

Call to order: 4:12 PM

Members present: Laurence Mohr, Kevin Santulis, Jurgen Patau, Martin Mika, Charles Cowles, Dan Hyslop, Ed Proctor

Review of Agenda

Jurgen moved to approve the meeting agenda as presented, Ed seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

Kevin moved to approve the minutes of the 23-Nov-2020 meeting, Jurgen seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

President's business

- a. Laurence will change the combination code for the YRS clubhouse over the full moon near Easter.
- b. Discussion of holding a yea/nay voice vote for the board slate during the annual meeting of the general membership in May. General consensus was a voice vote is suitable if we're prepared to have a roll-call style vote of members present if we encounter problems.
- c. The board must meet again in April to approve the final slate of board candidates ahead of the May election.
- d. Discussion of YRS access rules and whether non-observing members should have access to the grounds. Consensus during meeting was current bylaws prohibit unescorted non-observing members and the board decided to change the welcome letter to be consistent with existing rules. [Note: after the meeting President Mohr re-read the bylaws and believes the board's interpretation is incorrect and unescorted non-observing members are allowed unless the rules are changed).
- e. Moon Over Monona event being planned for the fall, with spring as a fall-back.
- f. Discussed hosting a regional event with other local astronomy groups in the upper Midwest, which may include tours of Yerkes, Washburn, or Sterling Hall. The board is also interested in moving to hybrid in-person/online meetings as the pandemic wanes to allow members to return at their own pace but also widen the club's reach. Also planning to begin a YouTube channel to post meeting lectures publicly. President Mohr will reach out to UW Space Place about the technology required.

Treasurer's report

Jurgen presented the financial report and the club had 120 members and has a strong financial position. He believes it would be appropriate to spend a considerable amount on YRS improvements.

Observatory director's report

Martin reports a potential roof leak in the clubhouse that needs to be looked at and infestation of overwintering bugs. Kevin suggested hiring a local exterminator that he has experience with. The fridge also needs to be cleaned at the next volunteer day.

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New Business

Charles proposed replacing the existing club listserv system with Slack to streamline communication and allow members to opt in or out of different online conversations. Advantages include limiting extraneous or unwanted emails to all member or observing member lists, and creating a framework that's more welcoming for younger, tech-savvy members. Disadvantages are keeping easy access for older members. The board decided to run a trial using Slack for the YRS improvement committee.

Old Business

John Rummel is writing material for the historical committee and working with Kevin.

Other Such Matters

No other such matters

Next Meeting

The board will meet again after the April club meeting to finalize the slate of candidates ahead of the the May board election.

Martin moved to adjourn, Kevin seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 PM

Minutes recorded and submitted by Dan Hyslop, secretary