

Call to order: 6:30 PM

Roll Call

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

Also present: John Rummel

Review and Approval of the Agenda

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

President's Business

- a. John Rummel presented his plan to create an online store for MAS merchandise. He's identified several vendors and ordered some sample materials. He recommends Madison Top Company. He will investigate whether we need to collect and pay sales tax

Dan moved to add an online store to our website, run by Madison Top Company or other vendor selected by John, pending resolution of the sales tax question, Jack seconds and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

Kevin moved to approve the 27 August 2024 meeting minutes as amended to add the specific prices, Jack seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

- a. Jurgen reports that the club has money. We had significant donations last year.
- b. We are currently nine renewals ahead of where we were last year despite the membership change. There are already 53 Astronomical league members.
- c. Kevin and Jurgen will talk to the insurance agent about property insurance and Laurence sent in the form to bind the board liability policy.
- d. Jurgen introduced the draft 2025 budget. It was recommended that the repair budget be increased since Dave has already spent \$1000 and expects to spend about \$7000 on YRS repairs. The banquet is not included in the budget, but the maximum club expenditure is expected to be less than \$1500, less the catering deposit already paid. Jurgen expects donations but isn't counting on them.

Jack moved to adopt the budget as amended, Kevin seconds and the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Observatory Director's Report

- a. Soffits and fascia were more work on the clubhouse than Dave anticipated. He's been working since August and has had lots of help from new members.
- b. Dave is focusing on pressing needs like protecting exposed wood. The buildings are having issues with mice. Dave wants to hire an exterminator until he can seal all the buildings. The privy is infested with mice who may be coming in through the soffit vents and the vent pipe. Dave plans to use copper mesh and foam. Once this is resolved we may want to paint the interior. Doc G floor has been protected, but mesh still needs to be added and the rotting wood needs to be fixed and painted. Mice have been worse this year than previous years and the board discussed strategies to defeat them.

New Business

- a. Jack gave some final details about the return of the Capitol Skies newsletter he's editing.
- b. The board discussed how to thank Bill Linton for providing free space for the upcoming gala.

Kevin moved to present Bill Linton with a patron membership at the gala, Jurgen seconded and the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- c. Dave reports the new member meetings have been very helpful. He's been helping Christine with them and feels it will improve retention. He would also like to buy some inexpensive books to help new members. The board discussed some other ideas like tablets and e-books to make distributing information to new members easier.

Old Business

- a. Of 60 trees planted last year, 16 have died and 20 more are on order for this spring. Improved cisterns may help support them.
- b. The AKO floorboards need to be stained and protected, the walls need to be cleaned from rain intrusion and mouse nests. The dome mechanisms have been removed and are under repair. The shutter has design flaws and a new version is available for \$750. Better firmware is also available for \$750, which is included in Dave's \$7000 budget. The DGRO floor is stained with mouse feces. The structural improvements and drive changes are on hold but should happen in 2025.
- c. There was a discussion of replacing the rain barrels with larger containers, possibly used from Martin's employer. The gutters should be in place to supply them by spring.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in March or early April to nominate a slate of candidates for the next board.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Minutes recorded and submitted by Dan Hyslop, secretary