

Notes from the Meeting of the 2013 NYS GIS Association Conference Committee

(January 18, 2013)

Committee Members Attending: John Barge, Christa Hay, Eric Herman, Bill Johnson, Susan Nixon, Bruce Oswald, Lindi Quackenbush, Tom Sears, Cindy Sherwood (DEM)

Conclusions from the January 18th meeting:

- In light of all the factors presented to them, the Committee recommended contracting with the Saratoga Hilton for the conference on November 12th-13th.
- Bruce Oswald will make that recommendation to the Board. Once he receives approval from the Board. Cindy Sherwood will be given authority to complete negotiations on the contract.
- The Committee noted that they wished to pursue using the Sagamore Resort for the conference site at a later date.
- Cindy will review the deficiencies (i.e. Internet access, parking, break refreshments, seating and room comfort, etc.) noted in the last NYS GIS Conference held at the Hilton with their staff to determine what changes/improvements have or can be made to ameliorate them. It was noted that, in particular, vendors need solid Internet access.
- Presentations – Bruce will develop a write up for to be used to “advertise the conference” and crowd source topic areas for the first day’s presentations. He will also set up a Survey Monkey site to accept the conclusions that are received.
- App Garden & Petting Zoo - Eric and Mickey have again volunteered to take the lead on the App Garden & Petting Zoo. Eric indicated that “new blood” would be helpful.
- Improving Conference Attendance - Bill Johnson noted that Joe Beaulieu from his staff got the NYS GIS Association listed as an accredited organization for the Workshop Seminar Reimbursement (WSR) Program for PEF Represented Employees. Bill will circulate that information to the group.
- Increasing Sponsors – Lindi Quackenbush will see if she can find the list of past sponsors.

Conclusions from Jan 4th meeting:

- Conference Agenda (Below is the rough agenda discussed in the meeting. Items for the App Garden and Petting Zoo have been left in as place holders until a decision is made on their format)

Pre- Conference:

- Late afternoon arrival and vendor set up (25-30 spaces); special area for “App Garden” and Technology Petting Zoo (TBD); I
- Low key evening reception (or “get together” in the hotel bar (hosted by Tom Sears)

Day 1:

8:00 a.m. – 9 a.m. Registration Desk Open/Conference Check-in; vendor area open; Continental Breakfast (in vendor area) (Note – 8:00-7:00pm Exhibitor (25-30 spaces); plus special area for “App Garden” and Technology Petting Zoo; all breaks in this area)

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Welcome & review of agenda/description of various conference events; Association Overview; State of the State

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Break in vendor area

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Keynote Presentation (for 400 theatre style)

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Dessert in the vendor area

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Special Spatial Spotlights (3 -4 rooms seating 100-150 each theatre style)

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 pm Break in vendor area

3:30-5:00pm: Concurrent workshops (3 rooms seating 100-150 each theatre style) (No pre-registration)

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Networking Reception in Exhibit area

Day 2:

7:30 a.m. Registration Desk Open & Continental Breakfast

7:30 a.m. Exhibit Area Opens; “App Garden” (technology poster session) featuring web-based and mobile platforms

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (4) Concurrent technical sessions- each room seating 150 theatre (concurrent sessions will be 3 half hour sessions)

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. – Break in vendor area

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. – NYS GIS Association Annual Meeting

12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Lunch (What about a box lunch in the vendor area?)

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – 4) Concurrent technical sessions- each room seating 150 theatre (concurrent sessions will be 3 half hour sessions)

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Break in vendor area

3:00 p.m. 4:30pm: – (4) Concurrent technical sessions- each room seating 150 theatre style (concurrent sessions will be 3 half hour sessions)

- Presentations
 - Crowd source Special Spatial Spotlight and Keynote topics via Google Docs or Survey Monkey
 - Who will take the lead on this?

Conclusions from the 2012 Conference Post Mortem:

- Consistent problem with people not knowing what events were going on where and when (technology petting zoo, app garden, demo theater, etc.)
 - Need an Emcee to alert people (on a regular basis) to events going on and their location
 - Possibly better and more signage
 - Possibly one or more rolling PPT's showing each day's agenda and room location for events
- Conference should be held on Tuesday/Wednesday or Wednesday/Thursday.
- 2013 conference should be a "hybrid" model of the 2012 conference – 2 full days with the first day starting at 8:30 and vendors setting up the night before. Also, possibly a less formal networking get together the night before.
 - Plenary session would include a welcome with directions on the conference highlights (also consider rolling PPT's with those highlights for each day), high quality keynote, State of the State, etc.
 - Chosen presenters for the Special Spatial Spotlight track
 - Workshops (2 hours in length)
 - Evening reception
 - Volunteered presentations on the second day
- The Committee was asked what would entice you to go to the 2013 Conference?
 - Ability to learn new information/something that you see for the first time.
 - Listen to a "leading edge" keynote speaker
 - Hear the State of the State
 - Find out the latest in technology
 - Find out creative approaches to using existing technology
 - Learn about the latest mobile apps