

Central Arkansas Astronomical Society

Board Meeting

April 12, 2014

Previous Board Minutes

Stephen Caldwell presented the previous meeting's minutes for approval.

Bruce McMath motioned to approve the minutes, Jim Dixon seconded. The motion carried.

2014 Budget

Discussion included the increase in electric bills over the past couple of months. There is a question as whether First Electric is reading the meter or estimating usage. Since the Society allows direct draft by First Electric, paper statements are not mailed to the club. Jim Dixon will investigate.

Discussion moved on to membership. Current active membership is approximately 47 members. This year, the Society had 19 members from 2013 not renew their membership. There was some discussion in exploring ways to retain membership.

Discussion moved on to the Grounds budget. Last year, the Society made many additions, repairs and improvements to the property: clearing area for camping area, repairing well line, building of amphitheater and erection of flag pole. Chris Lasley outlined several items needing attention including replacing the A/C in the Clubhouse, renovating the space in the back of the Classroom to remove bookcases and install shelves, and buy additional chairs. Chris Lasley assured the Board and Officers that while the grounds budget could be adjusted, downwards, if given the full amount allocated, the grounds committee would use it all.

Discussion turned to the actual budget figures, which show the Society having a flat revenue for 2014 and expenditures near the limit of monies available.

Bruce McMath made a motion to accept the 2014 budget. T.J. Colvin seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to carry the motion forward.

Proposed Change in Wade Van Arsdale's Observatory Lease

Wade Van Arsdale has sent a letter to the Board offering to increase his yearly observatory lease fee. In his letter, Wade expressed concern over the Society's fiscal solvency. In it's discussion of the proposal, the Board echoed the concern over fiscal responsibility. Bruce McMath made a motion to accept Wade's offer, however the motion died as a second of the motion was withheld.

Discussion then moved to how a more equitable solution could be found. It was then proposed that the Board would take Wade's offer as an incentive to look for an equatable way to distribute utility and leasing fees, but that said solution would not exceed the amount proposed by Wade Van Arsdale. Chris Lasley offered to chair the effort. Chris Lasley made a motion to accept this plan, and Stephen Caldwell seconded. The motion was carried forward.

RRORRT Update

Construction on the the observatory building is pretty much on schedule and so far within budget. Sheet metal for the walls has been delivered. Discussion on hiring Mr. Thomas Rhodes to finish the building's trim and roof elements. Bruce McMath made a motion to hire Thomas a Rhodes to finish out the building construction. Carl Freyaldenhoven seconded the motion, and the Board voted to accept the motion.

CAAS/CALS Telescope Lending Program Update

Money from the Arkansas Space Grant Foundation has been allotted for the program. However, the foundation wishes to make the purchase of the telescopes and other equipment. Chris Lasley will forward a list to the foundation. There was discussion about documentation to accompany the telescopes, including a QuickStart guide and in-depth manual. A video tutorial was also discussed.

Reimbursement of monies to Danny Flippo

Danny Flippo provided cables and the Netgate router for the latest upgrades to the Society's computer services. The Board proposed to reimburse Danny the amount of the equipment. Bruce McMath made a motion to disperse the funds. Jim Dixon provided a second and the motion was carried forward by the Board.

Board Members and Officers in Attendance

Darrell Heath, President
TJ Colvin, Vice President
Jim Dixon, Treasurer
Stephen Caldwell, Secretary
Carl Freyaldenhoven
Bruce McMath
Chris Lasley

CAAS Member in Attendance
Steve Block

Minutes prepared by Stephen Caldwell, CAAS Secretary