

FRIENDS OF TAYLOR OBSERVATORY – NORTON PLANETARIUM

Board Meeting Minutes, June 9 FOTO

5:00 PM CALL TO ORDER (Haddon)

Present: Bill Haddon, Tom Schleif, Eduardo Alatorre, David Velasquez, David Markham, Tim Gill, Barbara McIntyre

Guests: Rob Young, Elena Bloomquist, Susan Bloomquist

Prior Minutes - ?? *Not mentioned?*

TREASURER's REPORT (Markham) *Umpqua Bank \$2,856.58 / First Internet Bank \$52,038.56*

- PRESIDENT's REPORT

Accomplishments for 2020/21 year:

- Updated software and hardware for Planetarium Projector (Jan/Feb 2020) (FOTO \$15,000, LCOE \$3,000?) *LCOE IT to collaborate with Digitalis about failed hardware*
- Agreement to open Taylor Friday nights (cancelled by LCOE). *Revisit at next meeting. Led to discussion on Covid and Planetarium use and Rob Young suggesting use of Hospital grade HEPA filters*
- Dark Sky Lectures via Zoom- Haddon Aug-Dec 2020
 - Clearlake Rotary
 - CTA - County Tourism Ambassadors
 - Kelseyville Sunrise Rotary - *Emphasis on Dark Skies – added to discussion on forming a "Dark Skies Coalition with Lake County Associations – David V. to head up.*
 - Lakeport Rotary
- New Sound System for Planetarium/feb 2021 (Schleif, Parisi) (FOTO and LCOE split cost) - *Tom S. and Eduardo A. discussed issue with sound ports on Planetarium Server. Can use Bluetooth. Also mentioned issue with hardware for Celestial Navigation. Rob Young suggested LCOE IT work with Digitalis to secure a replacement of failed hardware.*
- Zoom Window to the Universe Meeting with Live Telescope views (Schleif) – *only 10 attendees. Dropped idea*
- Established the F-STAR Program - Foto Student Telescope Astronomy Resource - *Elena Bloomquist will be attending school in Wales starting in September. She will return the loaned telescope. Discussion about the next F-Star candidate was not resolved.*
- Mountain View Middle School lighting problem partially remedied (see item below)

PERSPECTIVE and GOALS for 2021/2.

- "Thank you" to LCOE, Rob Young in particular, for maintaining Taylor (Classroom, Planetarium and Grounds) in excellent and safe condition over the many Pandemic months.

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-- The Shade Canyon Waldorf School at Peace and Plenty Farm (Melinda Price) & (Haddon, Gill) *This is a new Charter School being presented before the Kelseyville Unified District. They would be under the District oversight and thereby receive financial support. It is not yet final. Discussion about including Taylor in their curriculum. Tim Gill to update status of new Charter School and interest in using Taylor Observatory.*

AGENDA ITEMS

-- ELECTION of FOTO Officers for 2021/22 – *all board members approved all officers to remain in position for another year.*

-- MOUNTAINVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL LIGHTING (Haddon, Gill)

-- Meeting with Dave McQueen, KVSD Superintendent (Haddon, Velasquez, Rob Young, Tim Gill) *Tim Gill to work with school maintenance Kyle R. to resolve*

-- Contractor adjustment of lights (partial solution) – *another light at the corner of the building also needs a shield.*

-- Proposal for translucent screening as used for baseball diamonds.

-- effectiveness data (Haddon) *Discussion about need for 8 ft height by 130 ft to darken telescope viewing area. Rob Young to put in purchase order after July 1st (new fiscal year begins)*

STAFFING CHANGES - LCOE/TAYLOR (Alatorre and ??) – *Both Elisa Prather (Education Specialist including Taylor) and Angelo Parisi (Observatory Assistant) resigned. LCOE working to fill positions. Eduardo Alatorre to remain as support for next fiscal year only. Starting UC Davis September 2022.*

POSSIBLE NEW BOD MEMBER - Elena Bloomquist – *No further discussion since Elena will be moving to Wales at start of school year in September*

WINDOW TO THE UNIVERSE - Resumption

-- August 14 Perseid Meteor Shower with Angelo's band (He's committed to it).

-- Probably Clear Lake State Park. – *1st Window to the Universe for 2021. Yes to Angelo and his band. Board discussion about use of telescopes and Covid issues followed. Tom Schleif and Bill Haddon to meet to discuss other options.*

FUNDRAISING EVENT PROPOSED - Raise money for LX-200 16" Meade replacement

-- The Eli Stage Stop (Lake County Historical Society) is enthusiastic about an event there, maybe September or October. – *Revisit discussion in August/status of pandemic*

-- Catered dinner.

-- High Profile Lecturer [Geoff Marcy]

-- Telescope viewing.

DARK SKIES DEVELOPMENTS AND PLANS (Velasquez, Haddon) – *David Velasquez to head up development of Coalition with Lake County Groups*

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MAJOR PROJECTS FOR 2020/21

-- Replace the LX-200 scope with a camera based Celestron (?) RASA scope. (RASA = Rowe Ackerman Schmidt Astrograph *Raising*) – *Bill Haddon to write a Proposal for review by Board and LCOE. Use this project for Fund Event possibly in October.*

Next Meeting Date: TBD ADJOURN 6:30pm

Action Items:

David Velasquez:

- 1) *Make contact with Lake County Associations to form and head up a Dark Sky Coalition to promote, maintain and improve Lake County's dark skies, and to establish Lake County as a Dark Sky Astro-tourism destination, eventually seeking certification as a Dark Sky Community"*

Tim Gill:

- 1) *Work with MVMS school maintenance Kyle R. to resolve corner light shield*
- 2) *Provide update status of new Charter School and interest in using Taylor Observatory at next meeting*

Tom Schleif:

- 1) *Work with Bill Haddon to identify options for telescope viewing for public events*

Bill Haddon:

- 1) *Work with Tom Schleif to identify options for telescope viewing for public events*
- 2) *Write a proposal for benefit and purchase of a Rowe Ackerman Schmidt Astrograph for review by Board and LCOE*
- 3) *Supply relevant F-Star documents to Barbara M. to assist in creating a page on FOTO website.*

Barbara McIntyre:

- 1) *Work with Elena Bloomquist and Bill Haddon to create an F-Star page on friendsoftaylorobservatory.org.*

All Board Members:

- 1) *Think of groups you are aware of (or associated with) to recommend for having specific Public Nights more frequently; e.g. Pomo tribes, different Rotaries, Historical Society, Audubon, etc. Bring suggestions/contact names to next meeting.*

Rob Young:

- 1) *LCOE IT to discuss and collaborate with Digitalis about failed hardware (Eduardo Alatorre)*
- 2) *Availability/purchase of Hospital grade HEPA filters for use in the Planetarium*
- 3) *Purchase order for translucent screening after July 1st (new fiscal year begins)*