

TAAA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: March 9, 2022

The teleconference Zoom Board meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM, M. Smith, President, presiding. Board members present: E. Foley, Vice President; M. McDowell, Treasurer; R. Reynolds, Secretary; and Members-at-Large, D. Smith and G. Gomez. TAAA Members: Mat Penn.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Motion was made by D. Smith to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2022 Board meeting. Motion was seconded by G. Gomez and approved by a vote of 6-0. Motion was made by E. Foley to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2022 Board meeting. Motion was seconded by G. Gomez and approved by a vote of 5-0 with one abstention.

President's Comments:

- First mailout for Grand Canyon Star Party has been sent out. Received 45+ positive responses very quickly. Held successful conversations with the NPS to address limits on groups sizes.
- Use of TAAA zoom account will be limited to TAAA sanctioned/affiliated activities. If account is needed by membership, the requesting individuals should work through a TAAA official.
- Comments on NVRC candidate slate were solicited and none were forthcoming.
- Susan Conners has some extra calendars. It was agreed that they be given to Jim Knoll for use as mementos for those that buy TAAA star parties.

Treasurer & Covid Report: Motion was put forward by B. Reynolds to accept the February Treasurer's Report which was seconded by D. Smith. Motion was approved by a vote of 6-0. M. McDowell reported normal financial activity in the last month with a fair amount of additional income from star parties. Otherwise a quiet month. Membership is now over 600. Mike continued with unfortunate news that our contractor for the Learning Center has withdrawn from the project. However, the current buildings did pass a recent County inspection so we are now moving on with rebidding out the "tenant improvement" work scope with approximately 20+ contractors. The increase in available bidders is due to the remaining scope being work that can be handled by contractors traditionally associated with interior remodeling. There will be a mandatory site visit with potential bidders on April 1 with bids due on May 2. Negotiations continue with departing contractor regarding refunds of approximately \$20,000. Motion was put forward by D. Smith to accept the March Treasurer's Report. Motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0.

COVID Policy: It was agreed that no change was required even though the infection rate news is encouraging.

CAC Planning Report: Bob Reynolds reviewed the current status of the MOP.

- Announced that S. Rua has entered into a sales contract for his 6 acre plot with Alan Midkiff. Assuming this sale goes thru and Alan goes thru with his plan to place his 50"

dob on his site, the larger CAAC site will then have 3 of the 15 largest amateur telescopes in the US.

- MOP bidding, permitting and utility application processes are underway. Current interest level includes 11 observatories and 2 dob pads.
- A package of work covering CAC exterior/civil items is being developed. It currently includes: the new easement access road to the LC, the sidewalk from the RMO to the Stinger Pad, the sidewalk from the Stinger Pad to the LC, the dob peninsula extension on the Stinger Pad, provision of power for first set of EV chargers, the expansion of the RV area, the north stairs for the LC. Mike suggested that we consider adding the application of gravel in the member pad areas as we think there is already available funding. Bob is optimistic that funding will be available for all the items in this package and will report to both the Planning Committee and the Board in the April meeting cycle.
- B. Reynolds made a motion that if the new easement access road to the LC is funded, that the new road be named the “Kalas Loop”. Motion was seconded and passed 6-0.

NASA Nspire Program: Mat Penn reported that he could use his TAAA affiliation for application for upcoming 2023/2024 eclipse data research & citizen science projects. This would involve signing up TAAA in the NASA Nspire system for no cost. However, there was considerable discussion about potential TAAA exposure and/or administrative responsibility associated with it “affiliation” to any given grant proposal. There was also concern that TAAA could become involved in administration/calculation of related government overhead rates. It was agreed that there could be some benefits for TAAA but the Board needs a written proposal and more discussion of the TAAA responsibilities involved.

Reach for the Stars: It was noted that this organization has a growing presence in the Tucson area. Further, it was recommended that TAAA be cautious about affiliations with this group.

A motion was put forward to adjourn the meeting by D. Smith which was seconded by E. Foley. The motion was approved 5-0 and the Board meeting **adjourned @ 8:10pm.**

