

May 2020 Board of Directors Meeting

The Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association held its regular monthly meeting via ZOOM teleconference on 13 May due to restrictions imposed by local and state government officials relating to in-person contact. The meeting was called to order at 6:38 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 (via phone), Members-at-Large. Other TAAA members present, Terri Lappin, David Rossetter, Jim Knowles, Vance Turner, Don Cain, and Dennis Means.

The president requested a motion to move items up following the Treasurer's report. E. Foley moved to rearrange the agenda. Seconded by R. Means. Motion carried

Meeting Minutes of March 11 and March 29:

D. Smith moved to accept the minutes of March 11. Seconded by R. Means. Motion carried

J. Mead moved to accept the minutes of March 29. Seconded by E. Foley. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

D. Smith moved to accept the treasurer's report. Seconded by R. Means. Motion carried.

Next item on the agenda is the budget for 2020 – 2021. M. McDowell explained that the budget was basically an update of numbers from the previous budget. After some discussion it was decided to postpone budget matters until our next meeting.

Other Business: David Rossetter presented information relative to TAAA elections. He reported that some organizations do elections using ZOOM. Another suggestion is to use a system called Opavote, a relatively inexpensive system which can pre-qualify voting members. The committee is open to using either one of the two systems.

D. Smith moved that we make no changes to our March 29th decision to suspend elections. The motion was withdrawn after it was pointed out that since we are not changing any decision already made, no vote is required. The March 29th decision stands.

Jim Knoll seeks board approval to establish a YouTube Channel so that videos can be posted to YouTube. YouTube channel is free. There is no cost associated with it. It is similar to Facebook in that you can have subscribers. Theoretically we can Zoom either to Facebook live or send stuff to You Tube live. We could post training videos and other items of interest to members. It was decided that Jim should move forward with the requested action.

Terri discussed how we can take great advantage of a ZOOM account. For our first ZOOM meeting we did not have the public there. Advantages of meetings via ZOOM include

elimination of parking problems. Our speaker was in New Mexico, so we actually could have a speaker from practically anywhere. We open attendance to those members who have issues with driving at night. It could eliminate issues for those who might have issues with public speaking. Our members can participate in virtual star parties. We can expand our coverage in nationwide attendance, especially those living in light polluted areas. It was decided that Terri Lappin and Jim Knoll would be appointed a committee to explore opportunities to expand opportunities.

Planning for the Virtual Grand Canyon Star Party is underway. Ranger Lane is sifting through National Park Service regulations to determine the best way to move forward with a virtual star party.

ZOOM meetings are planned to continue through August. J. Mead suggested that we keep the ZOOM meetings restricted to members only. Agreed.

Old business:

M. McDowell reported that rules for emergency use facilities at CAC had been circulated but had not received any comments. Mae mentioned that we are not telling people that we (TAAA) are not providing (COVID) sanitation ourselves. R. Means moved to accept the CAC health emergency rules in use that were presented by M. McDowell with inclusion of a statement that people coming to CAC do so at their own risk. Motion carried.

R. Means reported that TIMPA will use a reservation system similar to that used at CAC. Rules for site use have been emailed to all members. COVID considerations limits TIMPA to using just three pads with two people per pad. The maximum number of people is limited to eight (8). TIMPA rules of use will be voted on at the June meeting.

There was some discussion on events scheduled for June. E. Foley moved to continue to avoid TAAA in-person meetings until the board next meets to consider opening up small group and large group meetings. Seconded by M. McDowell. Motion carried.

New Business:

M. Smith related that she and J. Mead had discussed having a leader meeting to inform leaders of what we are trying to do and also give leaders a chance to discuss their plans, needs or issues they might have.

Following the ZOOM general membership meeting, several members requested that we start having some regular ZOOM chat sessions. E. Foley mentioned that our leaders continue to engage our members in all activities and areas of interest.

Adjourned at 8:55PM

Chuck Hendricks, Secretary

