

Minutes of Eboard Meeting April 9, 2010

Officers: Present: Ron Person, Pres., Norm Rosling, VP, Bonnie Kais, Sec., Brad Gilman, Treas.

Board: Present: Jack Eastman, David Shouldice, Joe Gafford, Keith Pool, Dan Wray, Steve Stolon, Frank Mancini, Tim Pimentel

Minutes of the previous meeting were amended and approved.

DU Report

Dr. Bob Stencil reported that the RA lock on the 20-inch telescope was successfully repaired on 3/19/2010. Two repairs that were completed include 1) lubricating nested shafts, and 2) removal of loose screw and replacement on U joint. Summary with photos are now available. Prior documented work on the telescope completed in 1918, 1896, and 1982. A telescope refurbishment review will be completed from 4/28– 4/31/2010 by experts, Chris Ray and Fred Orthleib. Findings will be shared at the April 30th General meeting with a Question and Answer session following on May 1st from 9-12 noon at the Observatory, facilitated by Chris and Fred. The question before the board now is how to proceed. Does DAS want a 20th Century telescope or a refurbished 1800's one? Various considerations include dome motor drive issues, back focus, metering rod, 20" objectives, rebalancing telescope, updating electrical, necessity for red tail light, aging duct tape, control panel, brass components, finders, weight drive, dome lighting scheme. Dan Wray proposed removing 6" on scope which is not consistent with telescope. Steve Solon suggested review of the galvanized interior of dome which is cracked and flaking. David Shouldice suggested refurbishing the slit maintenance overview. Frank Mancini cautioned regarding expenses associated with any further repairs. Dr. Bob recommended considerations for sponsorship to raise funds for such activities in the future.

President's Report

Ron Pearson welcomed all new officers and Eboard members and encouraged all to sign up for the Eboard group Email to stay in touch. Steve Solon reminded everyone to keep correspondence short.

Vice President's Report - Norm Rosling had no report.

Secretary's Report - Bonnie Kais had no report.

Treasurer's Report

Brad Gilman reported that gross revenues from the Spring Banquet 2010 yielded \$1600.00 with all expenses yet unpaid. Since the meal, paid for in advance, did not cost the amount collected, discussion ensued whether or not to reimburse participants or keep the surplus food funds for the summer picnic. This discussion led to a short review of funding activities and donations of money and/or telescopes. Brad distributed the letter sent to those who make donations to DAS. The question of whether or not donated telescopes should be sold to raise funds was raised. Steve Solon reported that the organization now has too many donated scopes and no more are being accepted for donation at this time.

Dark Sky Site

Darrel Dodge reported that high winds tore the straps that secured the warming hut to its concrete foundation and the building has moved from its moorings. At the time of the meeting, the full extent of damage was not known and the electrical disconnected and a sign placed on the building "DO NOT ENTER". It is unknown at this time whether the building can be salvaged Ron Pearson and Darrell Dodge will examine the building Saturday, March 17th. Questions that will need to be addressed include who built the structure, whether or not it is insured, time on the lease, and which structural engineer should be contracted to evaluate the structure. Glenn Frank was the structural engineer for the Dark Sky site. For updates, see DAS website under "file".

Finance

Frank Mancini reported that DAS can transfer telescopes and other assets to other charities without compensation and can use scopes to fulfill our mission. But selling scopes have legal ramifications and Frank will check on those limits.

Outreach & PN Teams

Steve Solon reported that the new RA lock on the scope works great.

VN-H Scholarship

Ron Pearson reported that the scholarship deadline is May 1, 2010. Brad Gilman reported that DAS received two donations, one from the speaker at the Spring Banquet. \$1,000.00 has been added to the Scholarship Fund which totals approximately \$14,000.

Loaner Program

Bill Ormsby reported that Chadd Warwick wants to borrow another scope and suggests \$100.00 deposit for a three-month loan of a Celestron Dob.

Newsletter

Ron Pearson requests assistance in preparing 150 newsletters for distribution. Steve Solon suggests the group handle folding and stamping from 7:30 to 8:00 at the Eboard meetings. Ron indicated this is problematic when meetings do not match newsletter distribution schedules and suggests someone be dedicated to the task.

Old Business

Ron Pearson reported that a C-14 donation scope was delivered to Cathy with a broken cell. Cathy can remount with a new cell. Per the donator of the scope, DAS is not supposed to sell this scope. Aaron Reid reported that the May 15th Pine Valley Star Party wants six scopes and to date, only four have been volunteered. Aaron will announce at the April General Meeting. Be there at 6pm. 2010 Calendar error has been corrected on the website. The Newsletter calendar will be corrected as well. Property Inventory is to be set up in an electronic file. Dan Wray and Bill Ormsby will oversee inventory project listing all equipment and other property assets. Dan Wray suggested a form be designed to receive and release property items. All loans and returns must then be recorded. Steve Solon volunteered to house items for safe keeping. Steve Solon and Norm Rosling volunteered to review DAS Policies and Procedures Manual and add an Inventory procedure.

New Business

Brad Gilman needs assistance handling the organization's accounting as everything comes due during the 1st quarter of each year. Frank Mancini suggests a deputy treasurer be appointed. Ron Pearson will ask membership for assistance. Darrell Dodge suggested a non-CPA could handle renewals and other membership matters. Regarding Committee vacancies, Keith Poole volunteered to be the External Outreach Coordinator for Star Parties, etc. Darrell Dodge resigned from the VN-H Scholarship Committee. DMNS Space Day Solar Event is Saturday, May 8, general hours. They want 12 people and only have 8 so far. Lunch provided. Dr. Bob Stencil reported that DAS volunteers are needed May 22-23 for the IDA Night Sky Expo expecting 4500 spectators. Aaron Reid reported that Littleton residents are reviewing BUG (backlight, uplight, groundlight) lighting to determine whether or not citizens care to bring it up to energy code.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.