

January 2021 Board of Directors Meeting

The Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association held its regular monthly meeting via ZOOM teleconference on 13 January 20231 due to restrictions imposed by local and state government officials' attempts to reduce the spread of COVIFD-19 by limiting person-to-person contact. The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM, M. Smith, President, presiding. Board members present: J. Mead, Vice President, M. McDowell, Treasurer, C. Hendricks, Secretary, E. Foley, D. Smith and R. Means, Members-at-Large. Other TAAA members in attendance C. Molyneaux, D. Means, J. Knoll, J. Kalas, R. Reynolds.

Minutes:

E. Foley moved to accept minutes. J. Mead seconded the motion. Motion carried. E. Foley amended his motion to correct the minutes to change "...third container to read fourth container..." and accept the corrected minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

R. Means moved to accept the treasurer's Report. E. Foley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CAC Construction Report:

M. McDowell reported on construction project at CAC. Timber is up on the buildings on the roofs and on the sides. Photos that J. Kalas provided show initial framing of the doorways. There are three doors in each building. The observing pad area has been cleared and initial leveling has happened.

Member Issues:

E. Foley mentioned that after each meeting the astro imaging group has been sending out the ZOOM link and date for the next meeting. They also send a reminder of the date and link just a couple of days before the next meeting. He finds this very useful and is something other interest groups might consider.

M. Smith mentioned that Terri is working on compiling a list of speakers for the Friday member meetings. If you have suggestions for the speaker list, now is a good time to contact Terri.

TAAA COVID19 Policies:

E. Foley reported that members are asking for clarity of TAAA policy related to COVID. It is worth thinking about our sites and at what point we would be comfortable with members being on the site and under what circumstances we would be comfortable with them being there.

After discussion at last night's CAC operations meeting, he added a restriction to the criteria list that should be considered. The list, shown below has been provided to all board members for review:

- The site directors will allow no more than half the pad site capacity to attend. In the case of CAC, no more than 5 public and 5-member pad attendees.
- Those who are more than 1 week from their second vaccination dose, may register for attendance at CAC/TIMPA when they send a photo of their vaccination card to the CAC/TIMPA director. (COVID protocols in place.)
- General members will be able to register for attendance at CAC/TIMPA, under the distancing and mask protocols, when AZ state daily infection rate has remained below 1000 per day in the

state daily infection rate has remained below 1000 per day in the state for 30 days (AZDHS.gov data dashboard). RMO remains closed.

- General members will be able to register for attendance at CAC/TIMPA and not be required to wear masks or distance, when Cochise and Pima counties both remove their respective mask requirements.
- The RMO and the Learning Center buildings will be open to members without Covid restrictions when AZ state daily infection rate has remained below 100 per day in the state for 30 days (AZDHS.gov data dashboard). Site attendance restrictions can be removed.

D. Smith moved to approve the criteria to be used when deciding to open CAC and TIMPA and distributed to the membership. E. Foley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

R. Reynolds asked if D. Smith had received a response from Astronomical League concerning publicizing advertising our member observatory project. No response has been received and the request will be revisited.

We still have thirteen people signed up for the member observing pads. The next board meeting, or the one following that, a request for action on the interest of the 13 to 15 perspective member observatory project, so this is a “heads-up.”

There is a lot of chatter going around about member DOB pads. This has had several iterations in the planning group and is expected to come up again.

J. Knoll discussed inventorying the containers. Members who have equipment in the containers will be notified that storage will be transitioned to a fee-based setup so they can decide if they want to continue keeping their equipment in the containers. The estimated storage fee is \$8.00 to \$12.00 per month.

J. Kalas related that roughly 50% of floor space in both of those member storage containers is not available at this moment for member storage. A fourth container would allow all the club stuff to be removed from the member storage containers.

E. Foley presented results of exploration of storage solutions for videos and documents for TAAA for leaders to store what they create and gateways for members to access that TAAA content. The questions are: What content should be public, members only, or board only?

- Public – To be as open with documents as possible without compromising the private information that's in Member Planet that's been deemed private.
- Member's only - The current monthly bulletin should be distributed to the members and placed on the website the month following issue. Executive committee meetings of the board are generally private and should be password protected.
- Existing policies – We will revisit these policies and make sure they are still relevant and make them available to the public and to our membership on our website after June 1st. These policies were put in place to govern our members.
- Handbooks and other materials – Available to members.
- Reference materials – Make visible to public.

The Special Interest Groups should be informed that we have available on YouTube a place for them to upload videos.

M. Smith moved that the TAAA Board approve sending a letter of endorsement for Dark Sky certification of the Chiricahua National Monument. Motion seconded by J. Mead. Motion carried.

M. Smith questioned if we need to retain the answering service phone number for. E. Foley mentioned that there is a system that will send an email when a message is received. C. Hendricks will confer with him (Foley) on the system.

Adjourned 8:50 PM

Chuck Hendricks, Secretary