

TAAA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: July 13, 2022

The teleconference Zoom Board meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM, M. Smith, President, presiding. Board members present: D. Smith, Vice President; B. Whitehead, Treasurer; R. Reynolds, Secretary; and Members-at-Large, J. Kalas, G. Gomez and D. Rossetter as well as TAAA Members: J. Knoll, R. Carnes, J. Mead

Approval of Minutes:

- A motion was made by D. Smith and seconded by B. Whitehead to approve the minutes, as amended, for the June 8, 2022 regular Board meeting. A correction was proposed to change the recorded budgeted monthly miscellaneous expenses from \$225 per month to \$25 per month. The amended motion as passed by a vote of 6-0.

Report on Cochise County Zoning Board meeting regarding the Chiricahua Sky Village special use permit:

John Mead and John Kalas attended the subject meeting and reported the following:

- The meeting was short, 15 minutes, as the permit had already been approved.
- The County made the presentation on behalf of the developer.
- The County had a screened adjacent land owners with no comment.
- The developer claims no land is to be cleared with no power, water, septic or buildings with 180 separate parcels.
- The County appears to be extremely pro astronomy, to the point of approving things that were extremely difficult for TAAA in prior years.
- The concern remains that users of this new development could try to use the CAC for only its infrastructure. CAC should probably consider length of stay requirements to preclude misuse of the CAC.

Grand Canyon Star Party:

- Data from most recent party is being processed but no information available as yet.
- Record attendance of 850 and things went well with the exception of occasional weather problems.

Treasurers Report:

- Barbara will be contacting those persons who have information on any TAAA equipment inventories. These inventories will be reconciled with our books to validate recorded asset valuations. Please offer her your support on this effort.
- Barbara walked the Board through the current financial status as of June 30.
- Biggest entries during June were a catch up on monthly depreciation such that the cumulative depreciation in the financials was up to date as well as tied to that reported on the 990.
- Revenue reflected a \$35,000 donation.

- The Treasurer is going to track donor commitments to make sure that all donations are received within 30 days of the commitments or the related expenditures.
- It was noted that all restrictions and/or conditions for all donations should be in writing. Barbara pointed out that there is a donation form for this purpose. At a minimum, this procedure should be applied to the most recent wave of Learning Center donations.
- Astronomy service donations to activity other than CAC operations should be documented.
- Net income for the last fiscal year was ~\$64,000.
- The Treasurer walked the Board through the latest version of the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Budget for each Team Leader needs to be communicated to them as many of them are unaware of their budget. Barbara agreed to provide each team leader their assigned cost center budgets.
- A motion was made by B. Reynolds to accept the Treasurer's Report which was seconded by D. Smith. The motion passed 7-0.
- A motion was made by D. Smith to accept the 2022 Budget which was seconded by B. Reynolds. The motion passed 7-0.

COVID Policy:

- There were no COVID issues or COVID policy changes were identified for discussion.

CAC Planning Report:

- Jim Knoll reported that a site visit to CAC will occur on July 14th to verify what items may need to be completed before the building is insulated. This activity will also provide more definitive estimates for the LC Phase 2 activities.
- Bob Reynolds reported that ~\$86,000 has been raised in the last month for the LC project. However, pending better estimates of the Phase 2 work scope, we still need to raise approximately \$30,000 to complete the \$460,000 project.
- It was also noted that the settlement agreement with Masters Touch Construction has been executed by both sides and TAAA's contractual relationship is officially terminated.

Status of Vote on Proposed TAAA Dues Increases:

Dave Rossetter presented the wording proposed by the NVRC for the vote at the next membership meeting. The proposal was as follows:

I approve the TAAA Dues Increase Proposal as presented in the July 2022 (published June 28, 2022) TAAA Desert Skies Bulletin and presented at the July 1, 2022 General Membership meeting.

YES NO

Voting procedure:

- Send email with voting information
 - Vote instructions
 - The facts of the dues increase
 - How much other information?
- Send out Zoom link to eligible members only (not contacts)
- Zoom Vote - NVRC (probably Pete) will run the online portion
 - Coordinate with Terri/Jim
 - Attend meeting practice
 - Probably attend in-person meeting with computer
- In-person vote
 - NVRC will check membership status at door
 - Hand out paper ballots to eligible members
- Vote
 - Pete will display vote to Zoom members
 - In-person members will be asked to put down devices
 - Vote open 5 minutes max
 - Pete will close Zoom vote
 - Record results (screen grab)
 - Terri (original host) will download results
 - NVRC will gather ballots
 - Volunteers will count ballots
 - Volunteers will total all votes
 - NVRC will announce result

It was suggested that the ballot process reference early Bulletin discussion regarding the rationale for the increases. It was also noted that the effective date of Sept 1 should be noted on the ballot. Voting will be done electronically and will require approval by 2/3rds of the members attending the meeting to pass.

New Business:

- A motion was made by D. Smith to accept the donation of a Celestron 5 and place it into the TIMPA loaner pool. Motion was seconded by Barbara and passed by a vote of 7-0.

- A review of the revised version of the donation policy was presented by D. Smith. A significant amount of discussion followed with most of it centered on what types of items and what dollar values that require Board approval. The starting point for the conversation was equipment and library materials require no approvals while all other non-cash items would be subject to \$1,000 limit for Board approval. However, in spite of earlier Board conversations, the current view was all equipment over \$5,000 need Board approval. D. Smith committed to provide the Board with a revised draft of the TAAA Donation Policy that will update policy for both conditional and unconditional cash and non-cash donations.
- A motion was then made by B. Reynolds to approve the conditional cash donations of \$35k by Ed Foley, \$34k by Ladd Lindsay, and \$8k from Mike McDowell. The funds are to be utilized for the Gateway to the Galaxy Project. The motion was seconded by Barbara. The motion passed with a vote of 7-0.
- Doug Smith showed a draft of the position description for the Donation Equipment Manager. However, it needs to be updated for the Board approvals discussed in earlier item above.
- The procedure for issuing donation receipts was discussed. The key point is that the Donation Manager will issue a receipt with valuations to the Treasurer but the receipt to the donor will not include values. Doug and Barbara will be responsible for the forms necessary to implement this procedure for receipts.
- The procedure for creating and maintaining equipment inventories was discussed as well as the need to sell equipment quickly to avoid the burdens of storage. It was suggested that we note aspirations to both utilize TAAA storage capability and dispose of donated equipment within a defined time period.
- Dave Rossetter has contacts that have a requested candidates for naming of astroids. The Board welcomed the idea.

A motion was put forward to adjourn the meeting by R. Reynolds which was seconded by D. Rossetter. The motion was approved 7-0 and the Board meeting **adjourned @ 8:30pm.**