

TAAA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: April 13, 2022

The teleconference Zoom Board meeting was called to order at 6:32 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: J. Kalas, B. Whitehead, J. Knoll.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Motion was made by D. Smith to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2022 Board meeting. Motion was seconded by R. Reynolds and approved by a vote of 4-0 with one abstention and one board member absent.

President's Comments:

- First paid star party at TIMPA was a success and hosted 25 people. We received a nice thank you letter from the hosted group that complemented TAAA's hosting.
- In spite of only fair weather, we had a successful Astronomy Festival that included an award of a telescope to a very excited young girl. Will likely result in some new TAAA members as well.
- Planning for the Grand Canyon Star Party is proceeding with the recruitment of upwards of 50 volunteers for each night. It appears the event could resume its pre Covid stature.
- May member meeting will not have a guest speaker as elections are being held. In lieu of an outside speaker, we are recruiting members to speak on topics of interest to them.
- The TIMPA management group approved bylaws changes that will not impact TAAA's single representative. It was also noted that TIMPA has experienced some vandalism in the form of gunshot damage to things like trash cans. As a result, it was emphasized that TAAA needs to lock up or remove all TAAA items from the site. Jim Knoll suggested TAAA install its own combo lock box which could hold the restroom key and other access keys.

Treasurer & Covid Report: Motion was put forward by E. Foley to accept the March 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 and membership. Otherwise a quiet month. Mike noted that he had reimbursed TAAA for a personal charge that had accidentally been charged to the TAAA credit card. Mike then provided an update on the financials for the Learning Center Project. The summary of his presentation is that TAAA will seek approximately \$6,800-6,900 from the current contractor to close out his involvement with the project. On the other hand, the contractor has put forward that TAAA owes him a small amount. Negotiations are scheduled with the contractor that will focus on contractors incurred material costs and labor rates. It should be noted that TAAA's claim is within the contractor bonding amount of \$15,000. Ed has video logs to confirm the contractor manhours. Ed and Mike are now soliciting input from new contractors to finish the project which consists of mostly interior finishing work.

COVID Policy: It was noted that the Covid infection rates are low but may be increasing. However, discussion followed over whether to move to simultaneous zoom/in person member meetings for June, July and August. UA lecture hall will be available. As a result, a motion was

made to begin in person/zoom member meetings in Stewart Observatory Lecture Hall starting with the June meeting. The motion was seconded and passed 6-0. The decision on fall meetings will be taken at a later date. A motion was made to remove all zoom only restrictions on all TAAA meetings. The motion was seconded and passed 6-0. A motion was made to remove the Covid restrictions on CAC and TIMPA. The motion was seconded and passed 6-0. Ed and Jim took action items to remove references to restrictions from the web page and registration documents.

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

- Both the package of civil work and the Member Observatory Project are moving into contract bidding phases.
- There has been movement in the MOP to slightly larger observatories, 7 ft walls and one conversion from a dob pad to an observatory.
- The collection of 8 small, civil projects are likely funded pending the receipt of contractor bids.
- John Kalas announced that Randy Maddox will be building the observatories and Stellar Vision will be providing the roof motorization and automation. There will be separate contractors for electrical, and grading and clearing required for both the site civil work and the MOP. John also reviewed the bid strategy with Randy which will likely be a cost reimbursable format.
- SSVEC will not start their process until we can provide a more final site design document. With Randy's commitment to the project, John can now submit country permit application.
- John predicted that all these projects should be complete by early 2023 or approximately 8 months.

Bank Account Management: The bank account that will hold MOP lessee funds needs to be set up. Mike announced he will not be available between May 15 and June 9. Therefore, the TAAA account/officer transition and account setups need to be completed before he leaves. Target date for both prior and new officers meeting at bank will be in second week of May. Mike will confirm with bank what documents and which officers need to be present to complete the setups and officer transitions.

Funding for Grand Canyon Star Party: Motion put forward to fund \$750 budget to support the star party. Motion was seconded and approved 6-0.

A motion was put forward to adjourn the meeting by M. McDowell which was seconded by D. Smith. The motion was approved 6-0 and the Board meeting **adjourned @ 8:10pm**.