

information for TAAA BOD meeting ;Nov 8 2023 BOD minutes Report from John Mead

Smith, S Mae - (ssmith) <ssmith@arizona.edu>

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To:TAAA BoD <taaabod@tucsonastronomy.org>

Cc:Jim Knoll <jknoll425@gmail.com>;Ben Bailey <bbailey@raytheon.com>;John S Mead <jmead@siu.edu>;Ross Carnes <rgd130@gmail.com>

TAAA Board of Directors Open Meeting Minutes: Nov 8, 2023

The teleconference Zoom Board open meeting was called to order at 6:35PM, M. Smith, President, presiding. Board members present: E. Foley, Vice President; B. Whitehead, Treasurer; R. Reynolds, Secretary and Members-at-Large J. Kalas, D. Rossetter, Suzanne Bailey.

Approval of Minutes:

- A motion was made by E. Foley to approve the minutes from the Oct 11, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by S. Bailey and subsequently approved by a vote of 5-0 with one abstention.

Presidents Report:

- It was noted that a lot of work has gone into the upcoming CAC Open House and it was suggested that appreciation be shown whenever possible.

Treasurers Report:

- The October Report showing Sept financials was reviewed as it was not finalized for the last BOD meeting. The only changes were minor changes to cash balances, unearned lease payments, interest earned and resulting in net income of \$9,184.
- John Kalas reported he had all but 2 of the MOP lease acceptances signed.
- The November Report showing October financials was then presented. Items of interest for cash balances included both uncashed refund MOP refund checks as well as the failure of the deposit of a \$29,000 check from the buyer of the John Kalas observatory interest. This needs immediate follow-up as this deposit is necessary to fund refunds to the other lease holders.
- End of Oct assets equaled \$1,366,757 which was approximately \$5k less than prior month.
- Oct income statement showed increased GTTG and 32” project donations that drove net revenue to \$20,257 for the month.
- Oct budget comparison showed net revenue and profit running approximately \$10k over budget due, primarily, to increased donations while expenses were on budget.
- A motion was made by E. Foley to accept the Treasurers Reports for the financial months of September and October. The motion was seconded by S. Bailey and passed by a vote of 7-0.

Review of Old Business

TAAA Board Action Item List as of 11/8/23

Date		Date	
Entered	Item	Completed	Comments
11/9/22	Volunteer Recognition Committee	11/8/23	Jim O'Conner has accepted Chairman role
3/9/23	Develop TAAA vendor & affiliate listings	Long Term	Mae/Barbara to resume after completion of 990

6/6/23	Close out & transfer safe deposit box		Safe deposit box contents retrieved. Kalas/Mae working new options.
6/21/23	Resolution TAAA/TIMPA relationship		Ben Bailey, John Mead, S. Bailey to draft revised TIMPA agmt for BOD
8/9/23	Membership questions to be submitted to D. Rossetter		
9/13/23	Implement Member Planet data base recommendations		David and Dan
10/11/23	Membership communication changes		Led by S. Bailey exit questionnaire & member satisfaction survey
10/11/23	TIMPA Strategy session	11/7/23	Session completed incl reapproval of 16" project
10/11/23	Investigate alternatives to Membership Planet		David Rossetter to start with looking at Club Express
10/11/23	Strategic Planning Effort		Need to screen candidates for leading effort
11/8/23	Redeposit \$29,000 MOP lessee check		Need to insure no problem with previous deposit failure

CAC Reports:

- Member Observatories are complete and lessees are in process of moving in and signing acceptance documentation. Initial feedback is positive with some minor issues being worked with Frank Lopez to perfect remote operations and prevent bird entries.
- The 32" telescope project team is moving forward with design specifications and a structural review observatory design options and funding raising. Funding target is \$75k but have raised \$42k so far.
- Susanne should contact Terri Lappin to insure a 32" update is given at the next 4 general meetings.
- The sale of the Ash Dome is proceeding with the generation of the revised parts inventory now that weather at CAC has cooled down.
- A discussion took place on how to value the 32" for financial and insurance coverage. Options included replacement cost, prior value booked by donor or an assigned value. It was agreed that Ed and Suzanne would recommend a value for the telescope only and vet the value with our insurance underwriter.

Member Planet Database Update:

- David Rossetter reported that naming format issues have finally been fixed.
- Dan Chin recommendations are still being worked.
- Example member questionnaire data has been successfully tested in Member Planet.
- It appears manual entry of checks into Member Planet is now working.
- Investigation of Club Express as an alternative to Member Planet is ongoing. It was noted that Club Express is more expensive but appears to be more capable/comprehensive. In addition, there is an overriding concern about Member Planet being a slow pay on money due TAAA. Slow pay was a sporadic problem but is now become routine.
- Cost of Club Express is \$240-260 per month plus \$150 initial set up cost. Transaction costs between Club Express and Member Planet are about the same at approximately 3%.
- It was agreed that David will run a "preventative download" of TAAA data into Club Express to take advantage of 60-day free trail.
- It was noted that much care should be taken to insure that any transition from Member Planet anticipates all necessary member enrollment timing, payments and termination policies. It was recommended that David and Suzanne will contact a Club Express user for further input.

- It was suggested that TAAA get a tour of the Club Express product as well as develop a detailed database transition plan.
- A request was made to save all questionnaires in Member Planet especially those related to the GCSP.

Proposed TAA Strategic Planning Initiative

- Reviewed 13 resumes and Wendy Far was selected as facilitator/leader. Mae and Suzanne will coordinate with Wendy to schedule a way forward in first quarter of 2024.
- Comments, questions or objectives of planning initiative should be forwarded to Suzanne.

Holiday Party Planning

- Ed and Janet Foley proposed either Dec 9 or 16 for the holiday party at their house. After some discussion, it was decided that the party would be Dec 9. Anticipated attendance is 50-60. Party will start at 5pm.

A motion was put forward by David Rossetter to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by S. Bailey. The motion was approved 7-0 and the Board meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

To:leaders@tucsonastronomy.org

Cc:gomez5512@yahoo.com;Means, Ralph <bookbuyer1769@gmail.com>;Bailey, Ben A RTX <bbailey@rtx.com>;+1 other

Mon 12/11/2023 1:23 PM

External Email

Update of Activities:

- The TIMPA 16 project received the go-ahead from the TAAA Board in November (following discussion of the TIMPA site use agreement).
- With TIMPA, City of Tucson and Pima County approvals in hand, a Request for Bids for the telescope pad was prepared and issued to a list of concrete contractors.

Plans for December:

- Set up contractor site visits.
- Conduct a check-out of the telescope, and schedule further work at Starizona, as required.

John Mead
TIMPA-16 Team