

February 2018 Board of Directors Meeting

The Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association held its regular monthly meeting on 14 February 2018 at Banner University Medical Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM. B. Bailey, President, Presiding. Board members present: M. Smith, Vice President, E. Foley, Treasurer, C. Hendricks, Secretary, J. Mead, B. Wheeler and B. Lofquist Members-at-Large. Other TAAA members present: C. Smith and R. Gilroy.

Member Feedback: None.

General Announcement(s)/Discussion: None.

Minutes of 10 January 2018: B. Lofquist introduced a motion to accept minutes with revisions. Revised to change E. Foley's resignation is from the Fund-Raising Committee and not the Treasurer's officer. Seconded by M. Smith. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: M. Smith introduced motion to accept treasurer's report. Seconded by . Motion carried.

—

Old Business: B. Gilroy presented update on the Equipment Loaner Program and the Nomination and Volunteer Resource Committee (NVRC).

Equipment Loaner activity has been slow as usual. We need to get the inventory organized into equipment that will be in the loaner program, and equipment that will remain at TIMPA for members' use. We should also have an inventory manager who will keep the equipment in good working order. The manager should also be responsible to check over equipment in the loaner program as it is returned to ensure that it is in good working order. Ralph Means has agreed to assume the position of Equipment Loan Coordinator. Bob needs bring Ralph up to speed. The TIMPA manager should also attend this meeting so he knows what is involved in the loaner program and to help us decide what equipment will be included. Bob will follow up with Ralph in the near future.

We have a severe situation in the NVRC. Of the four (4) members of the committee, only two (2) remain active. Dean Elliott was elected last May to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Shawn Hermann. He has responded enthusiastically whenever contacted but has never shown up for a meeting for task assignments. Cheryl Read sent an email at the end of December stating that she had a previous commitment and would not be available until mid-January 2018. She has not been heard from since. Bob will contact her and request her resignation. Ron Henke has been very helpful and supportive throughout. However, he has been called away on a family emergency.

Top priority is to put together a slate of candidates for the May election. We currently have one candidate for each position of the board of directors with the exception of the Treasurer's position. We also need candidates for the NVRC.

M. Smith presented a report on the progress being made in the development of policies related to TAAA volunteers who may work with or come into contact with minors at star parties or at CAC. She also provided information on the contents and possible costs of background checks

New Business:

The SPG has determined that the Large Roll-off Roof structure, as designed is no longer the best approach to the outreach and member use mission contemplated in the CAC master plan. With the construction of the RMO, less expensive approaches to a multi-telescope complex have been demonstrated.

SPG has approved and recommends endorsements by the board the following addition to the RMO complex: the installation of the 9" folded refractor on a 16'x16' or larger extended section of the deck. This telescope will be housed in a roll-back enclosure. Bob Reynolds request that the \$12,500 he pledged to the LRoR (that structure would have housed the folded refractor) be redirected to this project. SPG approves this change and further approves the use of residual funds in the RMO project (~\$2,500) to support this project. Bob Reynolds has indicated that he will donate additional funds, if necessary to complete this project.

SPG has developed a conceptual design for a simplified multi-telescope complex, using a concrete pad and roll-back enclosures. This design will accommodate a variety of telescopes for educational and general observing. The accessibility will be excellent as it will be located relatively close to the RMO, restrooms and parking. It is estimated that costs along with construction and operating complexity will be significantly lower than the LRoR design. With the advent of the RMO many functions of the original design can be better accomplished with this simpler design, in conjunction with the deck and control/warm room.

In order to make astro imaging facilities available to trained members and for education SPG has determined that existing facilities can be enhanced. The 14" telescope in the WRO can be used with a hyperstar unit. The telescope will continue to be available for training and general observing. This will be a significant savings over a dedicated imaging telescope.

SPG has studied the feasibility of installing a monitoring system that will provide members with online, up to date CAC weather and seeing data. This will be a valuable service to TAAA members when deciding whether to make the trip to CAC. SPG has approved the installation, subject to availability of funds.

SPG has formulated the following priorities for projects:

- 1 9" Folded Refractor installation addition to the ROM deck

- 2 Sleeping Room Structure
- 3 Multi-Telescope Complex
- 4 Modification of WRO 14" telescope for added astro imaging use

After considerable discussion, B. Wheeler introduced a motion to proceed with installation of the 9" folded refractor on a 16' x 16' or larger extended section of the deck and that the \$12,500 Bob Reynolds pledged to the LROR which would have housed the folded refractor be redirected to this revised project. Motion seconded by M. Smith. Motion carried. (The SPG report and recommendations are stated above).

M. Smith introduced a motion to construct a weather and sky monitoring station as previously described and that approximately \$5,000 be allocated to that effort. M. Smith revised her motion to specify that the donation made by M. Smith and Carter Smith be redirected towards the weather and sky monitoring station. Motion seconded by J. Mead. Motion carried.

Adjourned at: 9:10 PM

Chuck Hendricks, Secretary