



The Denver Astronomical Society

a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization

c/o Historic Chamberlin Observatory, University of Denver
2930 East Warren Avenue, Denver, CO 80208

“One Mile Nearer the Stars”

(303) 871-5172 www.denverastro.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

December 17, 2010

Officers present: Ron Pearson, President; Norm Rosling, Vice-President; Brad Gilman, Treasurer;

Board Members present: Joe Gafford, Dan Wray, David Shouldice, Keith Pool, Tim Pimentel, Steve Solon, and Frank Mancini.

Secretary Bonnie Kais and Board Member Jack Eastman - excused absences.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. Board Member Steve Solon, Acting Recorder

Minutes of October 1, 2010 meeting read and approved with minor corrections.

DU/Chamberlin Report:

Dr. Stencel reported good attendance 2010 year-to-date - >4000 guests. No media hype for lunar eclipse at Chamberlin; no activities planned due to Denver Parks curfew, lateness of hour, etc. Repairs to Geo. Saegmuller-patented roller bearing assemblies on the mount should be fairly easy; polar alignment has slipped slightly. ATS's Chris Ray slated for possible May, 2011 visit for further repairs to mount – scope to be offline for ~2 weeks. Tim Pimentel designing and building new clock system for evaluation on Clark mount; three 24-hour clocks- Universal, Local, and Sidereal. Scheme is to replace clocks and mounting board with Dan Wray-designed mounting system. Possible 110-volt system to power all clocks includes heaters and new lighting. Tim contacted Moog Adapters in Australia, makers of high-quality sidereal movements. Dr. Stencel gave preliminary approval to proceed and advised need for battery back-up and surge protection; discussion included differing battery types.

President's Reports:

Ron Pearson reported very busy couple of months and well-attended Open Houses, etc. Issue of terse letter from dissatisfied OH visitor led to discussion of possible solutions for Chamberlin main-floor noise problem at OH – sound systems, cordoned-off areas, re-routing of guests, etc. January OH to feature “How to Use Telescopes” – Cathie Havens unavailable; Norm Rosling offered to provide presentation. Few Team 7 members at last OH – legitimate absences – discussion on needing other members to take extra pressures off key operating personnel, particularly Ron Mickle and Darrell Dodge. President has drafted “Help Wanted” article for newsletter, stressing high membership, but few actual “working” members. February GM is Annual Meeting – requested 2011 Budget and brief summary from Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report:

Brad paid head-count monies to DU and reported renewals mailed out; expressed thanks to Darrell and Steve. Renewals coming in at fast pace - ~\$1000 every three days for previous two weeks. Banking info: \$29,000, cash; \$11,000 in credit union. Requested funds to purchase QuickBooks Accountant for ~\$400; motion to fund purchase of QB and \$300 for updates every 2-3 years passed. Frank Mancini reported that Alan Cartwright stands ready to assist Brad in managing DAS books. Brad mentioned age of current DAS laptop used for keeping financial records; discussion of various means of acquiring newer laptop and/or updated software led to a motion to extend Brad a \$700 budget to purchase new laptop/software as he deems necessary – passed.

Vice-President's Report:

Norm reported January GM speaker: Dr. Steve Lee from DMNS on Mars future for humanity; mentioned PayPal scam currently running on paying for cel phones. Will not be able to run for VP next year due to health concerns; has discussed with the President. Norm reported he is a proud grandparent again; suggested possible changes for membership renewal form: place for e-mail address change and line to opt-out of PDF Observer.

Public Outreach:

Keith ran down list of recent star parties: Thornton Stem School, Castle Pines Montessori School, Denver Art Museum, and the Tesoro Foundation star party at The Fort restaurant in Morrison. Approximate outreach income, year-to-date: \$1500.

Old and New Business:

Joe Gafford has finalized the 2011 and partial 2012 DAS calendar. Copies were distributed for discussion after expressed thanks. Several suggestions, including changing July Annual Picnic start time to 4 p.m. Holiday Potluck: Darrell and Norm to meet at CUUC at 4 p.m. on day of event; set-up time is the same. E-Board Nominating Committee formed for impending February elections: Wayne Kaaz, Dennis Cochran and Norm Rosling, returning committee members.

Call for further discussion
Business concluded
Motion to Adjourn, seconded
Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Solon, Acting Recorder
DAS Executive Board