

## TAAA Board of Directors Open Meeting Minutes: May 15, 2025

The teleconference Zoom Board open meeting was called to order at 6:33PM, M. Smith, President presiding. Board members present: B. Whitehead, Treasurer; E. Foley, Vice President; and Members-at-Large D. Rossetter, S. Ferris, J. Kalas. Members attending included: Jim Knoll, David Eicher and Nelsey Toner.

### Approval of Minutes:

- A motion was made by Ed Foley to approve the April 9, 2025 minutes as amended to correct date in title line. The motion was seconded by B. Whitehead and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

### Status of Open Action Items:

TAAA Board Action Item List as of 05/15/2025

Date Entered	Item	Date Completed	Comments
A long time ago	Develop award plan/structure for TAAA		Need to find a leader for effort
3/13/24	Continued follow up on Strategic Plan		BOD working its way thru all Plan components
9/11/24	Insurance valuations for Ketelsen		Pending bid for DKO construction
9/11/24	Research off site tractor liability insurance coverage		Trying to get a quote
10/9/24	Recommendation to migrate to TidyHQ		
12/12/24	Status of proposal for new tablet or camera		Pending input from Terri
1/8/25	Contact TIMPA to see if interested in site wifi	?	Ben Bailey on 4/12/25
2/6/25	Contingency/recruitment plan for Treasury function		In event member search is unsuccessful
2/12/25	Implement log to record movement of loaner equip	5/15/25	For April BOD mtg
2/12/25	Need mount for Stellarview refractor by end 2025		Or sell the refractor
2/12/25	Formation of radio astronomy SIG		Pending June BOD approval
2/12/25	Survey on non-participating imaging SIG members		Check w/Reynolds and Ruppel
2/12/25	Coordination of imaging SIG/CAC imaging infrastructure		Ongoing
2/12/25	Need commercial storage facility for Starry Mes tool kits	5/15/25	Terri Lappin to bring forward proposal
4/3/25	Create & implement TAAA/CAC volunteer award		
4/3/25	Create Project Histories for use w/future donors		For July/August BOD meeting
5/8/25	Revise NVRC election process to avoid potential conflicts		
5/15/25	Establish CAC and TIMPA capital improvement accounts		Incl remaining MOP/RV funds in CAC act

- Ed, Jim and Terri have compiled 2023 and 2024 volunteer manhours for submittal to Astronomy League for award consideration. Ed went on to make a motion for TAAA to pay no more than \$400 for complementary Astronomy League membership to insure all 35 volunteers qualify for Astronomy League awards. The motion was seconded by Barbara Whitehead and passed by a vote of 6-0.

- Strategic planning should be expanded to include specific goals and Barbara's study of historical projects.
- Ed made a motion to pay no more than \$500 per year to acquire Microsoft Access for use by TAAA leaders to track volunteer manhours. Motion was seconded by J. Kalas and passed by a vote of 6-0.
- Proposed new Radio Astronomy SIG will meet on May 29 to prepare for June BOD SIG approval. It was noted that goals, objectives and budgets should be addressed.

### Treasurers Report

- Barbara noted that the TAAA March balance sheet showed approx 7k in its checking account and approximately \$219k in money market accounts. Further, fixed assets totaled approximately \$1.475 million with total assets sitting at \$1.719 million.
- The net revenue for the month of April was approximately -\$452 while year to date stood at approximately \$157k.
- Revenue for the month was over budget due increased donations, star party revenue, and interest. This resulted in a very favorable actual net revenue vs budget (~400+%) thus far this fiscal year. Overall, thus far for the year, net revenue is approximately \$118k over budget.
- Barbara then presented draft budget for the coming fiscal year. Extensive discussion at the account level occurred which will produce amendments to be considered in the June BOD budget approval process. A motion was then made by Ed Foley to recommend approval of amended draft budget for formal approval at the June BOD meeting. The motion was seconded by B. Whitehead passed by a vote of 6-0.
- A motion was made by Ed Foley to approve the Treasurers Reports as presented for the financial month of April. The motion was seconded by B. Whitehead and passed by a vote of 6-0.(1:44:20)

### CAC/TIMPA Reports

- Evening Under the Stars a big success with record attendance.
- Several gravel projects underway to complete MOP, RV expansion and Member Pads.
- Ed Foley provided an update on the progress of the observatory structure for the 32" telescope. Project is moving along well with the observatory structure essentially complete with power and a movable roof. Plans have been made to move the 32" components from Warren Hensley's garage to the CAC site on June 16. Equipment will be required for both the telescope relocation as well as the final placement of all remaining gravel.

GRAVEL NEED	Cu Yards	Tons (1.4x)		Cost	Vendor Desr	Funds Available	Ask Board for
32" Skirt	26	36.4	\$18+\$260 per 18 Tons	1175	Willcox S&G 3/4 Inch	Funding in \$125K Project cost	Covered
RV Extention	35	49	\$18+\$260 per 18 Tons	1662	Willcox S&G 3/4 Inch	Fund from CAC Ops	Up to \$2000
MOP	54	75.6	\$24 delivered	1814	Sun Cor AB	\$7431 less roller cost (\$370)	Reopen MOP? - \$2000
				4651.6			

As a result, Ed made a motion to have the CAC operating account fund up to \$2,000 for RV expansion gravel. The motion was seconded by Barbara Whitehead. During the discussion, it was noted that the RV pad fees will repay the expenses within 2-3 years. The motion was passed by a vote of 6-0.

- Ed went onto make a motion to spend up to \$2,000 to complete the gravel for the MOP. Motion was seconded by Barbara Whitehead. Discussion included the establishment of a CAC capital account to fund activity such as this and/or CAC reserve accounts. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.
- Barbara then made a motion to create CAC capital accounts funded with unspent dollars from existing capital projects. The motion was seconded by E. Foley and passed with a vote of 6-0.
- Barbara then made a motion to create a TIMPA capital improvement account. The motion was seconded by Stephen Ferris. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0. However, the account will not be funded until Stephen makes contact with previous donors to seek their approval to move the remaining TIMPA 16" funds to this new account.
- Stephen Ferris noted that we still do not have a new/current lease from the TIMPA organization and the City of Tucson. As a result, work on a site WiFi is on hold until a new lease is signed.
- TIMPA event attendance is holding steady.

### **Update on Board Appointments**

- Ed Foley made a motion that Mike McDowell be appointed Treasurer with immediate effect. The motion was seconded by Stephen Ferris and the motion was approved by a vote of 6-0. However, Barbara will provide Mike accounting and 990 support for the next few months.
- Ed Foley made a motion to appoint David Eicher to the Member at Large position vacated by David Rossetter who will be moving to the VP position effective 6/1/25. The motion was seconded by David Rossetter. Discussion then included whether David Eicher was qualified to be an officer based on the fact that he has been a member for less than 12 months. However, after much discussion, it was decided that Section 7 of Article 3 of the By Laws allowed David Eicher's appointment and the motion was passed by a vote of 4-1 due to Barbara's departure.

### **TAAA Election Policy**

- Mae noted that current NVRC policy and procedures contain conflicts due to the fact that NVRC members who are running for NVRC positions are in a position to determine opposing candidates and view ballot results. This calls into question whether there are fair elections for NVRC positions. However, it was noted that there are procedural remedies that the BOD has implemented in the past and could implement in the future. It was also suggested that policy changes should include restrictions on NVRC candidates involvement in running elections.
- It was also noted that TAAA does not offer training to NVRC candidates. The BOD should remedy this by offering appropriate courses in administering elections.

A motion was put forward by S. Ferris to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by D. Rossetter. The motion was approved 5-0 and the Board meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.