

## TAAA Board of Directors Open Meeting Minutes: August 13, 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, Doug Smith, Ross Carnes and Nelsey Toner.

### Approval of Minutes:

- A motion was made by Mike McDowell to approve the July 9, 2025 minutes. The motion was seconded by Bob Reynolds and the motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

### TAAA Board Action Item List as of 08/13/2025

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
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	8/13/25	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 exp funds in CAC accountt
7/7/25	MOP Refund	McDowell/Knoll/Foley		Or additional gravel?
7/7/25	Identify funds to Member Pads	McDowell		

### Status of Open Action Items:

- Still no luck on favorable pricing for MS Access so David has turned his attention back to investigating Club Express as an update to Member Planet. A planned test of 50 users is being planned to confirm the upgrade decision. Monthly cost for Club Express will be similar to the combined use of Member Planet and MS Access.
- Doug Smith suggested investigating existing mount inventory for use with the Stellarvue refractor.
- Mike has not yet completed the forensic accounting necessary to identify account balances for the last 4 items. Ed offered to work with Mike to identify the MOP refund amounts before the end of the month.

### Treasurers Report

- Mike is spending quite a bit of time with Barbara to continue with the position handover. In addition, he had been working to get a draft of the 990 to Ed and Barbara before the end of August.

## CAC Report

- The announcement for the 9/13 Evening Under the Stars has been sent out. It is anticipated that there will be 13 scopes running for the event.
- In preliminary planning for 32" open house. Timing to be proposed in next BOD meeting. The provision of a bus from Tucson to the site is being considered to support the event.
- The site will be close November 5 and 6 for weed control spraying.
- A planned, paid star party that will be open to the public is being planned for Dec 27 with details, pricing, etc to be announced.
- Ed Foley noted that the observatory has passed the final county inspection and scope assembly is scheduled for Sept 27.
- Bob Reynolds then made a motion to increase the final payment Southwest Traditions from the previously approved \$142,615 to \$143,000 in order to make final payment to the contractor. The motion was seconded by Mike McDowell and passed by a vote of 8-0.
- John Kalas will be holding a meeting with road maintenance contractor at CAC to explore road upgrade options. John will report on his findings.

## DKO Observatory and Related Pad Projects

- John Kalas then presented the following cost estimates for the DKO and related projects:

Dean Ketelsen Observatory Construction Cost Estimate			J. Kalas 8/13/25
	Task / Expense	Responsibility	Cost (Est.)
1	Clearing and grading	M. Walhay	\$400.00
2	Purchase three sets of roof wheels	J. Kalas	\$200.00
3	Observatory construction	R. Maddox	\$41,000.00
4	Run electric from WRO to DKO	J. Pacheco	\$3,720.00
5	Purchase four light fixtures	J. Kalas	\$160.00
6	Purchase, fab & install four holddown clamps	J. Kalas / TAAA	\$805.00
7	Fabricate & install roof open/close mechanism	J. Kalas / TAAA	\$3,500.00
8	Purchase & install steel pier	J. Kalas / TAAA	\$3,000.00
9	Purchase & assemble shelf system	J. Kalas / TAAA	\$200.00
#	Purchase 6' long table & four folding chairs	J. Kalas	\$150.00
#	Purchase & apply gravel for one park space	J. Kalas / TAAA	\$500.00
#	Contingency		\$5,363.00
#	Telescope & Mount components	J. Kalas / TAAA	tbd
		Total Estimate	\$58,998.00

- John noted that clearing is complete for both the DKO and the 4 new member pads. Gravel will be spread by members. John offered to fund the missing telescope and mount components in addition to his prior commitment.
- Estimated costs for the DKO are approximately double what costs for equivalent observatories cost at the time of the MOP builds.
- Contract with Southwest Traditions will be cost plus 15%. The contractor will provide receipts for incurred costs.

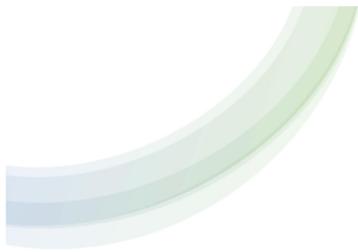
Four Member Pads			J. Kalas
Construction Cost Estimate			8/13/25
	Task / Expense	Responsibility	Cost (Est.)
1	Clearing and grading	M. Walhay	\$800.00
2	Fabricate four 12'x12' concrete pads	R. Maddox	\$10,000.00
3	Run electric from DKO to each pad	J. Pacheco	\$4,300.00
4	Purchase & apply gravel for four parking spaces	J. Kalas / TAAA	\$1,000.00
5	Contingency		\$1,610.00
6		Total Estimate	\$17,710.00
		Per Pad	\$4,427.50

- New pads will not have provisions for piers. It was noted that pads built 11 years ago cost about \$2,200 each.
- The estimate for the 6x12ft for the 25" dob is \$1,500.
- Bob Reynolds then presented the following:

## Project Motions

- Motion #1: Naming for the Dean Ketelsen Observatory
  - Name the new CAC observatory that will house a C14 the Dean Ketelsen Observatory(DKO).

- Motion #1 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:



## Project Motions

- **Motion #2: Project Cost for the DKO**
  - Authorize a total project cost of not to exceed \$60,000 and initiate fundraising immediately
  - Assign proceeds of both TAAA excess equipment sales and CAC Star Party revenue to the DKO project until \$60,000 is raised.
- **Motion #3: Project Cost for New Member Pads**
  - Authorize a total project cost of not to exceed \$18,000 which will be funded by new pad lessees.
- **Motion #4: Project Cost for 25" Dob Pad**
  - Authorize a total project cost of not to exceed \$2,000 to be funded from CAC operating funds.

- Motion #2 above was formally made by Bob and seconded by Stephen Ferris. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.
- Motion #3 above was formally made by Bob and seconded by Mike McDowell. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.
- Motion #4 above was formally made by Bob and seconded by David Eicher. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.
- Bob Reynolds then presented the following:



## Administrative Motions

- **Motion #5: Authorization to Contract**
  - Authorization to enter into a reimbursable contract with Southwest Traditions not to exceed \$60,000 to construct the DKO, 4 member pads and the 25” pad.
- **Motion #6: Power of Attorney**
  - Provide a power of attorney to John Kalas to enter into agreements necessary for the construction of the observatory and new member & 25” pads.
- **Motion #7: Authorize to Lease**
  - Provide authority to Jim Knoll to lease 4 new member pads to lessees who will provide funding for project.

- Motion #5 above was formally made by Bob and seconded by David Eicher. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.
- Motion #6 above was formally made by Bob and seconded by Mike McDowell. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.
- Motion #7 above was formally made by Bob and seconded by John Kalas. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

## TIMPA

- Stephen Ferris noted there 2 events this month.
- It was also noted that the mother board on the Meade 14” may be failing. As a result, a search has begun to see if there are any equatorial mounts might be available as a replacement. It was also noted that TAAA may have a larger issue with older Meade mounts as most spare parts are no longer available.
- Red lights that are failing are being replaced out of existing inventory as Amazon is not a good replacement source at the moment.

## Astronomy Fundamental Courses/Workshops

- Doug Smith petitioned the BOD for funding for supplies and printing required to run the subject workshops for the current year. The motion was then made to provide with Doug with \$500 to run the courses/workshops by Bob Reynolds and seconded by Mike McDowell. A discussion followed about the need for hard copy materials and it was noted that attendees preferred hardcopy. In addition, Doug is looking at thumb drives as an alternate. The motion was then approved by a vote of 8-0.

## **Member Classifieds**

- A member has made a request for a classified section in the Monthly Bulletin. David Rossetter has investigated other classified websites for example rules. Current thoughts include no more than 2 adds per month per member and that TAAA assumes no responsibility for successful transactions.
- Bob Reynolds then made a motion to include a classified section for members only in the Monthly Bulletin. Motion was seconded by Mae Smith and passed by a vote of 8-0.

## **September Meetings**

- Due to personal commitments, 3 Board members will be unavailable for the Sept meeting cycle. Therefore, David Rossetter will run the Monthly Member Meeting and the BOD general meeting for the month. There will be no BOD Executive Session in September.

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 8:08pm.