

**Call to order: 6:38 PM**

**Roll Call**

*Members present:* Laurence Mohr, Kevin Santulis, Jurgen Patau, Martin Mika, Dan Hyslop, Dave Leiphart, Jack Fitzmier

**Review and Approval of the Agenda**

*Jack moved to adopt the meeting agenda as amended to include "New Business, d. Discussion of new equipment at YRS," Kevin seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

**Approval of Minutes**

*Jack moved to approve the minutes as amended of the 07 Feb 2022 meeting, Martin seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

**President's Business**

- a. President Mohr has created an ad-hoc committee to host outreach events, and has appointed the following member volunteers: Dave Leiphart, Jeff Shokler, Avtar Roopra, Bob Hamers, Frank Ranallo, Martin Mika, Rick Wayne, Chris Zeltner, Claudine Kavanagh, Dan Hyslop. The committee will choose a leader who will have authority to recruit new volunteers as needed and manage individual events by finding members to lead and staff them. Jurgen has set up an mas\_outreach email list and Dan will send a welcome email tonight. The board decided that members who volunteer may keep any honoraria payments offered for events, but this was not unanimous and may be revisited later.
- b. All current board members plan to continue serving on the board, but Dave may become observatory director while Martin becomes at-large.

**Treasurer's Report**

- a. The club remains in good financial shape following the YRS improvements, with roughly \$20,000. Jurgen will also be ordering hoodies and hats with the club logo.
- b. Membership renewals are running a little behind. Many members join for a short period and do not renew: Kevin, Jurgen and Dan will prepare an exit survey to see how we may have served their needs better to improve retention.
- c. Jurgen presented the proposed budget for the 2023-2024 year.

*Kevin moved to approve the budget as presented, Martin seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

**Observatory Director's Report**

Soiled floor tiles in the DGRO will not be replaced until the building is sealed for pests. There was also an update on the status of some plantings. Kevin will check some trees over the new pads and determine scope of a trimming project.

## New Business

- a. Dave would like to buy both unused club LX200s and an unused 17" mirror for \$2000 and possibly create an online interface for members to use. Dave had deferred to another member who showed interest in one of the scopes, but that member did not end up purchasing it. There were no objections on the board to Dave purchasing this equipment.
- b. The rain barrels weren't required for the new grass this fall and several squirrels drowned. The barrels are secured for now and we may revisit using them in the spring.
- c. The board had a brief discussion of Observatory Endowment Fund as defined by the bylaws and agreed no changes are required.
- d. The board agrees that following the YRS improvements it is a high priority to improve site amenities to members. We have a some higher-end equipment members can use, but few do because advanced hobbyists in the club tend to get their own equipment. More entry level equipment may appeal to new members.

*Jurgen moved to expend approximately \$500 to purchase one Seestar S50 for club use, Kevin seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

This prompted a discussion on the club's value proposition to members:

- A diverse set of private scopes for novice members to look through at club events
- An increasing number of club events at which to do so
- Access to the deep knowledge base of our veteran members
- A dark sky site to use your own equipment
- Now, more variety of useful club equipment for members to use themselves

Similarly, the board identified points we can improve. The board will consider changes over the coming year:

- More useful and interactive website
- Online payment interface to accept credit cards
- Better communication tools like Slack

## Old Business

- a. Dave would like to spend roughly \$200 on stainless screen to keep pests outside the AKO. He also intends to install gap fillers for the shutter and dome. Mice and insects both come inside but keeping the mice out are a priority because they chew wires and equipment.
- b. Engineered lumber has been purchased for the DGRO but some custom shaping is required. He hopes to begin the project in December. He would also like to replace the soffits and fascia of the clubhouse in the coming year.
- c. The board had a brief discussion of raising rates and simplifying membership levels. We'll create a proposal at the next board meeting and present it to the membership for comment before a vote at the May general membership meeting.

## Next Meeting

MAS BOD minutes November 2023

The board will meet again in March or April.

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

**Meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM**

Minutes recorded and submitted by Dan Hyslop, secretary