

Denver Astronomical Society
Minutes of December 4th 2015 EBoard Meeting

Officers Present: Ron Hranac, President; Stuart Hutchins, Vice President; Mike Nowak, Treasurer

Trustees Present: Jack Eastman, Joe Gafford, Ed Scholes, Sorin, Ken Sturrock

Others: Darrell Dodge (minute taker), Hugh Davidson

Minutes of the October 30th, 2015 EBoard meeting had been submitted via email by Jeff Tropeano (DAS Secretary) and were approved with slight changes.

CHAMBERLIN BUSINESS AND DAS TREASURER'S REPORT

DU's Historical Chamberlin Observatory Business

Dr. Robert Stencel provided a list of concerns and comments to the President, who read them to the EBoard:

1. Attendance for the 2015 year-to-date is nearly 4,000, which is several hundred ahead of last year's total. The Lunar Eclipse in September was largely responsible for that and Dr. Stencel appreciates those who participated on that night.
2. With the departure of Tim and Cathie Havens, it falls on us to provide telescope knowledge for the public in Metro Denver. Dr. Stencel urged the EBoard to provide a "Telescopes 101" course at every Open House, and budget to create and Web post suitable handout materials.
3. Voice mail included a caller who attended a cloudy Public Night recently and asked if they could return any subsequent clear night. He didn't see a policy on this posted on the Public Night FAQ Web page.
4. Wi-fi non-payment screen appears on Polaris. We could discuss DU assuming the account if that would simply things.
5. Dr. Stencel is curious about the status of the WebReserv-Zozi transition and possible impact on Public Night.

Ron Hranac's comments: Digby Kirby volunteered to do a Telescope 101 Presentation every three or four months. Digby did a "How to Select a Christmas Telescope" presentation at the November Open House and will do the "How to Use Your Telescope" at the January, 2016 Open House. The issue with non-payment of the CenturyLink bill is likely because the credit card used for payment as expired and needs to be renewed. Mike Nowak should ensure that this gets done ASAP.

Treasurers report.

Mike Nowak provided a table displaying the status of DAS fund expenses and balances. Standing accounts for November 30, 2015 totaled \$40,634: General Fund Checking, \$22,067.19, Dark Site Checking \$2,827.02; Premier Time Savings, \$10,562.07; Time Deposit Savings, \$5,178. Deposits for the month of November 2015 were \$5,352.12.

Status of the Van Nattan-Hansen Scholarship Donation Transfers

Stuart Hutchins is trying to determine the total of donations to the Van Nattan-Hansen fund made by speakers over the last several years so that amount can be transferred to the scholarship account. The situation is made more difficult because donations under \$50 do not require a formal letter and commitments were made orally.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership Poll

Jeff Tropeano provided a final review copy of the completed poll by email. This was unanimously approved by the EBoard. The president would like to get it out before the end of the year – preferably by next week (Dec 11th). Allow 2 weeks for response. 30% responded to the previous one.

Holiday Party

57 people prepaid and reserved for the Holiday Party at The Bistro at Aspen Grove in Littleton. Stuart pointed out that \$5.00 of the \$30.00 cost for the dinner was a gratuity. A gift to Cathie and Tim Havens of S&S Optika was ordered but won't be ready in time for Holiday Party. We will be doing an outreach volunteer recognition award at the party by drawing from the large number of accumulated volunteer slips. Ron Hranac bought a large number of prizes at the S&S closeout sale to be used over the next year.

DAS Jackets

Dan Wray will investigate the current options and cost of DAS jackets, which many new members have said they want.

Reservation system (Webreserv changeover to Zozi)

The new contract with Zozi was signed. The price is a very good deal for two years, with a substantial cost reduction. Then price will go up and DAS may need to reevaluate. We need to find out how bills will be paid. The date for the changeover to Zozi has not yet been established.

NEW BUSINESS

Newsletter printed version

Do we continue with printing newsletter copies because S&S will no longer be distributing them? If we reduce the quantity price per copy may go up, so this needs to be verified with Signal Graphics.

Closure of S&S Optika

The members discussed the future without S&S Optika and how to handle public education regarding telescope selection and operation. Can't make recommendations as an organization, but can as individuals. Need to be careful.

Spring Banquet

Stuart Hutchins is investigating two options for the Spring Banquet venue: the DU facility described by Ron Mickle at the October EBoard meeting and the Embassy Suites Tech Center.

Bill Ormsby Volunteer Award: the EBoard heard a suggestion by Ron Hranac and he agreed to arrange to have the award trophy fabricated in time for presentation at the Spring Banquet for the eventual awardee.

Speaker for the banquet: maybe Doug Duncan. In January, Carla Johns will give a presentation on Mt Wilson old and new. February – maybe a followup on the imaging talks.

Elections.

Nominations will be open at the January meeting.

Budget

Information from last year was lost because of a virus on Treasurer's computer. The EBoard approved a programmatic (rather than a detailed) budget last year, which simplified things. This provides major spending categories instead of a detailed line budget. The EBoard will be working on this in January.

Strategic Direction Planning

A SWOT analysis was performed last year. Ron Hranac proposed using a strategic direction plan model that is being developed by his Ham Radio club. Do we want to create a new Mission Statement? A Vision Statement? Is there interest in doing something like this? What are the long term goals of DAS?

The motion to adjourn was seconded and passed at 9:08 PM.