

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

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

Special Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 5:15 PM

Call to order [Tim] - 5:10pm

Present – Tim Gill, Bill Haddon, Emily Whittlesey, David Markham, David Velasquez and Barbara McIntyre, Angelo Parisi and Eduard Alatorre

Special Meeting called by 2 board members (according to Bylaws) Bill Haddon and Barbara McIntyre. Meeting to discuss concerns, involvement and relationship of Michael McKeown with Friends of Taylor Observatory.

Bill Haddon spoke first about the damage to the Teeter Telescope. He stated that Michael McKeown took it upon himself to work on the scope and did not understand the instrument. Bill presented information about his discussion with Mr. Teeter and it would cost time and money in order to fix the scope. Michael also wrote (in an email 11/23/2022) that the Evelyn Norton Scope was not of use. Bill explained that he and Tom Schleif had both telescopes in top order.

Barbara McIntyre explained that through conversation with the Elks leadership, Michael changed their night for the telescope viewing event from Friday to Thursday. By doing so, no FOTO board member was available to be present. The event was supposed to be presented by FOTO to maintain a relationship. Elk Member Chuck Nieman bequeathed \$100,000 to FOTO.

A discussion followed.

Several Members said “Red Flags” were felt by Michael’s strong/controlling demeanor. Michael pushing to take control of our website; sitting away from all members; requesting keys; working on telescopes without permission or having a Board Member involved.

Many members felt that Michael’s expertise with the night sky would be a benefit to FOTO. Several members felt that we just need to identify guidelines for Michael. We all agreed that he should not be given keys and password.

Conclusion: Tim to email Michael to schedule a meeting to discuss our concerns and to discuss next steps.

Barbara M., Eduardo A. and Angelo P. spoke a bit about the Mystery of the Christmas Star attendance (71 people) that perhaps next year we extend it to more than 1 night.

Decision to cancel FOTO meeting of Dec 15 and schedule next meeting for January 5, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm