

**Call to order: 5:34 PM**

**Roll Call**

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

**Review and Approval of the Agenda**

*Jurgen moved to adopt the meeting agenda as proposed, Dan seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

**Approval of Minutes**

*Kevin moved to approve the minutes of the 20 Nov 2023 meeting, Jack seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

**President's Business**

President Mohr submits the following slate of board candidates for the May general meeting:

President: Laurence Mohr  
Vice-President: Kevin Santulis  
Secretary: Dan Hyslop  
Treasurer: Jurgen Patau  
Observatory Director: David Leiphart  
At-large: Jack Fitzmier  
At-large: Martin Mika

*Dan moved to approve the slate, Jurgen seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

**Treasurer's Report**

- a. The club remains in good financial shape with roughly \$22,000 in cash and bonds.
- b. There are currently 125 members, of which 72 are observing, 49 regular, one student and one life.
- c. The board discussed creating an exit survey for non-renewing members, also a letter or brochure for new members explaining the benefits of membership.

**Observatory Director's Report**

- a. The new SeeStar is up and running, the Santulises are working on an SOP for members. Jack recommends a better tripod and offered to buy a leveler, Caron Santulis doesn't believe one is necessary. The club has received a refractor donation from Phil, Martin plans to put it on an existing club mount. The donated 14" dobsonian has been reassembled but needs collimation. We also need to experiment with wheels or hand carts.
- b. The fridge needs cleaning or replacement and we need to find a way to drain the dehumidifier outside. We may want more bat houses.

### **New Business**

- a. Dave and Kevin have convinced Terry Warnke the club should have our own AV system independent of UW Space Place.

*Dan moved to approve the expenditure of \$1500 for Society use webcast equipment. Jurgen seconded and the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*

- b. The Lake County Astronomical Society would like us to host them at YRS for a joint star party. The board discussed practical details, including how many people and where they'll stay. Ground rules were set including no alcohol, pets, weapons or open flames. MAS will offer LCAS the dates of June 8<sup>th</sup>, July 6<sup>th</sup>, August 3<sup>rd</sup> or August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- c. The American Astronomical Society is meeting in Madison in June. The board decided there wasn't any practical way for MAS to contribute or participate.

### **Old Business**

- a. The board has settled on a single tier membership price of \$60, \$30 for students. Next steps are to seek feedback from members, finalize the language change in the bylaws and have a general membership vote at the May meeting.
- b. Dave is indefatigable in his devotion to YRS repairs. He is repairing floorboards in the AKO where he has temporarily removed the scope to the clubhouse. He has plans to open the mount for cleaning and start DGRO work later in the Spring.
- c. Dave is buying sixty saplings in consultation with Christine Zeltner for light blocking to the East and North. He cleared a lot of space which was a lot of work. He wants a volunteer work day for planting. The board approved \$400 for the trees. Dave proposes having an ad hoc YRS grounds committee run by Christine for landscaping and groundskeeping separate from building and equipment maintenance.
- d. Dave plans to replace the clubhouse fascia and soffits over the summer.
- e. The new saplings will require considerable water, at least one gallon per week per tree. Dave is willing to permanently install and maintain rain barrels. He also plans to use Christine's chipper to remove brush.
- f. When not working at YRS, Dave is planning a WordPress demo. He hopes to have online payment processing ready this year.

### **Next Meeting**

The board expects to meet again the last week of April to finalize details for the change in bylaws ahead of the May annual meeting, but this may happen over email.

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

### **Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM**

Minutes recorded and submitted by Dan Hyslop, secretary