

FRIENDS OF TAYLOR OBSERVATORY – NORTON PLANETARIUM

On-Line Meeting Agenda

With this email, December 23, 2019 at 9:02 PM, I am opening a meeting of Friends of the Taylor Observatory-Norton Planetarium , as provided in the Friends of Taylor-Norton By-Laws.

NEW BUSINESS:

Angelo Parisi of LCOE has presented a plan to upgrade the Digitalis Planetarium system to current software and hardware revisions. In November he visited Digitalis in WA to learn details.

The total upgrade cost is \$17,600 if ordered before January 1, 2020. I will forward the formal quotation shortly (waiting for Angelo).

--- Ten percent price increase after January 1.

[See end of email for formal motion]

Background: With Angelo in charge of day-to-day operations at Taylor the Planetarium system is being heavily used for instruction for K-12 students and for the community Astronomy Course that is now underway (first 6 weeks of 18 completed as of Dec 18). There will be increased planetarium use as LCOE/FOTO proceed with the plan to open Taylor on Friday nights.

Digitalis Corporation has an outstanding array of educational software.

see: <http://www.digitaliseducation.com/>

In particular, read the "Nightshade" tab and "Educators" tabs.

We can only access these by bringing the Digitalis/Nightshade system, now at least 8 years out of date, to current revisions. The upgrades involve both programs and hardware.

Source of funds:

-- **\$6,000 LCOE.** Brock Falkenburg has agreed to fund \$6,000 out of LCOE funds.

-- Note: Earlier this year LCOE paid \$4,500 for the Meade LX-200 telescope repair and upgrade, now finally paid to Chris Eriksson.

-- **\$6,000 from FOTO reserves.**

-- FOTO has generally expected to fund planetarium shows, but the most recent show purchased, Firefall, was bought four years ago; most shows are now rented.

- **Additional \$5,600:** I propose that, after January 1st, we conduct a targeted fundraiser for the planetarium upgrade.

-- We have never asked the 75+ members to renew.

-- The e-mail list, now at 650, can be solicited for new memberships.

-- As CEO, I expect to contribute \$500 per year, but have not done so for 3 years. I will now offer \$1,500, which, along with any other contributions from BOD members, might be considered as a "matching donation" in the letter to members and friends.

[I want my own contribution to be in CY 2020 for tax reasons].

[Several years ago, when I took over at Taylor, a letter to a much smaller number of members resulted in contributions of several thousand dollars. We have a solid set of accomplishments to list in the fundraising letter.]

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Angelo and Elisa have offered to help with the fundraising, including hosting a formal fundraiser in the Spring, plus the possibility of using some funds from the Friday observatory openings that are scheduled to begin in 2020.

MOTION:

I move that, before Dec 31, 2019, FOTO pay \$17,600 (+/- depending on quote) to Digitalis Corporation to upgrade the Taylor Planetarium software to current levels, consistent with the funding scheme of \$6,000 from LCOE, \$6,000 from FOTO reserves and \$5,600 from fund-raising after January 1, 2020.

Meeting remains open for discussion/voting on the motion. [We need a 2nd on the motion, and then a vote after discussion/modification.]

Bill Haddon
Pres/CEO Friends of Taylor Observatory -Norton Planetarium

Motion (Haddon) to approve funding for Digitalis Planetarium software/hardware upgrade now (2nd by Director Gill) approved but unanimous vote YES from FOTO BOD members. (Directors Haddon, Schleif, Markham, Gill, McIntyre, Whittlesey, Alatorre, Velasquez voted YES).

Email from Bill to FOTO 12/27/2019 6:19 PM

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Now we have the challenge of getting a Purchase Order out of LCOE before the end of the year.

Final breakdown of funding:

Total Cost:	\$ 16,950
FOTO reserve Funds:	<\$6,000>
LCOE	<\$6,000>
FOTO members	<\$2,100>

Fundraising goal: \$2,850
(membership drive in
January)

NOTE: Payment is due 31 days ARO

David M: No payment required currently; not clear yet whether we pay LCOE or Digitalis. . The "proper" method is, I think that we partially fund LCOE for the purchase, as it is their equipment being upgraded, not ours.

Reminder: FOTO Meeting upcoming on THURSDAY, January 9th, 5:00 PM at Taylor Classroom.

Bill Friends of Taylor on-line meeting for approval of funding for planetarium software upgrade is closed.