

August 2018 Board of Directors Meeting

The Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association held its regular monthly meeting on 8 August 2018 at Banner University Medical Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. M. Smith, President, Presiding. Board members present: M. McDowell, Treasurer, C. Hendricks, Secretary, E. Foley, D. Smith, and B. Wheeler Members-at-Large.

Member Feedback: None.

General Announcement(s)/Discussion: TAAA Past President Bob Gilroy passed away on 7 August 2018. A memorial service is planned for 11:00 AM on 16 August 2018 at East Lawn Palms, East Grant Road. We do not have a procedure for handling memorial notices to the membership. This is something we might want to look into developing such a procedure.

The Spring Night under the Stars was a great success. Neighbors from around the community were invited to attend this community outreach event, and more than 50 visitors attended. Unfortunately, not everyone who signed up actually attended. The next event is planned for October.

Connections have been made with Cochise County and the next event will be advertised in the official county newsletter a couple of times before the event. Learned how to effectively communicate with the community. Conversations with the county have laid the groundwork for relaxing the restriction for the number of persons permitted onsite.

Minutes of 11 July 2018:

B. Wheeler moved to accept Minutes. Motion seconded by E. Foley. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: E. Foley moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by D. Smith. Motion carried.

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Old Business: Sale of excess equipment continues at a steady pace. A total of Twenty-nine items have been sold to buyers in three different countries for a total \$8,153.00.

D. Smith raised a question regarding items in the library that are obsolete and might be considered for sale. Some items might be valuable to collectors of astronomy reference materials. M. Smith will contact the librarian to discuss this issue.

New Business: Doug Smith will do a presentation on the Messier Marathon in at the February 2019 general membership meeting. This presentation will be combined with his Astronomical League presentation. The Messier Marathon is may be held on 9 March 2019.

Bill Wheeler will make a presentation on telescope construction at the March general membership meeting.

The TAAA Board Retreat is scheduled for 22 September 2018, from 9:00 to 11:00 at the Ward 6 Council office.

Mike McDowell reported that the deck extension to support the installation of the nine-inch folding refractor is complete. Conduit for power cables has been run. Power cables will be run, and connections will be done this month. Materials for enclosure for the nine-inch refractor has been obtained and construction of the enclosure is expected to be started this weekend. We should be able to set the scope up and have a house for it by next month. All the equipment for the CAC weather station all sky monitoring camera and cloud monitor has been ordered and three-fourths of the equipment has arrived. Mike and John Mead met with the county to initiate the permitting process for the sleeping room building, multi-purpose building and multi-scope viewing pad and side-walks. The county does not have a problem with permitting all of that activity at one time. List of solicitation of contractors put out to 17 contractors who have done work in Cochise county that may be potentially suitable for this next phase of development. Letters of interest and statements of qualifications were requested, and one contractor has responded. Ed Foley has identified another, contractor with lots of experience with metal buildings and they have given us a couple of quotes that are close to numbers sketched out by Mike.

There are no future plans to provide bus transportation to CAC due to the cost.

John Christiansen has asked to be relieved of refreshment coordinator. Mae is looking into finding a volunteer to replace John.

Discussed potential benefits to be gained from membership in, or association with Astronomy Without Borders. It was decided to ask Terri Lappin to give us a presentation on this organization

Adjourned at: 8:06 PM

Chuck Hendricks, Secretary