

TAAA Board of Directors Open Meeting Minutes: December 12, 2024

The teleconference Zoom Board open meeting was called to order at 6:32PM, M. Smith, President, presiding. Board members present: B. Whitehead, Treasurer; E. Foley, Vice President; B. Reynolds, Secretary and Members-at-Large D. Rossetter, S. Ferris, J. Kalas. Members attending included: Doug Smith, Ben Bailey, Jim Knoll, John Mead and Nelsey Toner.

Presidents Report:

- Mae noted the attendance of 111 at the latest monthly member meeting(35 in person, 52 zoom and 23 on YouTube). This is better than previous attendance utilizing Facebook.
- Attendance at holiday party was between 40 and 45.
- The Tucson Outdoor Lighting Committee has restarted activity as the City has hired and unknown advisor.
- There is a letter writing campaign regarding the lighting at the newly planned Tucson sports complex.
- Susan O'Conner noted that calendar sales have not been very good with approximately 40 of 80 unsold.
- Dean Reeges is offering an astronomical review presentation. Contact Mae for more information.

Approval of Minutes:

- A motion was made to approve the Nov 13, 2024 minutes by E. Foley. The motion was seconded by D. Rossetter and approved with a vote of 7-0. Ed Foley requested that the portion of the minutes that included the TIMPA presentation be reduced in size for aid subsequent publication.
- A motion was made to approve the Sept 11, 2024 BOD minutes was made by E. Foley and seconded by B. Reynolds. Motion was then approved by a vote of 7-0.

Treasurers Report

- There was a minor change to the October financials to incorporate a missing entry. A motion was then made by B. Reynolds to accept the amended October financials which was seconded by E. Foley. The motion passed with a vote of 7-0.
- November financials are now based on weekly remittances from Member Planet.
- Barbara noted that the TAAA November balance sheet showed approx \$77k in its checking account and approximately \$172k in money market accounts. These balances include the recent \$57.7k from an estate settlement. The endowment account has a balance of just under \$8k. In addition, fixed assets totaled approximately \$1.406 million with net assets sitting at \$1.669 million.
- The net revenue for the month of Nov was approx \$60k while year to date stood at approximately \$88k.
- Revenue for the month was significantly over budget while expenses were slightly over budget resulting in net \$48k favorable net revenue budget variance for overall TAAA operations.

- Deposits to the endowment fund will be discussed during the CAC report. Also, Barbara needs direction on where revenue from donated equipment should go now that the TIMPA 16 project is complete.
- A motion was made by E. Foley to approve the Nov financials and seconded by D. Rossetter. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.
- E. Foley noted that there is a link on the TAAA website to the TAAA 990's.

Review of Old Business

TAAA Board Action Item List as of 12/12/24

Date		Date	
Entered	Item	Completed	Comments
3/13/24	Continued follow up on Strategic Plan		Mae taking suggestions for best method to achieve
8/8/24	Listing of MP activities to be migrated from Terri		David to publish list from Terri
9/5/24	Implement business expense reporting procedure		Barbara to send out
9/11/24	Research tractor insurance coverage while on access rd		Still awaiting feedback from insurance agent
9/11/24	Insurance valuations for Ketelsen		Pending decision on location and observatory type
9/11/24	Present new member introduction plan		New member committee to report to Board in Dec
9/11/24	Report on status of membership status of leaders		D. Rossetter needs a list of leader names
10/3/24	Presentations on non-donation revenue streams		All complete except site fee revenues(?)
10/9/24	Presentation on loaner program		Focus on inventory & utilization rate in Dec
10/9/24	Report on TidyHQ Testing		D. Rossetter/E. Foley/B. Whitehead
10/9/24	Financial data presentation for Bulletin		B. Whitehead in Jan
10/9/24	Recommendation to migrate to TidyHQ		
12/5/24	Implementation of Elapsed Membership questionire		Including any revisions resulting from comments
12/12/24	Disable EV meter at CAC		J. Knoll
12/12/24	Equip donation policy & posit descrip w/o holding period		Ed/Doug to present at Jan BOD meeting
12/12/24	Report on equipment needed for programs/sites		From J. Knoll, S. Ferris, D. Smith, R. Means
12/12/24	Status of proposal for new tablet or camera		For monthly member meetings

CAC Reports

- The 32" scope is moving along well with completion of clearing, slab and piers. The DFM baseplate for the telescope is installed and ready to accept telescope. Steel fabrication and procurement of TAAA provided items are on budget and schedule thus far. However, the cost/budget forecast is pending the steel fabrication estimate so there is still a possibility of budget issues in the future.
- Ed Foley suggested that \$25k of the recently received \$57k legacy gift be set aside for the Ketelsen observatory. A motion was then put forward by Bob Reynolds to allocate \$25k to build a Wally2 contingent on Stinger/Wally Rogers usage study conducted in Jan and Feb. E. Foley seconded the motion and it was passed by a vote of 7-0.
- Motions regarding allocation of any additional funds to the 32" will be reconsidered in Jan/Feb based on further costing data.
- E. Foley then made a motion that \$7,720k of the \$57k legacy gift be moved into the endowment fund. The motion was seconded by B. Reynolds and passed by a vote of 7-0. It was further noted that the new contribution be invested in the same way as existing endowment funds.

- It was further noted that the rubble berm has been relocated to the eastern perimeter of the member pads.
- Jim Knoll noted that the FRO has been upgraded with a new focuser and the Wally Rogers mount has been fixed and is back in operation. It was also noted that we have 23 reservations for the holiday observing session at CAC.
- It was noted that the CAC access codes will be changed once the 32” is in operation.

TIMPA

- Operations have a normal month with the exception of some damage to the paddle for the 16”. Repairs are underway at Starizona.
- No planning group meeting was held this month.
- Site usage planning for next year include an increase to 2 nights per month.

Membership Systems Update

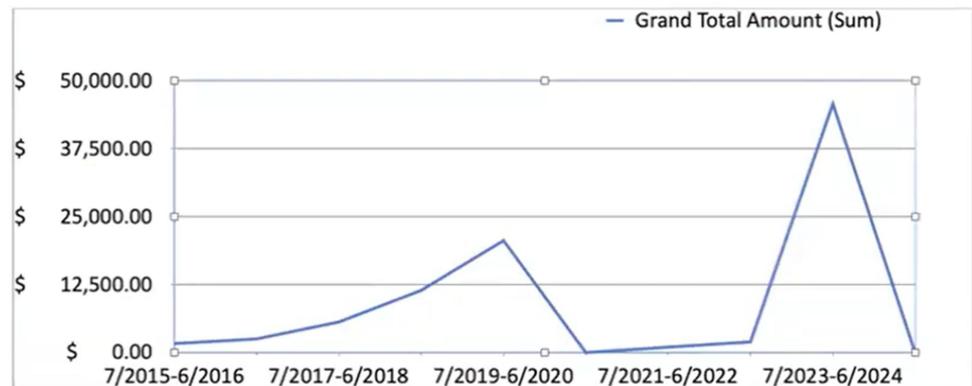
- A further deep dive has yielded more positive impressions of the TidyHQ offering. David Rossetter showed some examples of TidyHQ functionality as it might apply to TAAA. The reception by the BOD was positive as were the functionality improvements offered by TidyHQ.

Donor Equipment Review

- The Treasurer presented the following history of the revenue from donated equipment:

Table 1 Pivot

Fiscal Year	Amount (Sum)
7/2015-6/2016	\$ 1,634.84
7/2016-6/2017	\$ 2,498.87
7/2017-6/2018	\$ 5,612.08
7/2018-6/2019	\$ 11,422.60
7/2019-6/2020	\$ 20,600.25
7/2020-6/2021	0
7/2021-6/2022	\$ 998.50
7/2022-6/2023	\$ 1,950.00
7/2023-6/2024	\$ 45,715.00
(blank)	0
Grand Total	90432.14



- The spike in 2023/24 is due to the \$40k for the 32” dome.
- Graphic does not include equipment received but not yet sold or items that have been retained for use by TAAA.
- The two questions that arose were whether any policy changes were required and how current revenues compared with historical revenues.
- The current policy requirement to hold all newly received items for 6 months was the first policy item discussed. A motion was made by E. Foley to eliminate the holding period from current equipment sales policy and to generate new policy and position descriptions for review by the Board. The motion was seconded by J. Kalas and passed

with a vote of 6-0. Doug and Ed will present a draft of an amended policy and position description to incorporate both the elimination of holding periods and accelerate the pace of disposals.

Loaner Equipment Program Review

- Though Ralph was not in attendance, the report to the BOD prepared by Ralph Means was reviewed. The report covered the last 10 years of equipment loan activity including what equipment was loaned to who and for how long. The summary of the report is that the utilization rate has been quite low given 4 scopes were loaned to 10 people over the 10 year window.
- However, the 3 of the dobs are used for Doug Smith classes.
- Bob Reynolds made a motion to request a report from S. Ferris, J. Knoll, R. Means, D. Smith citing what scopes and accessories are needed for current programs and loaner pool. A second was provided by E. Foley and the motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

New Member Planning

- Ben Bailey summarized the recent proposal for New Member meetings/onboarding that was put together by Ben, Mae and Stephen Ferris.
- Basically, proposal was for standard formatted, quarterly meetings that were in person and on line to provide new members an overview of TAAA. It would include how new members can participate, get involved and learn more.
- Meetings would start in early 2025 and feature new member self introductions followed by directed to their stated interests.
- Effort could include follow up survey.

Member Meeting Technology

- Jim Knoll noted that our current table which provides a camera is now obsolete.
- Subject to more research on available options/technology, Jim noted that a new tablet or dedicated camera and/or laptop will likely be sought in a coming BOD session.
- Challenges include cost, low level lighting and potential need for dedicated camera operator.

A motion was put forward by E. Foley to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by B. Reynolds. The motion was approved 6-0 and the Board meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.