

Martz-Kohl Observatory General Membership Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2023

President Corey Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Walter Pickut read the minutes of the March 22, 2023 General Membership Meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as read. Approved by unanimous vote without objection.

Treasurer's Report: John Anderson presented the current financial report. He noted that MKO received a \$5,000 donation from Mary Putnam designated for the Summer 2023 MKO STEM Camp (7/17-21). The Library Telescope Project grant came in and MKO also made a deposit on solar glasses of \$1,950. John announced that a copy of the report will be provided to members on request.

No questions were raised. A movement was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and approved unanimously without discussion.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: No report.

Finance Committee: Laurie Livingston. Four projects required board discussion and approval.

1. The Board of Directors approved a plan to transfer \$10,000 from savings to a 13-month CD (Community Bank) yielding 4% interest at maturity.
2. A Community Bank officer, Chad Murray, will meet with the BOD on 5/24 at the board meeting to discuss F&B of the proposed plan for the Mary Martz Fund (an investment account) to be moved to a managed care fund, but keep it as a long-term investment.
3. **Radio Astronomy Room.** The Board of Directors approved construction of the Radio Astronomy Room to be completed for no more than \$6,000 and no later than September 30, 2023. Membership construction work to be used. Unanimously approved.
4. **Sky Shed** purchase proposed for \$600 with a deck to be added for \$1,400. Total expenditure not to exceed \$2,000 with completion no later than September 30, 2023. To be located farther eastward on the MKO property, after the existing sheds are relocated to or beyond the tree line in case of RUD in transport. Unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee: Nothing to report

Program Committee: Walt Pickut reported the May speaker will be MKO member Tom Traub speaking about solar eclipses and previewing next year's total solar eclipse at MKO. The following month, June, will feature MKO's past president, Gary Nelson, a highly trained and experienced optical specialist, speaking on the topic of telescopes.

Solar Eclipse Committee: Tom Traub reported on the NASA Ambassador preparations for the 2024 eclipse and links for webmaster Andy Felong to add to our website with further information. An influx of 500,000 people into Western and Northern New York is expected. Complex and detailed preparations are underway throughout the region. See Tom to learn more.

Technology Committee: Tom Traub reported that the ACP program is very close to final operational status with new weather sensing capacity about to be installed. R-Spec Spectroscopy software will allow MKO to do spectroscopy.

All MKO computers have been updated with new anti-virus security and primed for more efficient functions.

Public/Media Relations: Andy Felong said there was nothing new to report beyond the recently expanded coverage area extending to Buffalo, Dunkirk-Fredonia, and Warren, PA.

Facilities Committee: John Anderson reported that the designs for the Radio Astronomy Room and Sky Shed are approved and work has started. Water cooler repair in the Welcome Center, and dome maintenance have also been completed.

Unfinished Business: None Reported

New Business: None Reported

Correspondence: Various donation request from MKO have been considered but declined.

For the Good of the Association:

1. Mary Putnam's contribution for the STEM Camp will help this year with any unused portion retained to act as seed funds for later years.
2. Corey suggested that we develop a monthly list of the best viewing objects for public night presentation and for tour guests.
3. Andy Felong discussed the Membership Only tab on the MKO website, accessed with a password which members will be given. This site will include the General Membership meeting minutes (not to include financials) to be posted only after approval, the Newsletters, links to committees and members, and by-laws.

The Green Bank video is also on the Members Only site.

Upcoming Events: 56 students from Randolph Central school will be visiting on April 28, and on May 5, 18 students age 14 to 16 and 7 adults will visit from Ashville BOCES.

There being no further business, President Corey Swanson announced that the next General meeting will be held on May 24 at 7:30 p.m. following the Board of Directors meeting at 6:30. He then called for adjournment. Unanimously approved without objection at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter W. Pickut, Secretary