

Dudley Observatory Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Meeting on
May 13, 2009

Members present: Vincent Amodeo (President), Janie Schwab, Erin Breslin, Doug Klein, Mike Kornstein, Heidi Newberg, Jean Sheviak, Cherrice Traver, Sam Wait, Francis Wilkin, Daniel Wulff

Members absent: Alan French, Joan Wagner, James B. Comly, Brian Mercy, Vincent Maine

Vincent Amodeo called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The board approved the minutes of the meeting on March 11, 2009.

Executive and Long Range Planning Committee

The Executive Committee met on April 30, 2009 and discussed additional compensation for Janie Schwab. Sam Wait moved to recommend a 1.5% raise and put the question to the Budget Committee. The motion was seconded by Doug Klein.

Vince Amodeo discussed the ESCOT proposal to work with Dudley to develop procedures to implement goals and objections previously determined by the Board. There was discussion of how this dovetails with the work of various committees and board members. The Board discussed whether there was another way to achieve the same result. It was suggested that the Executive Committee interview ESCOT to determine whether to proceed in light of the estimated cost of the service.

There was general discussion of what Dudley needs and the items that were discussed include a new facility, expanding on educational outreach, and a working telescope. There was also discussion of fund-raising events. Under the report of the Executive Director

Report of the Executive Director

Janie Schwab provided a written report. She indicated that she was using constant contact for communications and the online newsletter sent out in March, April, and May. She indicated that Dudley will have an intern archivist for the summer for approximately 14 weeks. It was reported that in terms of digital collections, New York Heritage Digital Collections website won a "Best of Reference" award, and Dudley collections are part of this website. The website may be located at nyheritage.org.

Report of the Events Committee

A written report was submitted by Francis Wilkin which discussed the UCALL Astronomy Course at Union College and Astronomy Day Activities on May 2nd at the Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center. Future events include the RSI Awards Ceremony on June 9th at the Pine Bush Discovery Center, additional "how to use your telescope" dates, a presentation at SPAC on August 14th and the 2009 Sky Watch Lecture series.

Report of the Collections & History Committee

This report was included in the Executive Director's report.

By-Laws Committee

Mike Kornstein indicated he had not had an opportunity to look at the bylaws but hoped to have something to the Board by the July meeting.

Finance & Physical Plant Committee

There is nothing new to report as the Board Members were not present at the meeting.

Education Committee

Alan French distributed a written report which indicated that Brendan James O'Donnell had been selected for the Hessberg Award and that the committee had accepted five teacher applications for the Rising Star Program and were continuing to accept new student Rising Star interns.

Report of the Membership & Donor Development Committee

Doug Klein indicated his highest priority is to get out the June fund-raising letter. There was some discussion regarding incentives for higher levels of membership. Bob Ward suggested pairing with WAMC and WMHT in their local fund-drives.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business discussed.

New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael A. Kornstein, Dudley Board Secretary