

Marshall Martha Memorial Astronomical Association Martz-Kohl Observatory, General Meeting

Wednesday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.

President Corey Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and thanked Randy Brown and Kyle Lynch for joining the meeting online.

Secretary's Report: Walt Pickut. Walt reported that the previous annual meeting was held in 2022, and the then secretary was Corey Swanson who had recorded the minutes for that meeting. In the absence of additions or corrections John Anderson moved that the secretary's report be accepted as read, seconded by Phil Stafford, and unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report: John Anderson. John distributed copies of the report and displayed it on screen for all to read. Copies are available to members upon request. After reading the report, there being no discussion, questions, or corrections noted Josh Campbell moved it the treasurers report be accepted as read, seconded by Phil Evans, and unanimously approved.

President Swanson called for committee reports:

Finance Committee: John Anderson. John reported that based on discussions in the earlier Board of Directors meeting Finance, the Committee would meet in December to discuss the possibility of purchasing new chairs and moving additional funds to a new interest-bearing CD.

Facilities Committee: John Anderson. John reported that the radio astronomy room is very near completion and a number of both indoor (storage room and others) and outdoor (roof) repairs have been completed successfully.

Program Committee: Walt Pickut. A new addition to the speaker lineup for 2024 now includes Tom Traub will present a Total Eclipse Look Ahead in February in preparation for the April total eclipse event. In addition, all present agreed that as a follow-up to the April 8 total eclipse event the April guest speaker would be Doctor James Spann, NASA's lead scientist managing 22 solar Observatory spacecraft. We will be contacting Laurie Abadie inviting her to participate in the summer 2024 STEM camp, and Doctor Alexander Yep has volunteered to assist with the STEM Camp also. The International Observe the Moon Night will be presented in September again. Doctor Darren Williams is scheduled for October. November remains open, and no program is scheduled for December.

Solar Eclipse Committee: Tom Traub. Tom reported that he had presented a program for the Chicago County Chamber of Commerce with approximately 40 people attending, and discussion of other emergency services preparedness meetings throughout the county which Tom might be attending. Every news now has expressed interest in reporting on our eclipse events, two meetings in Warren are under planning, the falconer New York Kiwanis Club, and others. More orders for glasses have been placed and more eclipse glasses have been sold. Tom also communicated with Darren Williams relative to Darren's eclipse video project as well as the NASA video project. Corey added that we are discouraging people from coming to the

Observatory for the eclipse event because of the difficult logistics that will result concerning traffic control and accommodations.

Educational Outreach Committee: Tom Traub. Preparations are underway for the 2024 STEM Camp. Additional educational opportunities are being planned for visitors to the Observatory to learn more about telescopes especially as gifts and how to use them.

Technology Committee: Tom Traub. Technology updates for the 24-inch scope and the dome are underway and the ACP program is continuing to function with only minor glitches. Tom remains 100% confident that automation will soon be completely functional. The Boltwood system has been repaired and is now functional.

Public and Media Relations Committee: Publicity for the library telescope program is underway. In picturing in Warren donated money for a telescope in the Warren library. The grant application is being prepared for the spring to provide for more library telescopes. Librarians reported being very happy with the system.

Unfinished Business: None reported

New Business: none reported

Correspondence: none reported

For the Good of the Association: call reported that the Exo-planet Association is planning to collaborate with the Martz-Kohl Observatory to confirm new exo-planet observations in the near future. Tom Traub is in conversation with that Association for this work. Kyle Lynch also announced that occultation events are slated for December 25 and 26th.

President Swanson noted that the next meeting is slated for December 27 but in light of the fact that will only be two days after Christmas all agreed that meeting on December 20 would be better idea. Christmas party was planned to meet at Gary Nelson's house. Gary will announce the date.

In the absence of any further business President Swanson called for motion to adjourn the meeting. John Anderson moved for adjournment. The movement was seconded and unanimously approved without objection at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Pickut

Secretary