

TAAA Board of Directors Open Meeting Minutes: July 9, 2025

The teleconference Zoom Board open meeting was called to order at 6:30PM, E. Foley, President presiding. Board members present: M. McDowell, Treasurer; D. Rossetter, Vice President and B. Reynolds, Secretary; as well as Members-at-Large, D. Eicher, S. Ferris and J. Kalas and immediate Past President, Mae Smith. Members attending included: Jim Knoll, John Mead, Bernie Stinger, Terri Lappin and Nelsey Toner.

Approval of Minutes:

- A motion was made by Bob Reynolds to approve the June 11, 2025 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mae Smith and the motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Status of Open Action Items:

TAAA Board Action Item List as of 07/11/2025

| Date Entered | Item | Assigned to | Date Completed | Comments |
|--------------|--|-----------------|----------------|--|
| Long ago | Develop award plan/structure for TAAA | Rossetter/Pete | | Need to consult NVRC for leadership |
| 3/13/24 | Continued follow up on Strategic Plan/Org Chart | Foley | | BOD working its way thru all Plan components |
| 9/11/24 | Insurance valuations for Ketelsen | Reynolds/Kalas | | Pending bid for DKO construction |
| 10/9/24 | Recommendation to migrate to TidyHQ | Foley/Rossetter | | Tied to progress on volunteer tracking/MS Access |
| 12/12/24 | Status of proposal for new tablet or camera | Lappin | 7/9/25 | Pending input from Terri |
| 2/12/25 | Need mount for Stellarview refractor by end 2025 | Ferris | | Or sell the refractor |
| 4/3/25 | Create & implement star party volunteer award | Knoll/Stinger | | Ed to follow up |
| 5/8/25 | Issue policy on candidate conflicts during elections | Hermes | | Expect in fall 2025 |
| 5/8/25 | CAC/TIMPA reserve study | Knoll/McDowell | | By end of 2025 |
| 5/15/25 | Establish CAC & TIMPA capital improvement accounts | McDowell | | Incl remaining MOP/RV expansion funds in CAC act |
| 6/11/25 | Budget for Radio Astronomy SIG | Sandy Nichols | 7/9/25 | |

- It was noted that Jim Knoll and Bernie Stinger have been working on awards for volunteers that we will hear about later. It was also noted that the Bach award does not include input from TAAA BOD. John Kalas offered his assistance to any future award committee.
- Ed Foley suggested another strategic planning session later this year and will be contacting people to make necessary arrangements.
- The Board noted it is open to a future budget request from the Radio Astronomy SIG.

CAC Report

- Gravel extensions for the RV extension and MOP's have been completed as well as the annual fee billings for both the member pads and observatories.
- As monsoon season is upon us and sponsored activities wind down at CAC, it was noted that individual users must go thru site open and close training if they want to use the site.

- The 32" observatory structure is complete and operational. The 32" telescope components have been moved from Warren's garage to the CAC site and assembly is scheduled for this fall.
- Ed Foley then walked the BOD thru the following cost status of the 32" project. Ed noted that construction costs have increased for not just the 32" project but the Dean Ketelsen Observatory as well.

| 32" Cost Forecast as of 7/1/25 | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Scope/Activity | Assigned to: | Actual Spent to Date | To Go Forecast | Forecast at Completion | Comments |
| Package 1 - Scope Acquisition & Move | | | | | |
| County Bldg Permits | E. Foley | 1,695 | 0 | 1,695 | |
| Tom | E. Foley | 3,868 | 0 | 3,868 | |
| DFM | E. Foley | 7,002 | 0 | 7,002 | |
| Misc | TAAA et al | 6,365 | 0 | 6,365 | |
| Transport from CO | TAAA et al | 1,782 | 0 | 1,782 | |
| | Subtotal | 20,712 | 0 | 20,712 | |
| Package 2 - Site, Foundation, Pier, Building, Roll Off Roof | | | | | |
| Construct observatory | Maddox | 110,000 | 29,920 | 139,920 | Based on Maddox invoice dated 6/25/25 |
| TAAA provided items/mtls | TAAA | 7,513 | 487 | 8,000 | From "TAAA Provided List" |
| Skid steer rental | TAAA | | 500 | 500 | Allocation of CAC skid steer rental |
| Contingency - additional contractor work | Maddox | | 2,000 | 2,000 | Possible post June Maddox billings |
| Punchlist items | Various | | 695 | 695 | From Larry's 5/28 punchlist |
| | Subtotal | 117,513 | 33,602 | 151,115 | |
| | | | Costs to July 1 | 171,827 | Move to AZ, Observatory Construction |
| Package 3 - Scope Relo & Install | | | | | |
| Installation consultant | Tom | 0 | 4,000 | 4,000 | Based on paying gas, hotels, food |
| Frank consultations | DFM | 0 | 2,000 | 2,000 | |
| Crane rental | TAAA | 0 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 3 days 8 hours at \$95/hr \$2280 |
| Flatbed truck rental | TAAA | 0 | 0 | 0 | Use skidsteer trailer |
| Donation to Golden Rule | TAAA | 0 | 0 | 0 | Pymt for equip operator & donate scope skid |
| Contingency | TAAA | | 3,000 | 3,000 | |
| Gravel | TAAA | | 1,500 | 1,500 | Cost of white gravel surround? |
| | Subtotal | 0 | 15,500 | 15,500 | |
| Package 4 - Scope Commissioning | | | | | |
| Installation consultant | Tom | 0 | 4,000 | 4,000 | |
| Contingency | TAAA | | 2,000 | 2,111 | |
| Frank consultations | DFM | 0 | 3,000 | 3,000 | |
| | Subtotal | 0 | 9,000 | 9,111 | |
| | | | Install and Commissioning | 24,611 | |
| Package 5 - Optical Redesign | | | | | |
| Install direct focus camera package | Starizona? | | | 0 | Conversion to f/3 prime focus camera |
| | Subtotal | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Build to Commission Total | 138,225 | 58,102 | 196,438 | |
| | | | Total Raised Through June | 157,438 | Includes first \$25k from John Soule estate |
| | | | July Board transfer | 25,000 | July Board addition of another \$25K from Soule from DKO |
| | | | July Pledges | 14,000 | Pledges \$10,000 and \$4,000 |
| | Total Funds Raised | | | 196,438 | |
| | Shortfall/-Overage | | | 0 | |

- Bob Reynolds then walked the BOD thru the following summary of ongoing CAC project costs and funding:

| CAC Project Status as of July 1, 2025 | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---|---------------|
| | | Current | | Revised |
| | Total Fcst Cost | Unfunded | Proposed Forward Plan | Unfunded |
| 32" | 196,438 | 39,000 | Add \$25k of Soule funding currently allocated to DKO + \$14k in pledges | 0 |
| 32" Optics f/3 | 10,000 | 10,000 | Fund raise thru imaging community(?) | 10,000 |
| DKO | 35,000 | 0 | Move Soule \$25k to 32" + fund raise, assign star party/equip sales to build Wally2 | 0 |
| New Pads | 14,000 | 14,000 | New pads are all funded by Lessees as Member Pads | 0 |
| 25" Enclosure | 5,000 | 5,000 | Project needs a donor to proceed (or sell scope to fund DKO?) | 0 |
| Add'l MOP Gravel | 2,000 | 2,000 | Approved & paid for by MOP Lessees or not completed | 0 |
| Rework county roads | 15,000 | 15,000 | Paid out of reserves but needs better estimate | 0 |
| Replace A/C units | 40,000 | 40,000 | Paid out of reserves | 0 |
| Total | 317,438 | 125,000 | | 10,000 |

- Bob Reynolds then presented the following:

Motions for 32" Project

- Motion #1: Project Cost for the 32" Telescope
 - Authorize a total project cost of not to exceed \$196,438
 - Increase amount authorized for Southwest Traditions from \$125,000 to \$142,615 with to date expenditures of \$140,000
 - \$53,823 for all remaining project activity including transport of telescope from CO to storage, transport of telescope from storage to CAC, TAAA provided materials as well as assembly and commissioning of telescope at CAC. To date expenditures are approximately \$30,000.
- Motion #2: Funding for the 32" Telescope
 - Reassign \$25,000 from Soule estate from DKO to the 32" project for a total of \$196,438.

- Motion #1 above was formally made by Bob and seconded by Mae Smith. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.
- Motion #2 above was formally made by Bob and seconded by John Kalas. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.
- Bob Reynolds then presented the following:



Motions for DKO/Member Pad Projects

- Motion #1: Project Cost for the DKO
 - Authorize a total project cost of not to exceed \$35,000
 - Authorization for Southwest Traditions reimbursable contract not to exceed \$35,000
- Motion #2: Funding for the DKO
 - Initiate funding campaign for unfunded \$25,000.
 - Assign proceeds of both TAAA excess equipment sales and CAC Star Party revenue to the DKO project until \$25,000 is raised.
- Motion #3: Authorize a member pad project to add 4 new pads using lessee funds (ie project is self funded)

- Motion #1 above was formally made by Bob and seconded by John Kalas. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.
- Motion #2 above was formally made by Bob and seconded by Mike McDowell. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.
- Motion #3 above was formally made by Bob and seconded by Mae Smith. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Treasurers Report

- It was noted that the June report closes the books for the fiscal year.
- As of end of June, total assets now stand at \$1,675,756 with no debt and approx. \$46k of monthly, non-cash depreciation.
- Transition activities continue between Mike and Barbara, our former Treasurer.
- Preparation of 990 has begun.
- Cash at end of June stood at \$242,241 with revenue for the fiscal year coming in at \$216k. Approx \$98k of this was from member donations while star party revenue was the second largest source at ~\$27k. With fiscal year expenses coming in at ~\$101k, net revenue for the '24-'25 fiscal year was ~\$114k.
- A request was made to for a history of the TAAA balance sheet
- A motion was made by B. Reynolds to approve the Treasurers Report as presented for the financial month of June. The motion was seconded by D. Rossetter and passed by a vote of 8-0.

TIMPA

- Stephen Ferris updated the BOD on the newly signed 5 year lease between the City and the TIMPA organization. Rent went up 2%.

- Operations are slow as monsoon season is upon us. All equipment is fully operational and consideration is being given to imaging related activities(including use of SeeStars).

Volunteer Award Program

- Jim Knoll made the following presentation on the subject of volunteer recognition:

• Why an Award Program?

- TAAA has one of the best and probably the most extensive programs
 - Ranked #2 in Night Sky Network nationwide
- Data since 2014
- Over the past 10 years, almost 200 volunteers have participated in outreach providing almost 16,000 volunteer hours
- Number of Participants average 12,000-15,000 annually
- Currently (2025) over 80 volunteers participate in SMSIG, School, and TSA programs
- These volunteers pour their heart and soul into outreach
 - Use own gas, equipment, & time reaching many thousand participants each year.
- Been talking about an award program for years – time to implement!
 - August Presentation on Outreach. Announce Awards Program at that time if approve

| TAAA Outreach Award Program | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 2025 | | | | | | | |
| Level | Hour Range | Award Swag | Estimated # Volunteers | Estimated Cost | Total Estimate Cost | Annual Estimated Cost (Future) | Comments |
| Outreach | 25, 100, 250, 500, 1000 | Button w/Logo & # Hours | 140 (buttons) | \$829 | \$829 | | 25 hrs=100; 100 hours=50; 250 hours=50; 500 hours=50; 1000+ hours=50 |
| Planet | 50-99 | Rechargeable Battery Handwarmer | 55 | \$10 | \$550 | | |
| Star | 100-249 | Red LED Nametag | 40 | \$20 | \$800 | | |
| Nebula | 250-499 | Outback Hat with logo from AZTEC | 15 | \$31 | \$465 | | |
| Galaxy | 500-999 | Blue/Black Polo shirt with logo from AZTEC | 10 | \$38 | \$380 | | |
| Universe | 1,000+ | Duffel Bag from AZTEC | 3 | \$185 | \$555 | | |
| TOTAL | | | 263 | | \$3,579 | \$750 | |
| Funding | Received from Non-Profit program | | \$539 | | | | |
| | Required (TSA or New) | | \$3,040 | | | | |

- A suggestion was made to offer credits in lieu of apparel and hat items.
- A motion was then made by Mike MacDowell to authorize the outreach awards as presented. The motion was seconded by Mae Smith and passed by a vote of 8-0.

Apparel Coordination

- Ed Foley announced the appointment of Ann Mayaronow as the new Apparel Coordinator.

A motion was put forward by M. MacDowell to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by D. Rossetter. The motion was approved 8-0 and the Board meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.