VGTC General Meeting – 22 October 2008 – Columbus, Ohio

- Attendance – Amitabh Varshney, Roger Crawfis, Lisa Avila, Loretta Auvil, Thomas Ertl, Edi Gröller, Rachael Brady, Maureen Stone, Richard May, Jörn Kohlhammer, Arie Kaufman, Larry Rosenblum, Robert Moorhead, Tamara Munzner, William Ribarsky, Jim Thomas, Bowen Loftin , Hanspeter Pfister, Daniel Keim, Richard May, Meghan Haley
- Community (Lisa Avila and Meghan Haley)
  - Amitabh announced vgtc.org at the beginning of the Vis conference
  - Collecting slides
  - Recording videos with Echo 360 system
  - Blogging feature currently on hold until spamming issues can be solved
  - Resources, CFP, news, events, jobs
    - Contact Jim Thomas for more resources
  - Mailing lists / membership issues
    - How best to collect this information?
  - Remind session chairs to tell speakers before hand that they are being recorded and going to be asked for their slides after their presentation
    - Also remind them that the slides are needed in PDF not PPT – maybe more willing to hand them over
  - How to deal with Workshop and Tutorial who do not have chairs
  - Contact organizers
  - Can we view/show number of visitors to site?
    - Meghan can get these numbers – they are recorded on the community site
- Finances (Loretta)
  - VisWeek 2008: 90 – 100 attendees less this year than last year
  - Still in the black due to higher registration costs
  - Strict budget for 2008 – important to stay in the black
    - Exhibits and sponsorship up
    - Less lunches and meetings paid for by the conference
  - Banquet was successful
    - 460 people
  - High attendance to sessions
    - Keynote: 325
    - Information Design papers session: 350
  - Future years
    - Watch the economy – cut down on attendance and budget
  - 2007 changes caused conference budget to go over
    - Addition of IEEE CMS
    - Mistakes made
    - What VGTC vs. conference paying for last year was not clear / laid out
    - If you go over budget it has to be approved
  - 2008
    - no real surprises so far
    - not all budgets turned in
- Publishing (Meghan Haley)
  - Conferences
    - Things are great ... we have produced 12 conferences this year
      - PacificVis, VR, 3DUI, Haptics, GI, SMI, VG/PBG, IRT, ISMAR, InfoVis, Vis, VAST
    - Moving conferences to electronic means
      - o Looking into Texterity for our conferences
      - o Hoping to implement for VisWeek 2009

- o VR 2009 is going to move forward with a hardcopies opt-in policy with DVD/USB the norm for all registrants
- Program (Rachael)
  - Placement of 2009
    - It's important to have the Vis Week Executive Committee make decisions from a VisWeek point of view, not just from their own venue's point of view. This issue was rocky last Fall/Spring, but became a very unified group by this Fall.
    - For Vis 2009, we'll have Vast/Workshops/Tutorials the first 3 days and Vis/InfoVis in parallel the last 3 days.
- Amitabh
  - Motion to add a member to the Vis Week Executive Committee from VGTC
    - Seconded
    - Discussion
      - o Should it only be one person?
      - o Good to have small group to get things done
    - All in favour
- 2008 conference chairs update
  - Roger Crawfis – Vis / VisWeek 2008
    - 1 banquet
    - budget constraints - buffet which received a lot of good feedback
    - hotel was well layed out
  - Daniel Keim – InfoVis
    - Good turn out for InfoVis
    - A few minor things that went wrong
      - o Vis had 2 speakers and InfoVis had 1
      - o Choosing location
        - InfoVis left out of this decision /process
      - o InfoVis held at the same time as the workshops/ Tutorials and attendees had to choose to either attend paper sessions or Workshops/Tutorials
      - o Changing for 2009
        - SRM issues for InfoVis chairs and authors
          - Chris North and Sheelagh Carpendale are forwarding these comments to Meghan
  - Thomas Ertl – VAST
    - Keynote speaker
    - Proceedings went over well
    - Good turn out of VAST exhibitors
  - Registration started the night before the conference began
  - We will continue this in 2009
  - Should a publicity announcement be made to make attendees aware
    - Possibly on the website
  - Option of Registration for Banquet
- VAST 2009 (Jörn Kohlhammer & Richard May)
  - Challenge, posters, papers
    - Challenge was very successful in 2008
      - o It became a challenge for the chairs who are discussing how better to manage this in the future
      - o The challenge results are being used in real-time
- Amitabh
  - Should VAST have a charter for its Steering Committee?
    - Moving forward –Jim Thomas
  - Should VisWeek go International?

- Possible trial in Canada
- Europe
- Visa issues
- Exhibitors issues
- Equipment over border issues / slow ups
- VR has been to Europe and Japan
- Backed by someone local to help guarantee no loss in money from exhibitors
- There are funds out there to help us make this move
  - Should we send out a survey to attendees on going international?