

Friends of Taylor Observatory & Norton Planetarium

Board Meeting Minutes, February 13, 2020 at the Taylor classroom.

Meeting called to order 5:05 pm. (Haddon)

Present: Bill Haddon, David Velasquez, David Markham, Angelo Parisi, Emily Whittlesey, Tom Schleif (by phone).

Financial report: (Markham)Bank 50,997,42. Umpqua \$2,947.02

Action item from previous meeting:

Enhanced night vision eyepieces; David Firebaugh will be unavailable due to health issues.

1- President's report: (Haddon)

Donation to Chris Erickson, Summit Kinetics, for LX-200 forum to groups.io; best way to do is bill him \$200. For his report.

Voted unanimously to renew FOTO membership with KBA (Kelseyville Business Assn.).(see yes vote below)

2- Purchase of Digitalis software upgrade completed.

\$4950. Needed to be raised, \$2100. Is committed to date, leaving \$2850. outstanding to be raised. Discussion reflected need to update membership renewals, and also create a a \$500 level which could include a dinner and an evening at Taylor. Agreed to discuss discuss further.

ACTION ITEM:

Emily offered to contact Susan Bloomquist (mother of Elena, one of Angelo's Friday night apprentices) to ask if she might be willing to do that membership updating.

3- Status of telescopes: (Schleif, Haddon :

*Meade 16", Teeter 18", Meade 10" Newtonian on Atlas mount

*Teeter: eyepieces, filter slife, firmware upgrade received.

*Storage case \$50, was ordered by Schleif. (see yes vote below)

4- FOTO Public Nights and Events:

*January 25, Eduardo "Artemis: We're going back to the moon"

*February 14, Valentine's Day special event with LCOE and Darkskyevents.com

*March 21, Mackenzie Markham, student presentation

*April 18, Dr .Margaret Race, SETI, Planetary Protection Agency

*May? (new moon Fri 22nd)

*October, David Velasquez

Possible speakers:

Stephen Gottlieb (SF TAC group- Jan 15 talk in SF on NGC and IC projects)

Speaker from SETI, Dan Werthimer (SETI chief scientist)

Mary Holt, Morrison Planetarium

5- Friday openings of Taylor Observatory (Prather, {Parisi})

Discussion followed of CA AB-5 issues of independent contractor vs. employee. David Markham said Paychex does the paperwork for the contract; FOTO can get worker's comp.

Since FOTO By-laws Article 2, Section 1 "Objectives and Purposes" is inaccurate (Haddon reported), there is need to revisit by-laws.

ACTION ITEMS:

Bill will get an attorney referral from NOLO re: AB-5

Bill will send a copy of the by-laws to all board members

David Velasquez, David Markham and Bill Haddon will examine how to simplify and clarify the FOTO by-laws.

7- Scholarships (Whittlesey)

Emily wanted to clarify if the scholarship discussion had been resolved since it had been put off in former meetings. It was decided to keep focus of energy toward memberships, and education.

8-Major projects for 2020:

- a. Replace the LX-200, candidate scope: Rowe-Ackerman Schmidt Astrograph (Celestron)
- b. Charles Nieman Solar Observatory Laboratory funding could be investigated through the 100 Women Strong group suggested Bill.

Motion by David Markham, 2nd by David Velasquez, to vote on two things:

Renew membership in KBA: pay for the storage case ordered by Tom.

All ayes, and with Tom's vote by phone, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 6:35 pm.