SHERA Officers present: Karen Kettering, Vice President; Anna P. Sokolina, SAH-SHERA Liaison; Yelena Kalinsky, Listserv Administrator
Member attendance was not taken

I. Opening

• SHERA’s Vice President Karen Kettering welcomed members
• Minutes from SHERA Business Meeting at CAA 2017 were approved

II. Reports

• Natasha Kurchanova reported on the Venice Conference (October 25-27, 2017)
  o The conference was a major success, an opportunity for SHERA’s visibility in Europe and a terrific occasion to share ideas
  o Jointly organized by SHERA (Natasha Kurchanova, Margaret Samu); CCRAC (Rosalind Polly Blakesley); and CSAR (Silvia Burini)
  o Organizers raised $30K (conference budget was separate from SHERA’s operating budget, did not include membership fees); CSAR and CCRAC discouraged an open call for papers, advising that it was necessary to have a set list of speakers to conduct fundraising
  o Participants and audience members traveled from Russia, Europe, & U.S.
  o In addition to academic panels, included roundtables with private collectors and museum directors
  o Panels were video taped and published proceedings are under discussion (no definite plans at this point)
  o Lists of all the sessions can be found at www.veniceconference.com

• Karen Kettering gave the Vice President’s Report
  o Emerging Scholar Prize awarded to Christina E. Crawford (Emory University) for her article “From Tractors to Territory: Socialist Urbanization through Standardization,” Journal of Urban History (January 2018); Online First publication date May 17, 2017
  o Jury commendation: Rigorously researched and theoretically astute, Christina Crawford’s essay “From Tractors to Territory: Socialist Urbanization through Standardization” (Journal of Urban History) is the Award Committee’s unanimous choice for the First Annual SHERA Emerging Scholars’ Essay Prize. Examining the design and construction of both the Kharkiv Tractor Factory (1930-31) and the neighboring planned city for its workers, Crawford details the importation of a Fordist model of industrial standardization into a Soviet context and demonstrates how the concept of priviazka, taken from contemporaneous
architectural discourse, was productively applied to other spheres in order to facilitate rapid growth in manufacturing and distribution. Her essay illuminates the importance of adaptability within the ostensibly standardized design practices that fueled the breakneck tempo of industrialization and urbanization during Stalin’s first Five-Year Plan. Innovative and authoritative, Crawford’s scholarship offers a methodological model for considering the relationship of architectural design and economic development during the process of early Soviet industrialization.

- The jury consisted of Carolyn C. Guile, Janet Kennedy, Juliet Koss, Marie Alice L’Heureux, and Colleen McQuillen
- Next Emerging Scholar Prize deadline: September 30, 2018

• Ksenia Nouril’s submitted Secretary-Treasurer Report was read out
  - Membership:
    - 86 active members; this is somewhat lower than our usual number of ~100-110, members who have lapsed are asked to renew at http://shera-art.org/membership/renew.php
    - 19 institutional members: http://shera-art.org/membership/
    - All membership questions can be directed to shera.membership@gmail.com
  - Finances:
    - SHERA currently has $16,622.03 generated by dues and donations
    - Additionally, $30K in Venice Conference sponsorship was raised, of which $26,016.58 is still to be disbursed
  - SHERA Graduate Student Travel Grant:
    - Helps defray travel costs up to $1,000 for one graduate student presenting a paper at CAA and ASEEEES annual conferences in alternating years for five years (2017-2021)
    - Next applications for travel to ASEEEES 2018 due June 1, 2018 (notification on July 1, 2018)
  - Ksenia’s term ends January 1, 2018; SHERA seeks nominations for a new Secretary-Treasurer to serve for two years

• Corina Apostol’s Web News Editor Report was read out
  - SHERA’s social media outlets are the SHERA Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/groups/481335055263972/) and the SHERA Twitter (https://twitter.com/SheraArt)
  - Corina has agreed to run for another one-year term as Web News Editor

• Yelena Kalinsky gave the Listserv Administrator’s Report
  - H-SHERA, our communication platform, can be found at https://networks.h-net.org/h-shera
  - It supports threaded discussions, book reviews, image galleries, videos, and a variety of other digital resources; members are invited to post to the network and share resources with the group
  - Anyone who wishes can help edit the network by applying to serve as network editor or review editor on H-SHERA (no board work necessary)
Interested members may contact editorial-shera@mail.h-net.msu.edu with ideas, suggestions, or problems

- Anna Sokolina gave the SHERA-SAH Liaison’s Report
  - 44 registered SHERA members list Architecture, Design, Urban Planning, Construction, House, or Ecology under professional interests
  - SHERA has received official status of Partner Organization of the SAH, our societies each link to the other’s website
  - Monthly SHERA news are published in the SAH Newsletter
  - Anna also submits SHERA news to CAA’s Affiliated Society News Online
  - Major SHERA announcements are placed on the Opportunities page on the SAH website
  - Highlights of SAH programs are placed on H-SHERA
  - SAH news are posted to SHERA’s Facebook page
  - Short-term goals: to strengthen ties with SAH informed by our mutual interests
  - Long-term goals: help develop a strong subfield network of scholars with our regional interest at SAH; presenting a SHERA Session at annual SAH conference
  - SHERA Sponsored Session at SAH 2019: SHERA members who wish to submit a SHERA-sponsored session to the SAH 72nd Annual International Conference in Providence RI (April 24-28, 2019) should write to the SHERA Board at shera.artarchitecture@gmail.com by December 16, 2017 in order to submit by the SAH session deadline of January 16, 2018. (Please note that SAH gives no preference to society-sponsored sessions.)

III. New Business

- Hanna Chuchvaha, H-SHERA Review Editor, reported on the H-SHERA Book Review Program:
  - Hanna commissions reviews of new books on art, architecture, visual culture, and film from our region, which are published on H-SHERA
  - H-Net Reviews are permanent online publications indexed by the Library of Congress and get excellent Google rankings
  - Reviews can be found at https://networks.h-net.org/node/166842/reviews (and previously on H-Russia: https://networks.h-net.org/node/10000/reviews)
  - Those interested in reviewing or submitting a book for review consideration should contact Hanna at hannac@ualberta.ca

- Margaret Samu reported that four CAA/Getty Travel Grant recipients from our region will attend CAA 2018 in Los Angeles and invited grant recipients to the SHERA business meeting at CAA
  - SHERA has hosted grant recipients in the past and facilitated contacts with researchers and research opportunities in the field

- Nominations for the following Officer and Members-at-Large positions should be made to shera.membership@gmail.com by December 1, 2017:
  - Secretary-Treasurer (2 Year Term—January 1, 2018 to January 1, 2020) - open seat
The Secretary-Treasurer monitors all of SHERA’s accounts (including bank and PayPal) as well as promoting and managing membership, including updating the membership directory. The Secretary-Treasurer also works with other board members to oversee all business, including administration of grants and prizes.

- **Web News Editor** (1 Year Term—January 1, 2018 to January 1, 2019) – Corina Apostol has agreed to run again
  The Web News Editor shall post news items on the website, post calls for news on the listserv, and actively seek news items relevant to SHERA’s membership.

- **Members-at-large** (2 Year Terms—January 1, 2018 to January 1, 2020) – All four current members-at-large have agreed to run for another term
  Members-at-large have no set duties; they represent and support the organization to the world and advise the Board on relevant matters

- Karen Kettering led a **discussion about SHERA By-laws and Board Committee work:**
  - The question of Committee work and Board oversight was discussed in relation to the Emerging Scholar and Graduate Student Prizes
  - Graduate Student Prize was delayed due to a failure of communication between the Board and the Committee Chairs; questions were raised regarding the power of Board members to reject or overturn Committee recommendations and the role of membership votes at SHERA Business Meetings
  - SHERA’s By-laws (http://shera-art.org/about/our-bylaws.php) do not spell out the Board-Committee relationship and do not mention the method or function of member voting
  - It was agreed that no in-person voting should be made to make major decisions at any SHERA business meeting, as this excludes SHERA members who cannot travel to CAA and ASEESS; rather, all votes will be held online using Google Forms or a similar platform to include all dues-paying members
  - It was decided that Board will investigate how other societies handle Board-Committee relationships in their By-Laws and report back to the membership, allowing for a discussion to take place via H-SHERA
  - It was decided that any changes to the By-Laws will be proposed, discussed, and voted on by current members online

- **New members of the Prize Committee** are Molly Brunson, Jane Sharp, and Adrian Barr for a term of 2-3 years (staggered); Andrea Rusnock will remain to consult the committee and provide continuity; Erika Wolf stepped down (we thank her for her work over the last three years)

Submitted by Yelena Kalinsky  
(in place of Secretary-Treasurer Ksenia Nouril)  
November 13, 2017