



Minutes of DAS E-Board Meeting Friday, June 8, 2007

Officer/E-Board Attendees: Wayne Green, Keith Pool, Brad Gilman, Darrell Dodge, Jack Eastman, Frank Mancini, Joe Gafford, David Shouldice, Ron Pearson, Bryan Wilburn, Dan Wray. **Other:** Ivan Geisler, Wayne Kaaz, Bill Ormsby, Naomi Pequette. **Absent:** Ron Mickle

The President called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

May Meeting Minutes: Several minor corrections were made. Frank Mancini moved to approve the minutes, Wayne Green seconded, and the Minutes were approved with minor changes.

Chamberlin Observatory Report

To make way for Grant renovation work, equipment has been moved out of the basement of Chamberlin Observatory, including mirror grinding equipment. Grant work will start sometime this summer, but technically they have until August of 2008. They will not update the fire alarm system. Linda Lautenbach has returned to head the architect team. There will be a meeting with DAS, architects, and Historic Denver, but we are waiting on the architects to get a list of issues together before the meeting. Two additional issues: 1) the uneven south steps, and 2) the fact that the observatory is not hooked up to the sewer (a separate issue, so repair won't come out of Grant funds.)

Secretary's Report – Darrell Dodge

Minutes for the April meeting have been posted on Web site; however the new Secretary still have not received previous-year minutes from Stuart Hutchins. Renewal reminders have been attached to newsletters of people whose memberships had expired or were due to expire in the next month. This has not been done in several years. Post card reminders will be sent out soon to those members who download PDF copies from the Web site.

Treasurer's Report – Brad Gilman

There were four new members and six renewals in May. While more money was spent than brought in, the Society has more than adequate reserves.

Vice President's Report – Keith Pool

Meeting speakers are lined up for the next two months: Max Moe in July and Dick McCray in August.

President's Report

The Astronomical League Convention is coming up in early August. Wayne Green will carry the proxy for MARS. A MARS planning meeting is planned for Wayne Green's house in Niwot. Jerry Sherlin will be stepping down as our ALCOR and regional (MARS) representative. AL Conventions are planned through 2009. The earliest free convention for a possible meeting in Colorado is 2010.

Committee Reports

Dark Site Committee - Wayne Kaaz

Ted Cox and Jim Holder inspected the roof of the warming hut and reported that it is sound.

The E-Board needs to clarify the idea of Outreach income going to the Dark Site Fund. Wayne Green said that we're doing OK with outreach money and it would be acceptable to give 25% of revenues from outreach events participated in by DS committee members. No vote would be required.

Wayne Kaaz said that the E-Board needs to make a decision on the 17 ½-inch telescope. The Dark Site committee is very opposed to anything blocking the view of southern horizon at the dark site from the north. Attendees discussed the idea of storing a refurbished 17.5 inch telescope in a new shed at Deer Trail. Bryan Wilburn said that this would not be very convenient. However, Wayne Green noted that Michael Lowe (who is storing the scope at his home in Colorado Springs) has acquired an ultra-light magnesium military bomb carrier that can be used to move it around. Wayne Green proposed that the 17.5 inch should be kept as a DAS telescope, not a Dark Site scope to keep it off the Dark Site budget. Ron Pearson once again pledged to develop a proposal to refurbish the telescope and provide a suitable mount. This proposal would be needed before the E-Board can decide what to do.

Several members spoke about the desirability of pushing through a new access policy for the Dark Site. Wayne Green cautioned that there was an insurance liability problem associated with using the site for outreach programs.

Wayne Kaaz closed his report by reminding the E-Board that the Dark Site account only contains \$1500. The DS committee would like to add a small storage building and is now looking at a wood frame structure.

Finance Committee – Frank Mancini

No report

Public Outreach

Ron Mickle was on travel. Bryan Wilburn reported on some upcoming outreach activities, including another event at the Kiowa high school this Fall, and a Girl Scout star party in Bailey. Wayne Green mentioned that Astronomical League Outreach award submissions go to Mike Reynolds and that our submission has not gone in. Dan Wray objected to idea that a minimum of two hours is considered by AL as an event, when most school presentations are limited to one hour. Wayne Green said that we are one of the most active outreach clubs and we need to submit.

Van Nattan-Hansen Scholarship – Ron Pearson

Two awards have been made from the four proposals received and recipients will be announced at the July general meeting.

Colorado Astronomy Day – Darrell Dodge

Members present agreed that the galaxy stage at the Museum was an acceptable arrangement for presentations. Darrell, Wayne Green, and Naomi Pequette will meet with Jennifer Moss-Logan of DMNS in mid June to begin planning.

Other Business

Wayne Green raised the topic of whether DAS wanted to continued membership in Western Amateur Astronomers. Jack Eastman moved to renew the DAS membership, Ron Pearson seconded, and the E-Board voted to approve the renewal. The WAA logo will be added to the Affiliation page of the DAS Web site.

The Chamberlin Library still needs a librarian. Bonny Kais can't take on the job because of care-taking responsibilities. Wayne Green and Darrell Dodge will look over the collection of unshelved books and make a proposal on storing oversized books.

The issue of recording general meeting speakers was raised. The idea of a video feed out of Olin Hall was dropped because of complexity, technology limitations, and the possibility of reducing meeting attendance. Dave Shouldice noted that we have lots of recordings of meetings, though not using the latest and greatest technology. Jack Eastman noted that we were trying to make things too complicated. The Board decided to table the discussion, with the probability that we would simply video-record sessions and make them available as DVD's for the few members who cannot come to meetings due to health or mobility problems and for archival purposes.

Wayne Green moved to adjourn the E-Board meeting, Bryan Wilburn seconded, and the Board voted to adjourn at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Darrell M. Dodge, DAS Secretary