

FRIENDS OF TAYLOR OBSERVATORY ~ NORTON PLANETARIUM

MEETING AGENDA Minutes ~ Weds. 13 March, 2019, 5 PM Taylor classroom.

CALL TO ORDER: (Haddon) 5:06 pm

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS: Angelo Parisi, David Firebaugh

Present: Bill Haddon, Eduardo Alatorre, David Markham, Tim Gill, Barbara McIntyre, Elisa Prather
LCOE Education Specialist (for Math and Science), Emily Whittlesey

Minutes review: (Feb minutes by Tim Gill) Motion to approve by David M, Emily 2nd, approved.

Financial Report: (Markham) \$14,929.43

Action Items from Previous Meetings:

*Audit status. In progress.

*LX 200/16 Repair and upgrades: Chris Erickson is coming, approx. March 15th, to do repairs, bringing parts. LCOE will pay for this.

*Cave Astrola 6 inch: Restoration is being done by Tom Schleif and David Firebaugh, with a focus primarily on mechanical repairs. David talked about aspects of this project.

* History project (Schleif) in progress.

Business Items:

1. President's report (Haddon)

- Status of Sonoma County Astronomical Society (SCAS): In existence since the 1970s, will close in April this year and the membership will continue with the Valley of the Moon group. The Striking Sparks Project will continue.
- Add FOTO events to the Lakecountybloom.org calendar (Whittlesey): Emily suggested that Bill give permission for David Wakefield, editor of the Bloom editor to glean FOTO events directly from the FOTO webpage where Barbara posts, for the Bloom website calendar. Elisa suggested we also use the MEET UP APP.
- Kelseyville Business Association meeting Monday, March 11th. Bill attended the meeting where the issue of lighting came up, the KBA not happy about their high electric bill. Bill gave info about the Dark Skies lighting requirements.
- April – for the Ely Stage Stop swig n jig, Bill donated a 1 year membership to Taylor.

2. Clearlake high school special event held March 9th. (Schleif, Prather, Alatorre)

Organized by Clearlake high school student Nicabec Casido as her project with LCOE approval. Over 100 people attended, students and parents. Elisa will send Emily appropriate wording for a certificate of thank you to Nicabec.

3. LCOE Observatory Assistant position (Gill, Haddon): Application process is now closed and interviews are currently being scheduled.

4. Public nights and events for 2019

*February – Tim Gill's Windows event drew a good crowd enjoyed by all.

*March 31st – “Big Bang Band Traveling Star Show” , Angelo Parisi and Terry England.

*April 27th- Eduardo Alatorre proposes two events same day.

During the day from 9-2pm, an Open House using materials sent by National Informal Science Education for experiments, and include setup of solar telescope.

Evening program: a talk name like “Strange Space Exploration History”.

*May and June open, Bill solicited suggestions.

*April 28th Olive Festival at Chacewater. Emily volunteered to help.

* May 11th- Eduardo would like to repeat his April event in Spanish.

*August 11th?? Clearlake State Park (CLSP) Campfire program requested by Kitty Dougherty (sp?), Bill agreed, date to be firmed up.

5. Dark Sky Initiative- Angelo reported that he is on the board at Anderson Marsh who has sent a letter of support for the Dark Skies Initiative. Bill emphasized that the Dark Skies effort needs someone to head it up.

6. Taylor Weekends Open- as a pilot project. Discussion followed but nothing can be firmed until LCLOE approves and it is clarified who contracts etc. It was generally agreed that this would be done in summer. Tim reminded that LCOE wants no additional action without the bathrooms being fixed. There is no fixed date for that. Angelo Parisi described the night sky classes offered in Sonoma, and offered that he could teach such a series at Taylor; he will consider, we encouraged him to pursue. These classes are offered at a charge, are generally held on new moon nights, and appeal to high school students as well as adults. Such a program could lead to training new docents for Taylor.

7. Taylor Associates proposal (Haddon). Shelved to the next meeting.

8. Governance of FOTO. (Suggest all board members read over the by-laws). Bill asked if we need to have an advisory board. After discussion Barbara made a motion that we INVITE educators, etc. to a meeting which would be an advisory meeting, second by Emily, all in favor. Tim proposed sometime in September, and that we each suggest people to be part of such an event. We would prepare questions and give them to the attendees to inspire thoughtful suggestions, critique regarding how Taylor is serving the community. Bill suggested the event be late afternoon, catered, include telescopes.

9. FOTO priorities for 2019 and beyond: This was tabled to a future meeting (beyond).

Motion by Emily to allow Eduardo to order planetarium shows monthly, submit his invoices to David M directly, Barbara 2nd. Approved.

Motion by David M to approve Schleif purchase of two tarps for fence light block, 2nd Tim, approved.

ADJOURN: Barbara motion to adjourn, Emily 2nd. Meeting adjourned 6:53pm.

Respectfully submitted, Emily Whittlesey