

Dudley Observatory Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Meeting on
March 11, 2009

Members present: Vincent Amodeo (President), Janie Schwab, Erin Breslin, James B. Comly, Alan French, Doug Klein, Mike Kornstein, Vincent Maine, Heidi Newberg, Jean Sheviak, Cherrice Traver, Joan Wagner, Sam Wait, Francis Wilkin, Daniel Wulff

Members absent: Ray Bogucki, Brian Mercy, Robert Ward

Guests: Michael Powell

Vincent Amodeo called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The board approved the minutes of the meeting on January 14, 2009 with minor changes.

Executive and Long Range Planning Committee

Vince Amodeo discussed changes in the committee structure and passed out a proposal with committee chairs. Jim Comly will chair the ad hoc Site Committee; Mike Kornstein will chair the ad hoc By-Laws committee; Doug Klein will chair the Membership & Development committee; Joan Wagner will chair the Curriculum subcommittee of the Education Committee; and Francis Wilkin will chair the Events Committee.

Janie Schwab discussed possible sites for relocation and is looking for a light pollution map. Sam Wait reported on conversations he had with Ed Reilly of the historical Society of Schenectady who mentioned several sites. The board discussed general criteria such as wanting the site to be accessible but a dark urban setting, having a square footage requirement of +/- 4,000 plus a section for a telescope. Vince Amodeo thought that Dudley had Capital District appeal. There was mention that Union had offered several sites. Jim Comly is to come up with a plan for the next board meeting.

Report of the Executive Director

Janie Schwab provided a written report which was handed out to the Board detailing grants applied for and awarded including Stewart's Holiday match and a GE Foundation grant. Janie indicated Paul Contarino will be an archives intern this summer and reported on the online newsletter which debuted in March. Mike Powell described the use of the message board forum which was added to the website.

Janie also gave an update on the second Fasoldt clock, indicating no new information was found in the archives.

Report of the Events Committee

A written report was submitted by Janie Schwab. An "Open Mic Event" was held on January 25, 2009, and a "Learn how to use your telescope" event was held on March 7th at the Pine Bush

Discovery Center.

Janie provided information about upcoming events:

The Skywatch Lecture Series 2009 will be held on October 13th, November 10th, and December 8th.

Dudley will have an information table on March 21st at the Science Fair at RPI.

Dudley will celebrate the 100th anniversary of “first light at San Luis” on April 30 by possibly having an exhibit at the Henry Hudson Planetarium and/or Albany Institute of History and Art.

Report of the Collections & History Committee

Doug Klein reported that Keith Snedegar will be awarded the Pollock Prize of \$3,500.00 for his work on Arabic Astronomy.

By-Laws Committee

Mike Kornstein agreed to accept to chair this committee and there was no formal report presented.

Finance & Physical Plant Committee

Vince Maine distributed a detailed description of Dudley’s financial status. Our endowment continues to suffer from market volatility. 6/30/08. Normally take 5% of endowment for operating budget which for this year allows approximately \$66,400 versus an average contribution of \$100,000 in past years. The Board will begin planning for next year’s budget.

Janie reported that several board members met with Debbie Schaeffer, from First Niagara Risk Management to discuss Dudley’s insurance. Dudley was formerly rated as a research lab and next year should be rated as a museum. Schaeffer is going to review the policy and present a new package for the board to consider.

Mike Kornstein reported on the lease negotiations and presented a proposed lease. Upon motion being duly made to approve the lease by Mike Kornstein, seconded by Janie Schwab, Vince Amodeo was authorized to sign the new lease which took effect on January 1, 2009 and is for two (2) years with a ninety (90) day opting out provision after the first year.

Education Committee

Alan French distributed a written report and indicated it accepted five applications from teachers for the Rising Star Program. The Committee accepted two student applications to date.

Report of the Membership & Donor Development Committee

Doug Klein distributed notes from his committee for discussion purposes.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business discussed.

New Business

There was a discussion about how to reach out to the broader community. Joan Wagner discussed having an interactive website.

The next board meeting is May 13th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael A. Kornstein, Dudley Board Secretary

CES136204