

Minutes – FOTO meeting September 10, 2018

Call to Order: 5:07; Present – Bill Haddon, Tim Gill, David Markham, Eduardo Alatorre, David Velasquez

Visitor: Larry Aguirre

Minutes review: Approved with minor changes from Bill

Financial Report: David M. reports a balance of \$65,818.05

Action Items from previous meetings:

Taylor History Project: Awaiting Tom's return to help construct supporting framework and work out content;

Electrical problems and Sewer: electricity to shed is sporadically on and off; Larry offered to help check junction boxes for possible splicing problems; otherwise, need a licensed electrician to troubleshoot, ideally when electricity is not working;

Construction company has no set date for sewer to be repaired as heavy trucks are still using the site; maybe in October;

Audit: David M. has tried emailing Carlie with no response; Bill has been in touch via email;

David now has Carlie's phone number and will try again;

President's report: nothing further to report

Insurance: Bill thinks D&O insurance is not necessary, based on conversations with others; liability insurance should be covered by either LCOE (Lake County Office of Education) or KUSD (Kelseyville Unified School District); regardless, Bill will check with Lincoln-Leavitt for property and/or liability coverage for circumstances where FOTO equipment is used off-site;

Investment of FOTO cash reserves: from David M. - money market rates are almost 2%; a motion was made and seconded to check both local and online banks and rates and an email vote will be taken on where to invest up to \$50,000 of our current balance;

Public nights: Steven Kane's talk brought in \$165;

Phil Scherrer is scheduled Sept. 15 and David V. is scheduled for Oct. 20, along with a segment on "Observe the Moon" night;

in his introduction, Bill should ask the audience how they hear about the public night to give us an idea about the best ways to publicize;

November/December public nights will include “Mystery of the Christmas Star” and also some of the new streaming shows that Eduardo has found; the hardware for streaming is not quite ready to go yet, but Eduardo thinks it will be ready soon;

Contract for groups: Bill has heard from a Lower Lake Boy Scout group who want to get training to earn an Astronomy Scout badge as well as a Girl Scout group, which may be handled in conjunction with LCOE;

the Boy Scout group wants a 3-hour session, but has no money; ensuing discussion concluded that training should not be free as that would set a precedent; Bill will discuss a reasonable contract with the Boy Scouts, encouraging them to do fundraising for the training;

Bill mentioned that LCOE has a “home-school” program that may be useful to apply to the Girl Scout program and Tim mentioned that KUSD has received a grant to establish the Kelseyville Learning Academy, also for home-schooled students;

Dark Sky initiative: Bill wondered whether Jim Steele will be able to follow through with the Lake County Dark Sky designation, with all the fire activities recently; he will contact Jim to “nudge” him along;

Bill revisited his Dark Sky presentation to the Cobb Advisory Council and Tim mentioned that he has property on Cobb which might serve as a good dark sky viewing site;

Tim’s Australia trip: Tim is headed to Australia in October for 2 months, as part of his educational visitor exchange project, and one aspect of his visit is to host 2 KUSD AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) students who have been chosen to visit as part of the AVID program. **Tim is looking for financial support to help pay for the students’ trip,** and donations by the FOTO Board would be greatly appreciated!

Tim will also be visiting the Great Melbourne Telescope restoration project

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Melbourne_Telescope) and will plan to give a public night talk on his experience.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20.