

FRIENDS OF TAYLOR OBSERVATORY – NORTON PLANETARIUM

Board of Directors

**Observatory Taylor Classroom
5725 Oak Hills Ln, Kelseyville, CA 95451**

MEETING MINUTES – Wednesday October 13, 2022, 5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER [Gill] - 5:20pm

PRESENT: Tim Gill, Bill Haddon, Emily Whittlesey, David Markham, David Velasquez, Angelo Parisi and Barbara McIntyre; on Zoom Call Eduardo Alatorre and Guest Visitor: Michael McKeown

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS – Rob Young Director of Operations LCOE

AGENDA APPROVAL – Barbara McIntyre motioned / David Velazquez 2nd

MINUTES [McIntyre] – 9.21.2022 approved / David Velazquez / David Markham 2nd

FINANCIAL REPORT [Markham] – no new expenditures. Our Internet Account rate rose, now at 1.71%

BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1) President's Report (Gill)
 - a. FOTO Bylaws, Vote to approve – postponed to next meeting. Bill Haddon has extensive comments. Bill to send an email to board members with his comments to prepare for discussion at next meeting.
 - b. Konocti USD Blue Zones Event Update – Event postponed until mid April. There is a date and time conflict with Día de los Muertos celebration in Clearlake.
 - c. Rob Young – LCOE – LCOE approved sale of the Meade and discussed posting on several sites. Michael McKeown said he had a friend who was interested. Michael will send contact info to Tim Gill, who will forward to Rob Young (LCOE). Rob said that the sale of the Meade will help with the purchased of the new telescope. Rob also mentioned that the wind screen installation has started. The new projector is currently being installed. It did not come with the power cord, which is on order. Hope to have the cord before next Window to the Universe event.

- 2) FOTO Window to the Universe Events and other special events (All)
 - a. The Elks requested support for a night sky talk and telescope viewing. Michael is in contact with Patricia Powell and will support the Elks for this event. The original date was October 28th. It may change to the 27th. If so, Eduardo would not be able to attend. Patricia mentioned that a donation will be made. Bill Haddon requested that he also attend to promote FOTO. Bill mentioned that

Chuck Neiman had bequeathed a sizable amount of money to FOTO and we should support their event.

- b. Dave Velazquez confirmed that he is ready for the Window to the Universe event October 22nd, the James Webb Telescope is the topic. Eduardo said he was ready for the Artemis Launch event. A discussion followed about the date of the launch. Hopefully it will be before the November 17th Window to the Universe event.
 - c. A discussion on whether we should have the "Christmas Star" Show event ensued. It was decided that we would have one showing and see how it went before scheduling more nights. It was suggested that we could do Friday November 25th (day after Thanksgiving). Date not yet confirmed.
- 3) Purchase of Accounting Software (All) –
David Markham mentioned that purchased software was not cost effective. He found a free accounting software, Wave, that will be more than sufficient. This was followed by a discussion on what email to use for both Paypal and other finance items. Eduardo to send David the email account ID/password from Bluehost. This account is free with our website hosting. David mentioned that we would not need a Finance meeting. That everything can be resolved via email. Bill Haddon will meet with David Markham to transfer the Umpqua account and ATM/Visa card to Friends of Taylor Observatory and remove his name from the account
- 4) Discussion: Lake County Astronomical Society (All) –
a. This group will be headed by Michael McKeown and meetings would take place monthly 1 hr before the Window to the Universe event. Rob Young added the extra hour on the LCOE booking calendar.
- 5) Discussion: FOTO Web Site Hosting (All) –
a. We was agreed that we will stay with the public Blue Host for now and not go with an individual hosting our website.
- 6) LCOE/Lake County Schools Update (Jennifer, Angelo and Eduardo)
- Please see the back side of this agenda for a report from Jennifer Kelly
- Tim spoke to Eduardo to share the Accolades from Jennifer and all shared their appreciation for his support and work.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Girl Scout Sleep Over- Angelo received a request from the girl scouts to have a sleepover. All board members discussed pros/cons and all agreed that the scouts could attend an evening training session to get their astronomy badge. Due to liability, they could not sleep over.

ADJOURN – 6:35pm Bill Haddon Motioned/Emily 2nd

Hi All,

Rob Young, LCOE Director of Operations, would like to attend your meeting. I think he would like to talk about the telescope and perhaps just check in.

Please share the info below for agenda item 6.

6) LCOE/Lake County Schools Update (Jennifer & Angelo)

Amanda Fox PhD is the Dean of Centers for the Mendocino College. We discussed briefly a partnership with Taylor and Mendo astronomy course internships. Mendocino college does offer astronomy courses at both their Ukiah and Lake Center campuses. She also mentioned possible cooperative work experiences courses where students can earn college credits for internships. Is FOTO interested in partnering with LCOE and Mendo to make this happen? LCOE would be the connecting piece, but the majority of the internship work, I am visualizing, would involve FOTO community events.

Taylor Field Trips and Outreach since the September board meeting:

- Model car engineering challenge: four visits (two classes, Upper Lake High, Physics class)
- Multiple field trips scheduled for October and November

Angelo is working on the parking lot solar system and created a Directory of Planetarium Shows

The planetarium projector has arrived!! It is currently in a box in the classroom and Kevin Mack (LCOE, Director of Information Technology) plans to start the install on Thursday, October 13 (as long as no IT emergencies pop up to delay the installation.)

We have ordered an Artemis SLS model rocket and an Apollo 11 Saturn V model rocket for Taylor education programs. These rockets will be available for FOTO use as well.

LCOE is utilizing Taylor more often for non-science related workshops. It is important that FOTO has their **events placed on the LCOE Room Reservation website** so there will not be conflicts. Even though these workshops will be held during the day, there might be conflict in the future, with FOTO members trying to get ready for an evening event. I can do the reservations for FOTO. Please let me know dates as soon as you know them.

- I reserved Taylor for the October 22 FOTO Window to the Universe Webb event. I reserved Taylor for the whole day so FOTO members can arrive early to get ready.
- I think there is a mistake on the FOTO events website for the Window to the Universe Artemis event. On one spot it says Friday November 18 at 9 am and the other spot November 19. I am guessing the November 19 (Saturday) date is correct and reserved Taylor for FOTO for the entire day. (November 18 is a Friday and there is a field trip scheduled for Taylor on this day.)

Thanks,
Jennifer