

July 2020 Board of Directors Meeting

The Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association held its regular monthly meeting via ZOOM teleconference on 08 July 2020 due to restrictions imposed by local and state government officials attempts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by limiting person-to-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, Members-at-Large. Other TAAA members present, David Rossetter, Don Cain, Dennis Means, Bob Reynolds, and C. Starlarski.

Meeting Minutes:

D. Smith moved to accept the minutes of July 8, 2020. Motion seconded by R. Means. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

J. Mead moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion seconded by D. Smith. Motion carried with one abstention.

Old Business:

CAC construction: We passed a bunch of inspections about two and a half weeks ago that paved the way for pouring some concrete. We had been disappointed that that had not occurred yet, but Thacker has assured me that he has scheduled pouring for the footings for next Tuesday (a week from July 7th) and the slabs for the two buildings will come within two or three days following that. Once this pour happens and the concrete sets up, vertical construction will follow. CAC is now operating on fiber optic cable as of this past Monday. We have figured out the logistics for getting cable over to the new buildings and to the Wally Rogers observatory area as well.

COVID-19: At our last meeting we covered current rules and use for TIMPA and CAC as well as paid and non-paid star party policies and general meetings. B. Reynolds suggests that COVID-19 may actually present TAAA with an opportunity to actually have people that are located throughout the country or wherever become more interested in becoming members especially to the extent that there are virtual star parties or ZOOMing or whatever. So, I guess it's just that when we come out the other side of COVID I just think that there may be ways to expand our membership in ways that have not been thought of before and/or provide services through ZOOM or other agencies. J. Mead commented that he thought the work that was done in preparing for visual presentations for the Grand Canyon Star Party and other TAAA events that were done at CAC were some of the most important observing events or activities that we have ever done at CAC and he thinks that the future is very bright for bringing in organizations like TAAA and a site like CAC to the world. B. Reynolds feels this is a real opportunity for some paradigm shifts and opportunities for outreach and expansion of our outreach. The ability to

bring astronomy to people in a whole new way, with CAC having fiber-optic and having the equipment it has out there we almost kind of stumbled into a really pretty amazing potential.

Elections: D. Rossetter presented the latest update on procedures for the upcoming TAAA elections. The NVRC has been planning for elections in August. There are two major priorities: 1) is that only members vote and to make it as easy as possible; 2) the actual voting procedures in order to be secure, anonymous, and reliable. In order to assure that only members vote, we will use a registration process. A Member planet link will be used for members to register for the meeting. The link will be sent to all members. The member fills it out with full name and email address. The member's information is verified in Member planet. Only one person can use that link. If there is a problem with the membership, we have time to resolve it. Once the meeting is scheduled through ZOOM, we can construct the ballot. If there is a nomination from the floor, the nomination can be added immediately. If there is a desire to vote by acclamation, that ballot can be brought up and voted on.

CAC Management and Planning: J. Mead and B. Reynolds presented a summary of the management plan distributed earlier today. The plan is to better establish the division of labor. The CAC planning group does the strategic planning, identifies resources, sets up long-term goals and objectives and also serves as a sounding board for the operations team. The CAC operations group operates and maintains the site in a high state of readiness and carries out construction projects. This formalizes both the strategic planning role and the operations role for CAC. B. Reynolds indicated that the processes are now more formalized, robust and much more clearly identified responsibilities. We have a separate but planning function which basically looks at capital plans and future plans for one year, two years, five years for the facility, programs and what have you.

M. Smith inquired if we had any issues with the Facebook interface. E. Foley suggested we keep doing what we are doing. It is an easy connection from ZOOM to Facebook. R. Means indicated he had no problem.

Adjourned @ 8:20

Chuck Hendricks, Secretary