

March 2020 Board of Directors Meeting

The Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association held its regular monthly meeting on 11 March 2020 at the UA College of Education. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. M. Smith, President, Presiding. Board members present: J. Mead, Vice President, M. McDowell, Treasurer, C. Hendricks Secretary, E. Foley, R. Means and D. Smith, Members-at-Large.

February meeting minutes:

J. Mead moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by D. Smith. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

D. Smith moved to accept the treasurer's report. Seconded by E. Foley. Motion carried.

Member Issues:

M. Smith noted the cancelation of the Tucson Festival of Books really disillusioned our Starry Messenger people. Science and Engineering Fair which was also scheduled this week was changed. Their award ceremony is going to be online only this year. They are not having kids there with their projects.

Old business:

M. McDowell reported on construction project at CAC. Construction continues to move forward. Forms are in place for building underpinnings and structural supports. Mike and Ed were at the site digging trenching for sections that needed to be hand-dug rather than machine-dug along the line for fiber optic cable installation.

The other major CAC business relates to the 40-inch telescope which is past its third year anniversary. Mike Zamath, from Florida who built the telescope, will be coming to CAC when he is finished in New Mexico. He will be going to CAC in the middle of April to do some upgrades on the telescope, clean the mirror and do some other maintenance. One of the upgrades is installation of the real counter-weight system to replace the temporary one initially installed. Another upgrade is swap out the current go to system for an improved system which will allow for wi-fi interface which will allow for running the scope from a computer, or tablet, or phone. We are also replacing the light shroud around the scope which has become damage in some areas. Total cost is estimated at between \$2,500 and \$3,000. I am asking the board for approval to spend up to \$3,000 for telescope maintenance.

E. Foley moved to authorize spending an amount not to exceed \$3,000 for maintenance on the 40-inch telescope. Seconded by J. Mead. Motion carried.

D. Smith inquired if there is an established maintenance budget for the 40-inch telescope. There does not seem to be such a budget. J. Meade said that the SPG develops budget for CAC every year and we have elements for that budget that haven't included observatory maintenance, but it is something SPG can do.

R. Means reported that the 14-inch at TIMPA is up and running the way it should be. There is an auto start update. He is trying to figure out how to get the update from his laptop to the keypad. He was advised to call Meade and tell them what the problem is, and they might be able to put the software on a CD that can be copied to his laptop. The people at Scope Stuff has no problems making a cover for the scope, but they need dimensions which Ralph will provide.

J. Mead mentioned that the TIMPA Planning Group decided to wait to figure out a schedule for the next meeting until Doug go through his presentation and see whether they needed to work on some items before his Astronomical League presentation.

E. Foley reported that the mirror sold for \$5,000.

M. Smith discussed changes to Minor Policy. The material she sent out last time did not encompass major changes. All changes were minor. R. Means moved to approve the final edit of the minor policy document including altering Level One to remove the check box. Seconded by D. Smith. Motion carried.

The Grand Canyon Star Party has requested that the title of the guide position be changed to "Star Guide". M. McDowell moved to approve the change. Seconded by E. Foley. Motion carried.

New Business:

D. Smith discussed an issue with people not returning books checked out from the library. Direction was given to have Doug write something up alerting the person checking out books must acknowledge responsibility for returning the books or reimbursing the cost of the books.

Discussed member concerns related to Yahoo Groups. E. Foley expressed concern about transition from Yahoo to IO when we know very little about the ownership of IO. However, because of member concerns, he recommended giving Ben Bailey authorization to migrate to IO. E. Foley moved to give Ben Bailey authorization to migrate. Seconded by J. Mead. Motion carried.

TAAA recommended actions regarding COVID-19. Special Interest Groups are seeking advice on how to deal with scheduled events that might be impacted by COVID-19. It was decided that it would be premature to cancel our planned activities without further information from state and local authorities.

Adjourned at 8:15

Chuck Hendricks, Secretary