

Friends of Taylor Observatory~Norton Planetarium
Minutes for 8 October 2018, Board meeting at the Taylor Observatory Classroom

Meeting call to order: President Bill Haddon called the meeting to order at 4:51pm

Roll call Board members present: Bill Haddon, Eduardo Allatore, David Markham, Barbara McIntyre, Tim Gill, Emily Whittlesey. Visitors: Larry Aguirre, and later, Cynthia Lenner, LCOE.

Financial report: \$65,877.97 balance.

David Markham, had a Corporation Authorization form regarding the savings/MMF investment; it needs to be filled out and signed by the secretary, Emily Whittlesey. (Day after the meeting Emily contacted David for help in filling it out; very specific info about FOTO. David also reviewed it, agreed it was not a simple issue, and passed it on to Bill for adding to the next agenda, as the form has specific things to be answered).

History Project: tabled until Tom returns.

Electrical problems in shed resolved by Bill (loose connection!)

Sewer line still unresolved.

President's report:

Bill had an email from a Clearlake HS student wanting to focus his Spring project around informing and involving students in knowing about Taylor, and educating them about how they could help. Bill will pursue further what the student would like, whether a specific night at Taylor or what.

Calls came about the Space-X Vandenberg Rocket Launch, folks wondering if it was a comet. Bill has a photo which makes the launch indeed appear as a comet!

Enter into the minutes, the information sheet about the FIREFALL program, written by Bill for George.

Proposed service for the 14 year old LX-200 Meade 16" telescope: Motion by David Markham to go ahead with Chris Erikson of Summit Consulting, HI, approving funds up to \$1500. for him to visit and repair the telescope. (this would cover his airfare, a rental car, lodging.) The condition also is that he would assess if it needs a controller purchase from Sidereal Technologies (\$3500. plus installation by Chris), and if so, stay to install it. (That additional expense would be approved in a future board meeting.)

Motion 2nd by Tim Gill. Bill will talk more with Chris regarding his schedule, and it was agreed that Tom Schleif should be present for this event. All approved.

Insurance for Taylor discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

Website security: Barbara explained that the Blue Host setup currently is such that the security needs to have "new ownership" every 3 months with a new password each time and there is no warning, then the site is inaccessible. Bill directed Barbara to change the setup so she is not having to do the reentry every 3 months (her great time expenditure), but change it to an annual setup to save time and hassle. She will report back what that added cost will be but Bill suggested if it is not that much to go ahead and just do it.

Dark Sky Initiative: Bill reported that as a result of his 6-8 week ago meeting with the Cobb Area Council, Jessica Pyska and Jim Steele are now connected with one another to proceed with this project.

Bill then had to leave the meeting early, and Tim Gill stepped in.

Audit proposal from Carly Pehling Associates: Motion by David Markham to go ahead, Eduardo seconded.

All approved.

Public Window to the Universe Programs:

Sept was Prof Phil Scherrer, also Tim presented about the AVID program and funding needed.
see more below about AVID

October 20 upcoming 3rd Sat- David Velasquez “Future Missions” and International Observe the Moon Night.

Motion by Barbara, 2nd by Emily for Eduardo to have \$30 for the purchase of “Moon kits” to be available.

KVUSD grant proposal: Tim is applying for a federal grant to expand the summer school program from its current remedial focus, to include academic enrichment classes. This Student Success & Academic Enrichment grant would allow for longer classes, hiring more teachers, and expanding the subjects to include full classes at Taylor. This grant needs community partners under the LCOE banner.

DELETE:

Tim also explained more about the AVID program, and the need to raise money.

Larry Aguirre, who came specifically to join Taylor, brought with him a gift to be used for raising money for the AVID program! A generous gift, he gave a Celestron 90mm with 2 lenses and a tripod. Model # C90 1000mm-F11. Value he said was around \$300.

He suggested we raffle it, and it was agreed to sell raffle tickets at the October and November public nights.

Emily volunteered to manage the printing of the tickets. (The amount of the raffle tickets was not discussed but as I write these minutes, I propose \$5 each, or 5 for \$25.)

ADD:

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Eduardo talked about the NASA grant that he is applying for: Kits for students about what NASA does in the space station. For the grant Eduardo needs demographics about the schools which Cynthia offered to help him with, and feedback about the application before sending it. Help was offered!

Emily requested that Cynthia look into whoever is doing the Friends part of the LCOE website as it has currently no mention of the new telescope, or current information. She reported that the website is currently under renovation, and will let us know when it is up and running; Barbara particularly also want to know who to contact then directly for FOTO events etc.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm

Respectfully submitted

Emily Whittlesey, Secretary

