

**DAS E-Board Minutes for
September 10, 2012
(Naomi Pequette)**

Officers and Board members present: Ron Pearson, Pres; Lisa Judd, VP; Naomi Pequette, Acting Sec'y; Brad Gilman, Treasurer. Dennis Cochran, Sec'y, absent.

Board members: Chuck Habenicht (NSN), Ron Hranac. Naomi Pequette, David Shouldice, Dan Wray. Chuck Carlson, Joe Gafford, Jack Eastman absent.

Observatory: Aaron Reid

Others members & guests: Bill Ormsby (Loaner Prog), Tim Pimentel (Van N), Hugh Davidson (Public Nights), John & Elaine Barela. Darrell Dodge (EGKDSS) was absent.

Previous Minutes were read and approved as amended.

REPORTS:

Observatory. Astronomy Day is 10/20.

On 9/16 is an occultation opportunity using Chamberlin. Aaron requested interested parties email him.

Mirrors of the Meyer-Womble Observatory have been recoated. The new skeleton for the dome is complete and work started on the dome skin.

President. We want to clean out some of our scopes via Adopt-a Telescope Program. See article in Sept. Observer. We've had one response, which scope not indicated.

A School of Mines prof wants to build a school observatory for Mines. Ron & Neil Pearson in contact with him. We could possibly donate the Fran Ohmer scope or the GTN mount for this.

Our mirror grinder still in basement and Dr Bob would like it moved. Lisa suggested Ken Ward (LA club) will be retiring in Denver in two years and would like to teach mirror grinding class for DAS. Aaron will inform Dr. Bob. We need to poll the club for interest in a mirror class.

For the Auction: Dan W not in favor of getting rid of 17.5" mirror because of its significant history to the club. There are no current plans for it, however, and the EGKDSS Committee not interested. We need proposals re this. David S pointed out that if we keep the 17.5" mirror and/or the mirror grinder we need to find a way to protect them until needed. For the rest of club items to be auctioned Ron P will set minimum prices. Ron to write an update for next month.

Veep. Lisa sent out speaker invites, no response yet.

Scott _____ (Leach?) took the IT job, no other Job Jar responses.

Holiday Party: need proposals by October E-Board meet. Board leaning towards a potluck at Darrell's UU Church as a more relaxed option.

Secretary: Not here. Naomi Pequette filling in this month.

Treas: Reimbursed Justin Modra for cost of City Dark DVD. Money is being transferred from PayPal. Now we can only do \$500/mo. Brad is working to change this limit. Also, he's trying to get a balance on the VanNatten account.

Committee Reports:

EGKDSS: Darrell absent but reported via email. Windscreen project is done.

Member roster sent to Amanada early Aug., no update on printing.

Darrell and Justin working on showing City Dark at Darrell's UU Church.

He's working on the C14 to fix slewing and clutch knob issues.

Updates on the oil rig were put in Observer:

Drilling to continue, two more wells coming in Adams County.

They erected a smaller rig with four lights, not on continuously.

According to SW Energy's website, they may drill another hole in the area.

Public Nights: Recertification for operators on Sept. 22 at 1400 hours.

Dr. Bob wants people certified this year to also attend. Possibly a 2nd meeting in Oct. for those who can't make it.

Chuck H & Hugh D waiting for Dr. Bob's approval of certificates.

PN teams pretty well populated.

Last OH attendance low despite clear skies: 140 or so.

David S: Dome room scope computer recently died. Restarted by whacking it, but it appears to be on its last legs. The backup in the Ready Room is an old laptop running Windows 98.

IT: We should wait on buying new laptop until we know result of Dr. Bob & Wayne Green's planned changes to the encoder systems.

Scott would like to put Windows 7 on library and Ready Room computers.

Library computer won't run Windows 7 and needs to be replaced.

Brad's computer is on Windows 7, with DAS books on it. Norton and older SW needs to be removed.

We need all computers on same anti-virus SW if we network. Scott likes Norton..

Scott recommends off-site backup for critical data, such as our financial books.

Scott has access to the reservation system.

Scott mentioned TechSoup, which sells cheaper SW to non-profits, possibly also HW.

He recommended adding a 2nd wifi network for use by the public, thus keeping one separate for DAS business.

We should upgrade the network before adding a 2nd wifi net:

4G would be \$50/mo

Router would be \$50-100

Cable is best alternative if 4G doesn't work. For this we'd need to get Dr. Bob's and DU approval, and "a new drop put in and hide line.

Barelas mentioned idea of projecting image from the Clark for disabled viewers outside.

We could do a wireless network easily with one more laptop.

Night Sky Network: We're still #2 in country for outreach. A SoCal group is #1.

Chuck is getting the word out that NSN is a resource for all club members. There are downloads available from the NSN website.

Loaner Program: No report.

Van Natten: Two people applied this year. David Bicknase was awarded \$1000. 2nd award not given because the school didn't provide transcripts. The applicant was encouraged to apply next year. 3/12 there was about \$52,000 in the account.

After the award there was \$10,098 in the Denver CU account.

Outreach: Amanda was absent. Ron P concerned that he isn't getting emails since she doesn't respond. He feels we should get a new person for Outreach. Lisa thinks he should check with Amanda.

The Barelas have been informing West Slope schools about DAS.
Ron P will respond to Outreach requests and call for volunteers in the meantime.

Old Business: We bought a copy of City Dark. Re this:

We saved 10% on the cost.

We can't charge admission for showings, but can accept donations.

Aaron said that Olin 105 is available for showings. We must give DU two-week notice for use of the room.

Can we work a showing of City Dark into our Astronomy Day activities?

New Business: Astronomy Day (10/20) items: 10am-4pm on that Saturday.

Ron H will not be able to give his meteorite talk.

We'll provide solar viewing at DMNS.

DMNS would like speakers for 15-20 minute talks.

Naomi P is scheduled for Archeoastronomy talk.

Aaron may do an IDA and lighting talk.

Should we do demos? Aaron to ask First Robots. Need to OK this with Dave Cuomo of DMNS. Also, could we use NSN tool kits?

Re the upcoming auction: Chuck H made a MOTION that DAS proceeds from this go to the VanNatten Fund. The motion was PASSED.

Adjournment: MOTION was made and PASSED to adjourn.