

TAAA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: May 11, 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 as well as TAAA Members: J. Kalas, B. Whitehead, J. Knoll.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The approval of the minutes for the April 13, 2022 Board meeting was postponed to the June Board meeting.

President's Comments:

- Planning for the Grand Canyon Star Party is going well. Distribution of attendees over each of the 8 nights is approximately even and feed back has been positive.
- Get out and watch the lunar eclipse of the 15th! Should be beautiful!

Treasurer & Covid Report: Quiet month usual income from Member Planet and TSA revenue of approximately \$1,350. Motion was put forward by D. Smith to accept the March Treasurer's Report which was seconded by E. Foley. Motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

2022-23 Budget: Based on all input received thus far, Mike presented a draft of the budget detail which showed a net income of \$2.631. Several areas were discussed:

- Printing and copying was discussed in light of expected SIG sessions and possible migration to electronic media however no change in proposed budget
- Moved misc expenses up to \$1,500 provide for anticipated additional GCSP items
- It was proposed that \$5,000 be added as a TAAA capital budget item for the RV expansion. This is based on plan to have TAAA fund this expansion and have subsequent revenue be added to this operating budget. Further, CAC Operations Income was increased to \$3,000 to reflect 4 RV spaces for a half a year and 7 spaces for a half a year.
- Membership dues based on 600+ members. It was also noted that membership dues have never been raised in over 20 years. A motion was put forward to raise all dues by \$2 per year but it did receive a second. It was noted that any change in membership dues must be approved by both 2/3rds of both the Board and at a meeting of the General Membership. It was further noted that prior surveys of other similar clubs indicated that we were low. A motion was put forward by R. Reynolds to hold a more detailed discussion in the next Board meeting on June 8 regarding both potential dues increases as well as a related proposal to the General Membership. The motion was seconded by E. Foley and passed by a vote of 5-0.
- Discussion followed on recent history of allocating revenue from Asset Sales to GTTG. A motion was made by R. Reynolds to direct revenue from future asset sales to the operating budget. The motion was seconded by E. Foley. There was discussion on the advisability of taking this action prior to an update on the GTTG funding and the supporting construction bids. The motion passed 4-1.
- Discussion followed on historical TSA allocation to GTTG project. First, the projected TSA revenue for 2022/23 was increased to \$10,000. A lengthy discussion followed on

the need for continued operations and potential RV expansion funding until GTTG can document a need for additional funding. E. Foley made a motion to revert to historical precedent and allocate future TSA revenues to fund CAC operations. Motion was seconded by D. Smith. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

- D. Smith made a motion that the budget, as revised in this meeting, be accepted as the official TAAA 2022/23 Draft Budget. The motion was seconded by E. Foley and was then passed by a vote of 5-0.

Learning Center Construction Update: Based on a detailed design package, an invitation to bid was sent out to 28 local contractors specializing in interior construction. Only one response was received and it indicated that no interest in bidding. Attempts to make contact with the 28 bidders yielded conversations with only 12 that appeared to remain as going concerns. Of the 12, 8 indicated that they could not commit to providing bids with 4 stating they had some level of interest. All 4 were offered site visits with only 2 agreeing to do so. However, only one showed up and it is not certain that they will provide us a bid.

- Discussion moved to claim and counter claim status on the Masters Touch contract. Summaries of discussion with an attorney was provided. As a result, the view is that TAAA is a good legal position based on the contractor's "abandonment" of the contract. It was recommended that we continue discussion to determine if we are in at an impasse. If we get to that point, the further recommendation was to file a dollar claim against the contractor's bond. E. Foley made a motion to continue discussion with Masters Touch and, if no agreement is reached, to employ a Cochise County attorney to advise on next steps before TAAA files a claim against the contractor's bond. The motion was seconded by R. Reynolds. The motion passed 5-0.
- A motion was made for the Board to appoint Ed Foley as TAAA's representative in discussions included in the prior motion. Motion was seconded by D. Smith. The motion was passed by 5-0.

COVID Policy: There were no COVID issues or COVID policy changes were identified for discussion. However, there was a conversation about availability and fees for TAAA use of UofA meeting rooms. The consensus is that rooms that TAAA has traditionally used may no longer be accessible and/or only be available for a fee.

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

- Received first of 6 bids from Randy Maddox as well as a bid for roof motorization. As a result, a communication will be sent out all to all potential lessees cited new, increased pricing. As a result of the up to 50% increase in anticipated prices for the observatories, we expect to lose some of the current 12 interested parties.
- John Kalas still working hard to obtain a bid from an excavation and gravel contractor. There is optimism that the contractor that will tour the CAC on May 16 will give us the needed bids for all the combined plucking, excavation and gravel work.
- John Kalas has updated all CAC site plot plans to reflect as-built status and the areas for the new easement road and Learning Center parking have been staked out.

Funding for Grand Canyon Star Party: Motion put forward by R. Reynolds to increase funding from \$250 to \$305 budget to support the star party. Motion was seconded by E. Foley and was approved 5-0.

David Leavy Youth Program: David reported on progress trying to engage young people. The bad news is that he hasn't had the success he hoped for. The good news is that his effort has gone global. There have been some good presentations by young people and those young people that have been involved have shown a high level of initiative. The challenge remains as to how to both motivate and encourage youth initiative at the same time while living in the age of immediate gratification and cell phones. Suggestions were made to share any youth oriented web sites with Jim Knoll so TAAA can publicize.

Position Description for Property Donation Mgr: Started with a recognition of the historical contributions by Ed Foley and Mike McDowell in collecting, managing and disposing of donated property. Discussion moved on to need and possible locations for storage of donated equipment. Doug Smith offered to write up this position description and, possibly, offered to possibly accept the position. Jim Knoll will provide Doug with a template for the position description.

Treasury Software: Barbara Whitehead requested funds for an updated version of Quick Books and Tech Soup subscriptions. Motion put forward by R. Reynolds to fund \$234 for subscriptions if deemed necessary by Barbara. Motion was seconded by D. Smith and was approved 5-0.

Thank You to Departing Board Members: Mae thanked outgoing Board Members for their services to TAAA.

A motion was put forward to adjourn the meeting by D. Smith which was seconded by R. Reynolds. The motion was approved 5-0 and the Board meeting **adjourned @ 8:38pm**.

TAAA Board of Directors Executive Session Minutes: May 11, 2022

The teleconference Zoom Board meeting was called to order at 8:38 PM, M. Smith, President, presiding. Board members present: E. Foley, Vice President; M. McDowell, Treasurer; R. Reynolds, Secretary; and Members-at-Large, D. Smith.

Member Service Award: A motion was put forward to fund \$150 for a jacket for a member as a service award. Motion was seconded by D. Smith and was approved 5-0.

A motion was put forward to adjourn the meeting by D. Smith which was seconded by R. Reynolds. The motion was approved 5-0 and the Board meeting **adjourned @ 8:42pm**.