

**Denver Astronomical Society
Minutes of December 16, 2016 E-Board Meeting**

Officers Present: Leo Sack – Vice President

Board Members Present: Jack Eastman, Lindsey Shaw, Joe Gafford, Ed Scholes, Johnny Barela, Dan Wray

Observatory Representative: Dr. Bob Stencel

Absent: Ron Hranac, Jeff Tropeano, Ron Pearson, Darrell Dodge, Chuck Habenicht

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

The meeting was called to order with a quorum present at 19:30.

The Previous Meeting's Minutes were read, amended, and approved. (edits: Leo Sack present. Lindsey made this and other edits to the minutes and will forward to Jeff)

New Agenda Items: None

DU's Historic Chamberlin Observatory Business:

- Dr. Bob received an email that the clock drive is dirty. **Dan will handle this.**
- The Tasco diagonal secondary mirror is missing.
- Fracking lights are impeding dark site observing. Perhaps now is the time to talk to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission about re-aiming their lights as there is a hearing coming up. **Dr. Bob will send out the info regarding this.**
- The dome drive has been behaving but could use a replacement leather belt or another manual solution.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Nowak was absent. Ed Scholes made a motion to table the November treasurer's report presentation until the January E-Board meeting. Jack seconded. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Dark Site Storage: Jack pinged half a dozen storage unit areas and sent them off to the E-board. Dan sent a list too. \$120/10x10 temporary storage unit will be the approximate cost. Dan moved to table any storage issues till the next January meeting. The E-board approved this motion.

Holiday Banquet Recap: Ed Scholes reported: 68 people attended. Embassy Suites was good to work with. Ed thought size of the room was great; it allowed for people to be closer. The DAS is going to come out a few hundred dollars short because of a few small items: we had some guests, we didn't

include the cost of the sound system, etc. Leo thought the banquet was excellent; the price was comfortable and the room was great. Dan thought the food was average. Ivan said he appreciated the room this year versus Aspen Grove.

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming Election: Ivan Geisler reported: January kicks off the nominating process. At the February general member meeting nominees will be announced and then there will be a vote. Officers are installed at the spring banquet. Lindsey Shaw would like to change the format so that the nominees can give a very short nomination speech. Ivan will be a part of the nominating committee – he will solicit nominations at the January general meeting. The committee’s job is to find candidates (a lot of times there aren’t enough candidates.) Ivan doesn’t want to be the entire committee. Reminder: committee members can’t run for office.

- Leo Sack mentioned that he might be moving in the summer.

Speakers for 2017: Leo has reached out but hasn’t had anyone committed to presenting at any meetings yet. Leo is open to suggestions.

- Ivan suggested we could have panels of members instead of speakers.
- Lindsey suggested we could have no speakers and just have breakout group discussions.
- Leo threw out the idea that instead of a speaker we could have a discussion on the organization, membership growth, outreach to public, etc. - a facilitated discussion. We could bring in other astronomical organizations and share ideas; brainstorm.
- Dan said we can ask the membership and see what the interest would be in.
- Leo said he has reached out to the new members, younger members, and they are struggling to find their way into astronomy. We need to interface with them more. Difficult to hook younger members as they have more commitments.
- Lindsey suggested reaching out to folks who don’t renew and ask why.
- Dan noted that we usually find a churn of 100 (people who don’t renew but we make up with new memberships).
- Speaker suggestion: maybe Leslie who was option for the holiday banquet and can’t make spring banquet.
- **Eileen has a contact as well. She will give Leo his contact info.**

Outreach Fees: The board concluded that the cost should be negotiated based on attendees. \$75-\$150 is the general range. Attendees hitting in hundreds should be on the higher end. The board suggests letting Julie use her best judgment. Only public schools are free. Essentially we are charging so if they don’t want to give a donation, they won’t have our participation. We don’t have a ton of outreach volunteers so we can afford to have turnaways. Julie can contact Ron Hranac if she is struggling to decide what amount to request.

Spring Banquet: The spring banquet is scheduled for Saturday, March 11. Ed said can help out with planning but can’t start till mid-January, and he won’t be in attendance. Ed motioned to table till next meeting. Board approved.

Where Do we go From Here? We covered a lot in our speaker discussion.

- There was discussion on this year's member survey and a SWOT analysis but the board decided to table any decision for a future meeting.
- Future program and activity ideas: Leo would like more help on his activities at Open Houses – Leo has telescopes for visitors to use set up in the front of the building, circled by red light rope to draw people to it. Leo just supervises and answers questions. He needs more members invested in this program. Jack told Leo to advertise at the general membership meeting. He could also publish a half page on it in the Observer.
- Leo asked whether we could have a full program – not just during Open Houses. Leo described the program in Cincinnati – it was very positive and got people motivated to loan out dobs and maybe even buy a scope and then bring it to the observatory. Lindsey mentioned that would be a great idea to raise funds; people would pay a good amount to attend a program like that. Lindsey said such a program could substitute for a public night every now and then. Jack mentioned that it sounds similar to star parties at S&S Optika. Cathy got lots of repeat attendees from those events.
- Leo mentioned having one-on-one help too would be great. First order of business though is finding people in DAS to be involved. **Leo will work on this.**
- Leo also mentioned starting a learners group. This could be concurrent with public nights where new folks meet and learn together. Everyone agrees for **Leo to work on this.**

Other Comments: Lindsey gave update on the house with LED lights. She knocked on the door and gave the woman who answered the door a very brief run-down of the concern and invited her to the next Open House. Lindsey mentioned that perhaps during the next open house someone can go over and invite them over directly.

Jack brought up the idea of reduced dues or waived dues for public night volunteers. He mentioned they have an obligation and should be rewarded for their time. He will bring this up at the January E-Board meeting.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed at 21:20.

MOTIONS

- **Ed Scholes made a motion to table the November treasurer's report presentation until the January E-Board meeting. Jack seconded. Motion approved.**
- **Dan moved to table any storage issues till the next January E-Board meeting. The E-board approved this motion.**
- **Ed motioned to table the spring banquet discussion until the January E-board meeting. Board approved.**

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

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

- **Dan Wray will handle cleaning the clock drive.**
- **Dr. Bob will send out information regarding the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission hearing.**
- **Eileen Barela will send Leo her contact for a potential speaker.**

- Leo Sack will work on getting DAS members involved in his education program and starting up a learners group.
- Jack Eastman will bring up at the January E-Board meeting the idea of reduced or waived dues for public night volunteers.

PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS

- Lindsey Shaw volunteered to look for a nice book to be used for a guestbook.
- Hugh will get in touch with Public Night operators to form a small committee to discuss drive belt/pulley options per Dr. Bob's request.
- Ron Mickle and Ron Hranac will coordinate a time to take the tv and vcr to Best Buy.
- Jeff Tropeano will measure the height of the 16" and let the group know via e-mail.
- Jeff Tropeano will write the group expecting 65+ guest for a Public Night that we can only accommodate 30 people and invite them to the December 3rd Open House.
- Ron Hranac will get in touch with Darrell Dodge to determine the cost to implement the tuff-shed project in the spring.
- Ed will purchase two items (short dovetail and the solar filter) at Woodland Hills.
- Michael to calculate and provide a check to Jeff Tropeano for VNH Auction proceeds.
- Michael to research current CD rates to determine if it makes sense to put \$10,000 from the General Fund into a CD.
- Chuck and Darrell will be involved in organizing the committee. They will reach out to the most frequent users of the dark sky site, such as Greg Wimpey, Joe Gafford, Ed Scholes
- Eileen will find out if DMNS is planning another women's STEM group that DAS could participate in, perhaps asking Naomi.
- Ron should follow up with Stuart to determine if there is a shortage of future speakers.
- Michael will look into POS systems to do this, perhaps including Zozi, or Square.
- Ken will install skype on the presentation machine in preparation to test it an Olin overflow plan.

ONLINE UPDATES

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Subject: Quartermaster's Report

Reported by: Ed Scholes

Quartermaster's Report

I fitted the PST and C-5 with small dovetails so they can be used with the loptron mount. These can be easily removed so they can also be used with a standard camera attachment. We now also have a white light filter for the C-5. It is located in the C-5 case. This means that we can mount both the C-5 with a white light filter and the PST on the loptron mount when using them for outreach programs.

One scope is on loan at this time.

No E-Board action required.

**Treasurer Report for
November 2016**

**Standing Accounts
November 30 2016
1st Bank Accounts and
Investment Fund**

Type of Account	Ref No	Amount
General Fund Checking	X9663	\$41,764.66
Dark Site Checking	X1049	\$3,333.96
Premier Time Savings	X9213	\$10,572.61
Time Deposit Savings	X3552	\$5,181.46
Total		<u>\$60,852.69</u>

Deposits	Total
General Fund Checking Acct X9663	
Deposits from mail, Open Houses, Public Nights, Zozi	\$1,913.13
Transfers from Paypal	\$0.00
TOTAL	<u>\$1,913.13</u>

PayPal Transactions in November 2016	Number	Fee	Total
Regular Memberships	13	\$36.00	\$468.00
Student Memberships	4	\$12.00	\$48.00
Donations to VNH			\$0.00
Donations to Dark Site	1	\$10.00	\$10.00
Holiday Party	32	\$25.00	\$800.00
Balance of Reservations Paypal at November 30			\$4.16
Balance of Treasurer Paypal at November 30			<u>\$1,380.88</u>
Total Paypal Funds at November 30			<u><u>\$1,385.04</u></u>

Mail	Number	Fee	Total
Haven't had a chance to look at the mail since the last E Board meeting			

Public Night & Open House	Number	Total
Public Night Guests	163	\$41.00
Open House Guests	258	\$455.00
Total Entry	421	\$496.00
Donations at Open House/Public Night		
Total		\$496.00

Payments	Description	Amount
Eileen Barela	Reimb for mailing the Observer	\$20.58
Ed Scholes	Reimb for telescope accessories	\$162.35
Signal Graphics	Newsletter Printing	\$390.00
King Soopers	Stamps	\$18.80
		\$591.73