

Denver Astronomical Society
Minutes of March 25, 2016 E-Board Meeting

Officers Present: Ron Hranac – President, VACANT – Vice President, Jeff Tropeano – Secretary, Michael Nowak – Treasurer,

Board Members Present: Joe Gafford, Jack Eastman, Johnny O. Barela, Ken Sturrock, Dan Wray, Lindsay Shaw

Observatory Representative: Dr. Robert Stencel

Absent: Ron Pearson, Chuck Habenicht, Ed Scholes

Members and Guests: Eileen Barela, Ivan Geisler, Hugh Davidson

The meeting was called to order with a quorum present at 7:30 p.m.

The Previous Meeting's Minutes were read, amended, and approved.

New Agenda Items:

Jeff Tropeano requested to report some information about the Zozi Advance reservation system. Lindsey Shaw requested to add a discussion about acquiring a phone for conference calls. Ron Hranac passed a sheet to collect the contact information for e-board members for the 2016 e-board.

DU's Historic Chamberlin Observatory Business:

Dr. Stencel gave an update on Chamberlin Observatory business. Dr. Stencel had to have campus facilities remove a sled jump built on the observatory stairs. Handicap accommodation for general meetings at Olin Hall was brought up to DU by Dr. Stencel. 2 handicap parking spaces are reserved for Olin Hall but there is no guarantee they will be available. Dr. Stencel reminded us that there are a few alternative locations available, including Lindsey Hall (see previous month's meeting).

Dr. Stencel discussed the upcoming transit of Mercury on Monday May 9 from sunrise until noonish. Dr. Stencel will give telescope time to DAS, but will need to know who will be attending the event and operating the telescope. May issue of Sky & Telescope has details of the transit.

Mars is at opposition at the end of May, and June and July will be good viewing. If the DAS wants to do any additional events for the Mars opposition, let Dr. Stencel know.

Telescope operator recertification is happening the afternoon of May 14, and Dena is assembling a list of all of the Public Night team members. Dr. Bob asked if Scott Leach was still doing Public Night, as he hasn't seen his name on the logbook. Ron confirmed that he's attending Public Nights on the nights that Ron attended.

Treasurer's Report:

Michael Nowak presented the February treasurers report, which is included below. Ron reminded the group that the "Premier Time Savings" account has been set aside as the club's emergency reserve fund. The reservations account on PayPal only allows \$500 per month transfer, so Michael has been slowly moving the funds from the Paypal account, and will be completed in 10 months.

Dan Wray is collecting money for jacket orders, will hold the checks, give all of the checks to Michael at the end of the process, and Michael will pay the jacket vendor from those funds.

Michael looked into the speaker donations to the VNH fund. No checks were made to the VNH account during Luis's tenure, so Stuart's list (about \$600) should be transferred to the VNH fund.

OLD BUSINESS

Spring Banquet Recap:

In Stuart's absence, Ron Hranac provided a summary of the Spring Banquet. The banquet was good, food and service was good, and awards were given to awardees. Dave Tondreau was given the David Ormsby award. Michael Carrol's talk was well received. The banquet was funded break-even from the \$25 per plate receipts. Total attendance, 56 reservations, was down slightly from last year's 60 reservations.

Membership Survey Results:

Jeff presented the 2015 Membership Survey Report, which is included in the club secretary files. After the material was presented, Jeff suggested that the board discuss ways to improve the way we welcome new members to the organization, which was the biggest critique from the survey.

Lindsey recommended that all members of the club leadership introduce themselves at the membership meetings. Jack mentioned that new members are no longer listed in the newsletter, and suggested that we do that again. Jeff suggested that the new member ambassador write something in the newsletter for this.

Jeff mentioned that with Sorin no longer on the board, it's important we continue momentum for attending conferences like AnomalyCon and ComiCon, etc... The club needs to find some other members of the club that would like to contribute in a similar way. Jeff will send out an e-mail to the listserv to look for folks that are interested.

Lindsey Shaw suggested that folks should take photos at public outreach events and post to Social Media.

Regarding the recommendation from the membership that the DAS engage with more youth and young adults: more Social Media, more outreach events at schools, more involvement with Nerd Nite and other local events, astronomy clubs within school or classes, focus on elective classes, not

general. Dan mentioned that there is an astronomy club at the School of Mines. Ron and Lindsey recommended a Public Night dedicated for High School / College / Young Folks.

Regarding easier access to monthly meetings: Inform folks of the YouTube channel, create a “parking” map, creating a carpooling group. Invest in a Lavalier mic for better audio quality. Jeff will email Darrell to shop for a Lavalier mic.

Regarding the recommendation to implement a buddy system: The New Member Ambassador role will help with this. Membership person should attend meetings to be introduced.

Beginner Programs: Digby will do “how to use your telescope” talks multiple times a year. The new member ambassador can make a list of everyone’s “interests.” Maybe Darrell could send “tickler” e-mails to new members. Should folks post their interests in signatures in their Yahoo signature, or the membership roster. Darrell could enter additional fields “interests / expertise” when renewing.

Open Positions:

Vice President: Stuart will continue to serve as acting VP until someone else is found. Ron Hranac talked to David Shouldice, and David mentioned that when Carla left as President of the club, lots of her tasks were subbed out to the members of the board, which was successful. The VP has many tasks: spring banquet, summer picnic, holiday party, and coordinate speakers. Coordinating speakers is the most pressing job of the VP. Perhaps the event planning tasks could be delegated? Ron Hranac recommended to have small committees, 2 people, to organize each club even throughout the year.

Librarian: The old librarian Phil Klos did not renew his membership, so a new librarian is in order. Eileen Barela has volunteered to be the librarian, and she was appointed.

Scholarship Committee: Ron Pearson and Tim Pimentel have both stepped down from the committee, so the committee needs two additional members, and a chairman. Jeff Tropeano will serve as the chair of the VNH chairman, will reach out to Ron Hranac for information, and try to find additional volunteers for the committee. Lindsey Shaw will also serve on the committee.

Zozi Reservation Update:

The Zozi system has been requiring credit cards since February 2nd, and the consensus of the board is to keep it that way. So all reservations require a credit card payment going forward. Lindsey and Ron recommended implementing a POS (point-of-sale) system to take credit cards at Open Houses. Michael Nowak will look into POS systems to do this, perhaps including Zozi, or Square.

NEW BUSINESS

Mercury Transit:

Monday, May 9 5:45 AM – 1:30 PM, is a transit of Mercury. DU is willing to allocate scope time if members want to use the scope. If the DAS wants to do a special event, the DAS can coordinate and

DU will charge the club a head tax per usual procedures. Since it is a weekday morning, it's likely that the turnout for such an event will be low, so unless a school event or coordinated group is interested, an event may not be recommended. Lindsey will reach out to Julie, the public outreach coordinator, to see if there are any local school groups interested.

Mars opposition is in May. June presents the best opportunity to coordinate an open house event for the Mars opposition.

Jeff Tropeano will reach out to Zach and the Listserv to find interested for the new member ambassador role.

Summer Picnic: Saturday July 9 is the summer picnic, and the board thinks we should the same thing we did last year, have the picnic here at the observatory as a pot luck. DAS will pay for meats, as per last year, and members will bring items for pot luck. Jack reminded the group that there is an open house in the evening, and it would be a good opportunity to bring classic / antique telescopes just before sundown to use at the open house.

Conference Phone: Lindsey asked if it were possible to have a call-in option to the board meeting if a conference phone could be provided. The club did do a conference call once, with an iPhone, but it wasn't great. If it were necessary, there would need to be a Polycom tabletop conference phone. Another suggestion is just to use Skype, once it's installed by Ken on the observatory laptop.

Lindsey Shaw needs to be added to the e-board Yahoo group. Darrell and Greg Marino moderate the boards.

Next E-board Meeting: Friday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. at Chamberlin Observatory.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed at 9:21 p.m.

MOTIONS

(none)

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

The follow Action Items are indicated in the meeting minute with underlined text, and are aggregated below:

- Michael will transfer approximately \$600 to the VNH fund. Details are in Stuart's list of membership meeting speakers that have elected to donate their stipend.
- Jeff will send out an e-mail to the listserv to look for folks that are interested.
- Jeff will email Darrell to shop for a Lavalier mic.
- Michael will look into POS systems to do this, perhaps including Zozi, or Square.
- Lindsey will reach out to Julie, the public outreach coordinator, to see if there are any local school groups interested in the Mercury transit.

- Jeff will reach out to Zach and the Listserv to find interested for the new member ambassador role.

PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS

- ✓ Stuart will give Michael the information on those stipend donations for the transfer to occur
- ✓ Michael to go through the checkbook and see if any checks were written to speakers, double check with Dena.
- Ken will install skype on the presentation machine in preparation to test it an Olin overflow plan.
- Michael Nowak will write a check to the VNH fund and give it to Ron Pearson.
- ✓ Michael and Darrell will audit to ensure all of the VNH donations made by speakers have been accounted for.

ONLINE UPDATES

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Subject: Membership Report

Reported by: Dena McClung

Report:

Here are the membership numbers as of 11:30 a.m. March 24:

Students

Current through 1/1/17: 21

Not renewed: 14

Total 35

Regular

Current through 1/1/17: 289

Not renewed: 150

Total 439

Honorary 12

Total All Members 486

To be culled: 164

Total after culling: 322

We plan to cull the unrenewed members on April 1. This will affect both our membership list and the Yahoo group.

Dena

E-Board Action: *None*.

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Subject: Quartermaster's Report

Reported by: Ed Scholes

Report:

One scope on loan

E-Board action: *None*.

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Treasurer Report for February 2016

Standing Accounts February 29 2016

1st Bank Accounts and Investment Fund

Type of Account	Ref No	Amount
General Fund Checking	X9663	\$31,412.61
Dark Site Checking	X1049	\$3,262.02
Premier Time Savings	X9213	\$10,562.07
Time Deposit Savings	X3552	\$5,178.87
Total		<u>\$50,415.57</u>

Deposits

Total

General Fund Checking Acct X9663	Deposits from mail, Open Houses, Public Nights, Zozi	\$1,744.85
	Transfers from Paypal	<u>\$2,800.00</u>
TOTAL		<u>\$4,544.85</u>

PayPal

Transactions in February 2016	Number	Fee	Total
Regular Memberships	51	Renewals	\$1,769.00
Student Memberships	6	Renewals	\$72.00
Total Banquet Reservations	2	Various	\$50.00
Donations to VNH			\$20.00
Donations to Dark Site			\$48.00
Donations to General Fund			\$110.00

Balance of Reservations Paypal at February 29	\$4,754.16
Balance of Treasurer Paypal at February 29	\$199.19
Total Paypal Funds at February 29	\$4,953.35

Mail	Number	Fee	Total
Mail-In Membership	14	Renewals	\$417.00
Mail-In Student Membership	0	\$12.00	\$0.00
Donation to Dark Site			\$10.00
Donations to General Fund			\$0.00
Total			\$427.00

Public Night, Open House, Etc.	Number	Fee	Total
Public Night Guests	152	Various	\$83.00
Open House Guests	197	Various	\$352.00
Total Entry	349		\$435.00
Donations at Open House/Public Night	0	0	\$0.00
Total			\$435.00

Payments	Description	Amount
Jeff Tropeano	Survey Monkey Reimb	\$26.00
Van Nattan-Hansen	Transfer from Paypal	\$10.00
Dena McClung	Reimb for mailing the Observer	\$30.68
Charles Habenicht	Reimb for printing NSN Certs	\$98.70
Signal Graphics	Printing Newsletter	\$130.00
		\$295.38