

**FRIENDS OF TAYLOR OBSERVATORY –  
NORTON PLANETARIUM  
Board of Directors**

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

**MEETING AGENDA – Wednesday September 21, 2022, 5:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER [Gill] 5:15pm**

Present: Tim Gill, Bill Haddon, Emily Whittlesey, David Markham, David Velasquez and Barbara McIntyre; on Zoom Call Angelo Parisi and Eduard Alatorre

Guest Visitor: Michael McKeown

**MINUTES [McIntyre]** Minutes postponed until next meeting

**FINANCIAL REPORT [Markham]**

1<sup>st</sup> Internet Bank Savings - \$52,292.97

Umpqua Checking Account - \$3,584.31

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

1) President's Report (Gill)

- a. FOTO Bylaws – Board members commented that Emily did an excellent job with the bylaws. David Markham brought up a couple of minor items needing change. Board agreed to approved bylaws at next meeting with the changes. One item with respect to section 4 d. Preparation on monthly statements - would require the purchase of software such as Quickbooks. This purchase will be discussed at a Financial Meeting scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup> at Taylor Classroom at 5pm.
- b. Michael McKeown Report – The August Event at Clearlake State Park was discussed. Only Eduardo and Michael were available with telescopes. The line for visitors to view through telescopes was at least a 30 minute wait time. Michael discussed the need for more Astronomers/with telescopes for these events. Michael suggested that an Astronomy Club at Taylor would provide needed support and telescopes for public events. He suggested the Astronomy Club could meet an hour before "Window to the Universe" Event Nights. The board majority agreed it would be a benefit. No decision to move forward was taken.

2) Post COVID Operations Plan for Taylor Observatory (Hadden)

- a. Bill presented the Plan he gave to LCOE for safe long-term operation. Tom Schleif contacted the Public Outreach team (Sarah Burcher) at the Lowell Observatory in Northern Az to investigated eyepiece viewing for the later stage pandemic conditions and decided there was minimal risk in looking through a telescope eyepiece.... social distancing during viewing, however, would be important for a while. For visitors with concerns, we can provide a barrier of cleanable glass (for example a Petri Dish), which can then be sterilized.
- b. Bill noted that cramming people into a small dome room is not safe during or after a pandemic and discussed the benefit to upgrading the Dome LX200 telescope to a 14" Rowe Schmidt Ackerman Astrograph (RASA). He presented the advantages of the RASA where students and guests would be able to view the images from RASA on a

screen in the classroom. Students could potentially use the instrument for Astronomy projects. Bill also noted the number of telescopes available for visitors and students.

- c. Bill discussed the amount of time and effort that he, Tom Schleif and Christopher Erikson dedicated to fixing the LX200. He recommended we sell it. The LCOE Board agreed with Bill's report and directed Rob Young (LCOE) to arrange for the sale. Jennifer Kelly presented the report to the LCOE Board in Sept 2021. Michael McKeown offered that he had a friend who might be interested in buying it.

3) FOTO Window to the Universe Events and other special events (All)

- (a) David Velasquez will be doing the October Event (James Webb Telescope) and will send the Event description to Eduardo (Facebook) and Barbara (Website)

4) LCOE/Lake County Schools Update (Jennifer, Angelo and Eduardo)

A copy of Jennifer Kelley's Email was reviewed. She is interested in working with Taylor to support recreating the HS volunteer program that was implemented by past Taylor Coordinator, Barbara McIntyre, a number of years ago. Eduardo Alatorre was one of Barbara's 1<sup>st</sup> students. His training, volunteering, vast knowledge and field trip support will be missed now that he is away at school.

Jennifer listed the 8 classroom visits and school field trips. She also mentioned that the Planetarium Projector has been shipped. Angelo Parisi confirmed this.

5) FOTO Telescope Maintenance (All)

Carry over from July 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Eduardo and Michael to discuss? Tabled to next meeting?

6) BlueHost Website Hosting (All)

- a. Access to Hosting site discussed. Admin access to hosting and website Theme is currently limited to Communications VP Eduardo Alatorre and Webmaster Barbara McIntyre. David Velasquez and Bill Haddon have editor access to the website theme.
- b. Discussion moved on to financial responsibility to both Bluehost and Website Theme. Currently in Bill Haddon's name. The financials will be further reviewed to resolve finance matters, create a transition plan for FOTO bank access, paypal etc. and accountability decided on at a October 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Meeting.
- c. Michael McKeown mentioned that he has a home server and SSL Certificate for Site Security and would be able to host our site free of charge. Michael's business is RACKSPACE, which he commented is better than Bluehost.
- d. We are currently satisfied with Bluehost support and billing. This may also be discussed at the Finance Meeting.

## **OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

1) Blue Zone Project – at Lower Lake HS on Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup>

FOTO to set up a booth, board members interested in manning booth to let Tim Gill know.

2) Michael McKeown is doing a DARK SKY radio show on Wednesdays at 10:10 am on KPFZ also supporting his interest in Astro-tourism. (Add to the FOTO website, Facebook.?)

Next board meeting Thursday October 13th. 5pm, Taylor Classroom.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm