

Minutes of Eboard Meeting September 17, 2010

Officers: Ron Pearson, Pres., Norm Rosling, VP (absent), Bonnie Kais, Sec., Brad Gilman, Treas.

Board: Present: David Shouldice, Joe Gafford, Tim Pimentel, Frank Mancini

Absent: Jack Eastman, Dan Wray, Keith Pool, Steve Solon

Minutes of the August, 2010 meeting were amended and approved.

DU Report

Aaron Reid announced that the lens cleaning of the Clark scope is scheduled to take place from 9/28/2010 – 10/3/2010. All surfaces of the lens will be refurbished. Dr. Stencel requests that those present be limited to Jack Eastman, Chris Ray, Aaron Reid and Dr. Stencel. Ron Pearson requests to video the cleaning for documentation purposes. Aaron will address the issue of documentation with Dr. Stencel. Aaron indicated that if the October 1st Eboard meeting takes place, Chris Ray may be available to speak to the group. Recertification training for PN operators and apprentices is scheduled for 10/2/2010 starting at 9:00 am. Aaron volunteered to offer training for those who participate in the loaner program. There is a C8 Pumpkin being stored in the Ready Room and Aaron requests information as to its origin and future plans for the scope.

President's Report

Ron Pearson requested immediate follow-up on locating information regarding the C8 scope. Brad Gilman retrieved a thank you letter verifying that the Pumpkin was donated to DAS. Following discussion, the Board determined that the scope might be kept as a loaner or use by DAS. Darrell Dodge will add a notation on the DAS webpage featuring the scopes available through DAS for loan. Ron Pearson provided brochures illustrating possible dome structures that may be purchased by DAS for use at the DSS to potentially house the C14 that is being refurbished or another scope in DAS possession. Two choices available through Craig Betzina at 15% off include an 8' diameter aluminum frame dome for \$2,800 that will hold up to 2 people or a 10'X10' building with dome (includes siding and door) for \$4,300 that will hold several people, equipment and computers. The Board determined that the larger structure offers more flexibility of use for educational purposes although costs do not include the concrete pad or the accessories needed to house the C14. A motion passed for discussion to authorize up to \$6,000 to purchase the 10' Exploradome with concrete pad and accessories to house the C14. Darrell Dodge illustrated the best location for erecting the dome at the DSS.

No Vice President's report.

No Secretary's report.

Treasurer's report.

Brad Gilman reported that financials for the month have been completed and the treasury is holding substantial reserves. Observatory Head Counts are current and paid to Dr. Stencel. Parking Pass fees at DU for the General Meeting have been raised to \$4/vehicle. Allan Cartwright is the new volunteer assistant to the treasurer. Brad indicated one of his duties is to investigate depreciation software options.

Dark Sky Site report.

Darrell Dodge reported that the warming hut repairs include a need for carpet replacement with linoleum and Potential floorboard repair. Costs of linoleum and a removable floor runner to catch outside debris at the door total \$140.00. In addition, the skirt at the floor edges also needs repair at additional cost.

Finance report.

Frank Mancini reported that the Board approved the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$6,000 to purchase one 10' Exploradome and a concrete pad and accessories to house a scope(s) for use by DAS.

External Outreach & PN Teams

Ron Pearson reported that a discussion with Keith Pool verified that the Star Party scheduled for 9/29/2010 at the Broadmoor Hotel will net \$500 for DAS. As yet there has been no response regarding the Harvest Moon

Smart Girls program. Plans for Colorado Astronomy Day are complete with four speakers and plenty of volunteers from DAS. Darrell Dodge reported the webpage has been updated regarding the event. The Board approved a budget of \$400 to produce brochures as well as an additional \$100 for refreshments for volunteers.

VN-H Scholarship

The committee selected three recipients for the award this year. However, one individual has documentation issues regarding her school so will not be included unless records are received promptly. Naomi Pequette will receive \$2000 and David Bicknase will receive \$750. Presentations will be made at the general meeting with a celebratory reception following at the Observatory.

Loaner Program

Bill Ormsby reported no scopes loaned. Improvements are presently being made to the loaner program.

IT/ListServe and Newsletter report.

Darrell Dodge reported 280 email addresses are now receiving electronic newsletter transfer. Less than 40 newsletters are mailed per month. Darrell also reported that Constant Contact can also be used to provide updates for PN operators. Either Brad Gilman or Darrell Dodge must be notified of email address changes.

Old Business

Ron Pearson reported that the Observatory Losmandy G-11 mount and C14 with Gemini Drive system is a donation to DAS who must decide where to house it. The C14 is still in repair status and DAS will accept scope only if Celestron covers all repair costs. If accepted, DAS may house the scope at the DSS. Ron Pearson and David Shouldice examined a Meade LX200 that needs a hand controller at a cost of \$150+, needs equipment accessories and has a flaw (chip) in the collector plate. Craig Betzina has offered to house the scope on a pad at his property for DAS use. In addition, a Meade 127 mm Refractor also needs to be used. Following Board discussion, it was suggested to sell the LX200 because DAS has held it in possession long enough and to replace it with the 127 mm which DAS can not sell at this time.

New Business

Ron Pearson announced that DAS has officially joined the NASA Night Sky Network and has appointed Chuck Habenicht as Coordinator of the program. Chuck Habenicht indicated that he requires communication with Keith Pool, External Outreach Director, as well as Darrell Dodge, Website Administrator. An introductory video of the NASA Night Sky Network website was viewed by Board members followed by a discussion of documentation of PN and Outreach awards to recognize DAS volunteers. Frank Mancini proposed that DAS notify Dr. Stencil that DAS is standing by to offer help financially to help expedite continuing work on the Clark. Frank suggested DAS consider a contribution of a sum up to \$500 to keep the scope restorers on the job longer each time they visit so the total project may be completed in a more-timely manner. The discussion was tabled. The October 1, 2010 Eboard meeting has been cancelled.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.