

Dudley Observatory Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Meeting on
March 3, 2008

Members present: Sam Wait, Alan French, Mary Crone Odekon, James B. Comly, Janie Schwab, Lucy Comly, Ellen Fladger, Cherrice Traver, Robert Ward, Daniel Wulff

Members absent: Vincent Amodeo, Ray Bogucki, Susan French, Rebecca Koopmann, Brian Mercy, Heidi Jo Newberg, Steven Russo, Jean Sheviak

Sam Wait called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Future meeting dates

Sam Wait suggested that we schedule meetings every other month, with the slightly larger number of meetings offset by limiting the length of the meeting to less than two hours. The board considered several possible days and decided on the following Wednesdays at 7:00 pm: May 7, July 9, September 3 or 10 (to be polled via email), and November 5.

Approval of Minutes

The board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 16, 2008 meeting, with a correction in spelling from "Amedeo" to "Amodeo."

Update on Schenectady Science Center

Lucy Comly reported on the January Board meeting of the Schenectady Science Center (SCC).
Some corrections...

Update on the Science Center paragraphs: I actually reported the info from a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Schenectady Museum. The Science Center is the planned new form of the museum for which 80 Million dollars must be raised.

Lucy

I think the Schenectady Science Center is actually call the Tech Valley Science Center - check the operating plan -

Lucy

The SSC has invited Dudley to join their board as an ex-officio, non-voting member with a one-year renewable position. The Dudley Board unanimously approved this position, and several members suggested that the SCC position on Dudley's Board should have the same structure as our position on their board. Sam Wait suggested that both of these changes should be included in our By-Laws, and that we should consider Lucy Comly and Janie Schwab as possible delegates to the SCC board. After some discussion, the board agreed that Lucy should take this position.

Other issues discussed at the SSC board meeting included finances (Lucy noted that 25% of their \$4M endowment is spent each year), the recent SSC trip to the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City (also attended by four Dudley Board members: Jim Comly, Lucy Comly, Janie Schwab, and Mary Crone Odekon), and the status of fund-raising efforts for the Science Center of Tech Valley. Lucy has detailed notes of this meeting if anyone is interested, and Janie will distribute the lengthy Science Center of Tech Valley Operating Plan by email.

Of particular concern to Dudley is our relationship to the fund-raising campaign; we are described as a "partner" with the SSC in some of their campaign materials. We have received no response to our letter

of last year describing our view of this relationship, although apparently Dennis Norris (the leader of SSC's campaign) has drafted one. We agreed that an official response to our letter is the first step in clarifying the relationship.

Sky Watch Lecture Series.

Mary Crone Odekon asked the board for comments regarding the scope and purpose of our planned re-inauguration of a Dudley Sky Watch Lecture Series – in particular, comments regarding funding, frequency, location, and its relationship to other lecture series in the area. It was generally agreed that the audience should be larger, and the events more highly publicized, than the talks for the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers. It was also generally agreed that a fixed location and time would bring a larger audience. We discussed Union College as a possible location. Cherrice Traver pointed out that we can reserve rooms once the course schedules for each term have been set, but not before. Alan French suggested using one of the rooms at Proctors. The Board agreed that Mary Crone Odekon and Alan French would check these possibilities, and prepare a draft talk schedule with speakers we might wish to invite.

Update on Committee Structure

Jim Comly discussed a draft list of committees and committee responsibilities. (Janie sent this list by email to the board.) Janie suggested that a member of the Board should chair each committee. Sam Wait asked board members to review this list and contact Janie **within the next 7-10 days with suggestions**, including possible mergers of committees and which committees are priorities for immediate action.

Insurance

Janie described the new insurance policy Dudley is considering to replace the apparently overpriced policy that lapsed at the beginning of March. (Janie distributed a copy of the new policy to board members on February 29.) The Board agreed that we should ask Dennis Norris if this policy seemed appropriate, and that we should see if we could extend our current policy for a month in the meantime.

Sales Tax

Janie presented the possibility of preparing the sales tax paperwork to resell discounted bulk purchases (e.g. telescopes and books). The Board thought this was a good idea, and that Brian Mercy should check the paperwork.

Announcements

Janie Schwab announced the following:

- Charlie Bowman will return the 2nd Riefler clock to Dudley. (His late father, Hugh Bowman, had been storing some of Dudley's clocks.)
- We have received eight student and two teach RSI applications. Including teachers is a new part of the program this year
- Al Hulstrunk is this year's subject for the Oral History project interview

Sam Wait adjourned the meeting at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Crone Odekon, Dudley Board Secretary