

**Dudley Observatory Board of Trustees**  
Minutes of the Meeting on  
July 16, 2008

Members present: Sam Wait (Chair), James B. Comly, Alan French, Mary Crone Odekon, Janie Schwab, Vincent Amodeo, Lucy Comly, Tom McFadden, Heidi Jo Newberg, Cherrice Traver, Robert Ward, Francis Wilkin, Daniel Wulff

Members absent: Ray Bogucki, Erin Breslin, Susan French, Brian Mercy, Jillian Perno, Jean Sheviak

Guest: Debbie Ennis (Project manager and support for Dudley)

Sam Wait called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Sam Wait welcomed new Board members Tom McFadden and Francis Wilkin, and project manager Debbie Ennis. Everyone present introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**

The board approved the minutes of the meeting on May 7, 2008.

**Vision for Dudley**

Sam Wait summarized the report of the Long Range Planning Committee of 12 January 2005, and suggested that a subcommittee of the Board consolidate the vision statements recently written by each Board member. Heidi Jo Newberg agreed to chair the committee, which will also include Janie Schwab, Bob Ward, Vince Amodeo, and Alan French. Sam asked board members to send any additional comments to this committee, as well as to him.

Heidi Newberg suggested that it might be difficult to create a coherent summary of the vision statements, and that it would be productive to decide on certain fundamental elements of Dudley's identity, including whether to focus on national or local programs, and whether we should invest in a major telescope facility. The Board briefly discussed the pros and cons of on-site and remote telescopes, including expense, audience, and the degree to which such facilities would be necessary for Dudley to carry out its educational goals. The Board agreed to continue this discussion on September 10.

Sam Wait summarized the July 2 letter from Neil Levin (President of the Board of the Schenectady Museum), which included a commitment to inform Dudley of their progress, and a request for our vision statement when it is ready.

**Skywatch Lecture Series**

Janie Schwab, Alan French, and Mary Crone Odekon reported on the status of the Skywatch lecture series, to take place at the Proctors GE Theatre in Schenectady. The speakers will be Dava Sobel (October 9), John Delano (November 13), and Sten Odenwald (December 11). More information is included in the Education Committee report.

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

Sam Wait introduced a motion to formally approve the appointment (already made informally via email) of new board members Jillian Perno, Tom McFadden, and Francis Wilkin. The motion passed unanimously. Sam then recommended that Douglass Klein and Michael Kornstein be approached for Board membership. The Board approved unanimously.

Janie Schwab requested that her board position be changed to ex-officio only. Francis Wilkin pointed out that this would mean her presence could not contribute to a quorum. Apparently her position had been changed in the past for this very reason, but it was deemed unnecessary now.

Sam Wait requested that Board members read through and comment on the new Board Member agreement.

Sam suggested that we consider an additional Board member from SUNY Albany (besides the ex-officio position occupied by Dan Wulff). Dan described several possible candidates for this position, as listed in the Nominating Committee report. Janie reminded the Board of the importance of finding board members outside of academic positions.

### **By-Laws**

Sam drew attention to the 2003 version of the Dudley By-laws and said he would ask Michael Kornstein to chair a committee to update them.

Sam reported on a very positive performance review he made of Janie and noted that the Director will have annual reviews and salary adjustments.

Sam drew attention to a draft of committee listings, including membership by board members.

### **Report of the Finance Committee**

Jim reviewed the Financial Report distributed at the beginning of the meeting. He emphasized that our actual and budgeted expenditures match well, and that our endowment is down but not more than expected given the current market.

Janie pointed out that she would like to see an increase in the budget to allow an additional position for education. Heidi emphasized that Dudley needs to provide a clear story if we are to motivate fundraising.

The Board unanimously approved the budget, and expenditures from the budget.

### **Report of the Executive Director**

Janie Schwab reviewed the distributed Director's Report, drawing attention to several grants, the reacquisition of three historical clocks, and the status of the Oral History project.

### **Report of the Education Committee**

Alan French reviewed the distributed Education Committee Report, drawing attention to the successful Astronomy Camp experience of Dan Mancuso, the Rising Star awards ceremony on May 27, and the difficulty in holding observing nights because of recent weather.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Crone Odekon, Dudley Board Secretary