reading of the NEW call for patents

The following statement was read aloud to the assembly by Mike Garl:

PLASA intends not to publish any standard that contains protected intellectual property, unless that information can be licensed by anyone for a reasonable fee. PLASA uses a process of open patent and copyright disclosures to implement its intent. PLASA does not conduct patent or copyright searches and does not warrant that its standards contain no protected intellectual property.

In keeping with the open disclosures policy, I ask if anyone present wishes to notify this council group of the existence of a patent, patent application, copyright, or other intellectual property that might protect material in a standard being developed by any working group. You need not be the holder of the patent or copyright to notify the council of its existence.

Nothing was revealed.

5 Anti-trust statement, to be read aloud to the assembly

The following statement was read aloud to the assembly by Mike Garl:

PLASA and its members take seriously their obligation to comply with all applicable antitrust laws. Therefore, during this meeting and during all PLASA events, all discussions will be limited to those subjects that are permitted by the antitrust laws. All members should refrain from any discussion or mention of competitively sensitive subjects such as the current or future prices charged for any member product or services, current or future marketing plans or strategies, and current or future costs, including employee salaries. There also must be no agreement on the suppliers or customers that members will do business with or the markets in which members will conduct business.

Violations of the antitrust laws can have serious consequences. If you have any questions or concerns about anything that is discussed at a PLASA meeting, please bring your concern to PLASA management. An easy to read pamphlet describing the antitrust laws is available from the PLASA staff.

Erin Grabe held up the pamphlet. Nothing was reported.

6 Approval of agenda

Eddie Kramer, not present today, had noted ahead of the meeting that agenda item for revising the P&P was wrong; the correct number is 7.3.4.

Mike Garl added an agenda item dealing with PLASA on the TSC to section 9. He also added a discussion of the new bylaws to new business.

Steve Terry moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and approved by a show of hands with no opposition or abstentions.

7 Old business and standing reports

7.1 Financial reports

7.1.1 Treasurer's Report and Status of Contributions and Pledges

Lori Rubinstein reported; Scott Hoytt was not present. She said that a guess had been made on the numbers with regard to the TSC participation fee. The budget is slightly over on income, under on expenses. She noted that the contract with ProSight is up at the end of the first quarter 2016. Furthermore, Penton's equity shareholders have to LDI show management to end paying royalties to trade show sponsors. This is across all industries, not just ours. We can expect diminished income from Penton, unless we can devise other services/funding arrangements with them. Overall, there is a TSP projected deficit of \$131 K for next year. For PLASA North America overall, we will break even this year, and we hope to break even next year.

There was a discussion of how to make up this deficit. Steve Terry suggested that we have to have a targeted list of people to ask particular people to fund the TSC. The budget for PLASA North America overall will be in a much better budget situation if the TSC is better funded. If we do nothing, PLASA will run out of cash about this time next year.

There was a brainstorming session about possible donors. Lori Rubinstein was identified as the person to whom suggestions of possible donors and possible solicitors of those donations should be sent.

There was further discussion of selling advertising space in Standards News and our website. Also there was a discussion of offering special "TSP supporter" logos to companies that donate to the TSP and "active participant" logos for those who have voting members in the working groups.

The suggestion of putting donation buttons on the standards download page was well received.

7.1.2 Accounting of TSP documents sold

See TSP Sales Report for TSC_10-2015.pdf. Total download value exceeds \$1.12M.

7.2 CEN committee update

Any news at this time?

Bill Sapsis said that at the London Rigging Conference Ron Bonner had reported no news.

7.3 Old Business

7.3.1 Technical Standards Program project report

See TSPPrjctsSmmry2015-10.pdf.

There were no questions asked and no discussion.

7.3.1.1 Report on status of documents: ones in process, ones stable, ones needing action or of concern

7.3.1.2 Working group documents for possible action by the TSC

7.3.1.2.1 Public reviews

Erin Grabe said that the Floors Working Group had voted to offer BSR E1.57 (fall protection on parade floats) for a first public review. Since the TSC has not seen this document, a letter ballot will be sent to the TSC. Karl Ruling noted that the P&P and reaccreditation is in letter ballot with ANSI; that revised P&P would eliminate the need for the TSC to approve public reviews past the first one.

7.3.1.2.2 Reaffirmations

No news; no motions.

7.3.1.2.3 Final approval

No news; no motions.

7.3.1.2.4 Withdrawal

No news; no motions.

7.3.1.2.5 New projects

See TSP_ProjectRequest_Li-ionBatteries.pdf

The project was discussed. Many TSC members expressing reservations about the project, including what anything we could do would accomplish and whether shipping lithium-ion batteries by air could be done at reasonably low risk.

The request form was faulted in that it asks for creating an exemption. How can we ask for an exemption without scientific proof that the shipping method we propose is safe? Jerry Gorrell said that the evidence for a safe shipping method is extremely lacking.

Karl Ruling clarified that our project would be to develop a standard that would specify a safe shipping method (assuming that one could be developed and demonstrated), and then that American National Standard would be used as the basis for asking to be permitted to ship batteries by air in the quantity that the film/video industry needs per this standardized safe shipping method. Of course, if there is no safe way to ship containers of many batteries, we won't develop a standard specifying how this can be done. Our project will then fail to specify a safe way, but it will have successfully explored the possible methods and found none.

We need advocacy, said Matt Antonucci. Steve Terry said that we don't have a good view of what the processes are that are happening now, and if there is a possibility of having input and what that method might be.

Many people spoke of hearing about impending more stringent regulations or outright bans, but the timeline for these new regulations or bans is unknown, and these reports might be rumor.

Steve Terry moved that we defer action on this proposal until more information on the developing battery regulations comes from Harry Box and Matt Antonucci. The motion was seconded and then approved by a show of hands.

Mike Wood asked if Harry Box can be at our next meeting? Get him on WebEx!

7.3.2 TSP Marketing

Erin Grabe spoke about the "standards all around us" posters and interactive display in the PLASA LDI booth. Lori Rubinstein said that Penton is interested in supporting the TSP and ETCP; there might be mutually beneficial projects we can do with Penton to support the TSP and ETCP.

7.3.3 Making the TSP be more international

All the working group meetings are being offered via WebEx as well as face-to-face. Depending on the working group, there is more or less teleconferencing participation. In general, the CPWG has the most remote participation.

7.3.4 PLASA ANSI Audit 2015

Erin Grabe reported that the audit is still open pending approval of our revised P&P by the Executive Standards Council. They received a three-week letter ballot that times-out on 29 October.

7.3.5 Revising the P&P

The P&P went through a 30-day public review, announced by ANSI. The review is a requirement for re-accreditation. No comments were received and the approval has been forwarded to the subcommittee on re-accreditation. (See 7.3.4)

8 New business

8.1 TSP participation fee

See LetterFromTSCChairs_2Oct2015.pdf.

The participation fee was briefly discussed.

8.2 Separation of EU and NA

Mike noted that there is a key volunteer meeting tomorrow at which the split and the state of the de-merger will be discussed. There will be further information—and certainly more discussion—at the AGM meeting.

Eddie Raymond said that what seemed like a good idea then does not seem like a good idea now. PLASA Events wanted access to the US market, but the PLASA Focus trade shows were not successful.

Mike Wood explained that PLASA EU wants a voting seat on TSC. (They had one before, but are only observers now.) The standards developed during the period of the merger have been claimed as joint assets in the demerger talks, but PLASA EU is content to let PLASA North America have them as long as PLASA EU members will continue to have access to them. That they do, since all our standards are free to anyone, and we have no plans at this point to go back to selling them.

Downsizing the New York office to cut costs was also discussed. We need to cut storage space. ANSI and our P&P require documents to be retained for only one development cycle. Our intention is to destroy hard-copy documents that are older.

9 Optional Reports

9.1 Optional reports by working and task group leaders on active projects

9.1.1 Control Protocols

No additional report.

9.1.2 Electrical Power

Mitch Hefter said that there were two sets of draft comment resolutions to consider and act on.

9.1.3 Floors

Jerry Gorrell said that the working group will be voting to accept BSR E1.46 as an ANS. They want to offer BR E1.57, the draft don't-fall-off-the-float standard, for public review.

9.1.4 Fog and Smoke

No news.

9.1.5 Followspot Position

No additional report.

9.1.6 Photometrics

Gorrell said that the working group will next meet in January.

9.1.7 Rigging

The working group meets tonight, noted Bill Sapsis.

9.1.8 Stage Lifts

No additional news. The working group meets Friday 23 October.

9.2 Reports of affiliated organizations and PLASA EU

9.2.1 ASTC

Jules Lauve reported that the assembly occupancy committee is working on venting for theatres that are 50' tall to require a smoke vent opening size that is proportional to the stage

space. The current requirements are too prescriptive. For shorter stage houses there would be no change.

9.2.2 NFPA

9.2.2.1 FDW-AAA committee

Jerry gorrell reported that there are no NITMAMs on NFPA 80, so it's a done-deal. The main changes are removing the requirements for fusible links from fire safety curtains in theatres.

9.2.2.2 SPE-AAA

No news, reported Karl Ruling.

9.2.2.3 SAF-AXM & BLD

Jerry Gorrell simply said that the standards were proceeding as scheduled.

9.2.2.4 NEC

Mitch Hefter said that Code Panel 15 would be meeting in two weeks to deal with the second draft public comments.

9.2.3 PLASA EU

Mike Garl reported that PLASA EU has asked if they could be a member of the TSC. They were voting members in the past and are observer members now. Mike Garl reported that the PLASA North America negotiators have felt that they can have one, but that person needs to vote. They could teleconference the meetings, but if this incurs additional expenses, they will be billed. We will review their participation in 6 months.

9.2.4 Event Safety Alliance

Lori Rubinstein noted that we would be speaking there again. She and Karl Ruling will do a plenary session about the ETCP and TSP respectively, then Bill Sapsis and Marian Paschetto will speak about particular standards in two break-out sessions. Richard Nix also will be speaking about standards applicable to tents.

9.2.5 USITT

10 Other business

10.1 The Our Common Goals Initiative

Richard Nix reported on his work to promote the "Our Common Goals Initiative." He approached about ten groups. There is wide interest, and no pushback on cost, but parties in the tent industry do not talk to each other; so far no group has said "Yes."

Nix reported that the F24 ASTM amusement device committee has a task group work item to address tents, but no work has been done on this other than developing a scope statement. They need to do something substantive soon, or the project will be cancelled by ASTM. Nix had a long story about a lack of coordination in the tent industry. The tent industry is very regional and very protective of its parochial constituents. There is no one organization that

covers the entire industry and factional. It is unclear if the ASTM project will go forward or will collapse.

Nix also spoke about his work on Chapter 31 of the International Fire Code, pushing to have references to E1.21 introduced wherever appropriate, and also to have them stop thinking about occupancy loads as the trigger for regulation. The IBC points to the IFC for temporary, special event structures, but the IFC hasn't addressed structural issues for tents.

10.2 Above & Beyond Awards

The website is open for nominations year-round, tsp.plasa.org/AboveandBeyond.

Michael Lay said he will be badgering people for nominations if they do not offer some by early November.

10.3 ETCP New Certification in Power Distribution

Steve Terry reported that there is a large part of the entertainment industry that does power distribution. It will have more power distribution questions and fewer production questions. The film/video industry has a large pool of people who would be possible candidates.

10.4 An alternate for CSATF

Bill Sapsis moved that we recommend to the ESTA/PLASA North America Board that Heather Rowe be appointed as Matt Antonucci's alternate. The motion was seconded and then approved with a unanimous show of hands.

11 Schedule for future meetings

Mike Garl promoted the Key Volunteers meeting. It will be in Pavilion 6. It is scheduled for 11:00 on Thursday. He emphasized that it is an important meeting and we should attend.

11.1 January 2016 meetings

The January meetings are now scheduled for Thursday through Sunday, 28-31 January 2016 at the D/FW Marriott Solana in Westlake, TX.

11.2 March 2016 meetings

The March 2016 meetings will be held in conjunction with the 2016 USITT Conference, scheduled to be held in Salt Lake City, UT. The conference dates are 16-19 March 2016.

11.3 July 2016 meetings in conjunction with NATEAC

The July 2016 meetings will be held in conjunction with NATEAC in New York City. Meeting dates are tentatively scheduled for 14-18 July, while the conference dates are 17-18 July 2016. Information on the conference is available at <http://www.nateac.org/>.

Bill Sapsis said that he is still looking for topics for presentations.

11.4 LDI 2016

Dates for meetings in conjunction with LDI 2016 TBD.

11.5 USITT 2017 & 2018

USITT 2017 is scheduled to be held in St. Louis, MO. USITT 2018 is scheduled to be held in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

12 Adjournment

Bill Sapsis moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded. Hearing no objections, Mike Garl declared the meeting adjourned at 17:29.

Technical Standards Council Members as of 16 November 2015

Name	Organization or company	Representing	Voting status
Matthew Antonucci	Contract Services Administration Trust Fund	Contract Services Administration Trust Fund	P
Ron Bonner	PLASA Technical Resources Office	PLASA EU	O
Harry Box	PLASA Production Equipment Rental Group	PLASA Production Equipment Rental Group	O
Louis Bradfield	Louis Bradfield	USITT	A
Mark Engel	Rosco Laboratories		O
Mike Garl	Mike Garl Consulting LLC		P
Jerry Gorrell	Theatre Safety Programs	USITT	P
Erin Grabe	PLASA NA		exf
Matthew Griffiths	PLASA EU		exf
Mitch Hefter	Mitch Hefter		P
A. Scott Hoyt	Heartland Scenic Studio	PLASA NA Treasurer	exf
David Johnson	Live Design	Penton Media	O
Fred Kosiewski	Walt Disney Parks & Creative Entertainment	Walt Disney Company	P
Edwin S. Kramer	I.A.T.S.E. Local 1		P
Jules Lauve	Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	P
Eugene Leitermann	Nextstage Design	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	A
David E. Miller	Walt Disney Parks & Creative Entertainment	Walt Disney Company	A
Kimberly Corbett Oates	Schuler Shook	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	A
Eddie Raymond	IATSE Local 16	PLASA NA Chairman	P
JR Reid	JR Lighting, Inc.	PLASA Production Equipment Rental Group	O
Alan M. Rowe	IATSE Local 728	IATSE Crafts Advancement Program	P
Heather Rowe	Contract Services Administration Trust Fund	Contract Services Administration Trust Fund	pending
Lori Rubinstein	PLASA NA		exf
Karl G. Ruling	PLASA NA		exf

Technical Standards Council Members as of 16 November 2015

Name	Organization or company	Representing	Voting status
Marian Sandberg	Live Design	Penton Media	O
Bill Sapsis	Sapsis Rigging, Inc.		P
Larry Schoeneman	DesignLab Chicago, Inc.		P
Steve Terry	Electronic Theatre Controls		P
Ken Vannice	Ken Vannice LLC		P
Mike Wood	Mike Wood Consulting LLC		P