

# Dudley Observatory Board of Trustees Meeting

November 11, 2009

**Present:** Cherrice Traver, Jean Sheviak, Sam Wait, Doug Klein, Dan Wulff, Mark Marchand, Bob Ward, Francis Wilkin, Alan French, Janie Schwab, Vince Amodeo, Laura Lehtonen (guest)

Members absent: Heidi Newberg, Michael Kornstein, Vince Maine

1. Alan French called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m., and conducted the meeting until Vince Amodeo arrived.
2. Approval of Minutes from 9/16/09: Sam Wait, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jean Sheviak.
3. **Education Committee** (Alan French):
  - **Rising Star Program:** Rising Star Intern Steve Schroder held a program at the Pine Bush Discovery Center on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Two other RSIs and four members of the AAAA attended and provided telescopes. Steve is doing a second program this Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Astrophotography Program:** Janie, Lou Suarato and Alan French met with Phyllis Budka and Marv Weiss from GE Volunteers on November 4 to discuss a joint astrophotography project. The next meeting to kickoff the project will be at 7:00 PM on December 10<sup>th</sup>. AAAA members and astrophotographers Vince Matteo and Greg Taylor will be invited.
  - **Curriculum Committee** (Joan Wagner): The workshop, Starry, Starry Night will be presented at the Eastern Section of STANYS Lab Day on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Heidi Newberg will be the keynote speaker for the event.

Next meeting of the education Committee is December 9<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM at Dudley Offices.

4. **Capital Region BOCES Proposal:** Presented by Laura Lehtonen.

BOCES would like the Dudley Observatory to provide StarLab presentations in schools. This would be a partnership with the BOCES, and we would have use of the BOCES StarLab. School districts would pay for the program. The Dudley Observatory would receive payment from BOCES. Schools paying BOCES for the programs get back 50-75% of the cost of running the program from SED. Dudley might share in the maintenance cost of the StarLab, but that is not expected to be significant, since it has not cost BOCES anything up to now. A Committee would evaluate the partnership. The program would be advertised as a partnership program. Income for this program has been about \$10,000 a year. It cost a school district \$450/day for use of the StarLab. One-hour presentations are provided to 6-7 classes. Training would be provided to the educator. Curriculum is articulated to the Standards.

Astronomical Society of NY met and discussed building a NYS telescope.

We received a \$3000 grant from the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region's Times Union "Hope Fund" to run an after-school Astronomy Club at the Schenectady Boys and Girls Clubs.

**Proposal:** Dudley will receive 3% of gross donations to MilkyWay@Home, plus a one-time \$200 set-up fee; motion to approve by Vince Amodeo and seconded by Bob Ward; approved with one abstention.

**Dudley Meteorite Collection:** Phyllis Budka, from GE Volunteers would like to turn it into a teaching collection and/or an exhibit.

**Civic Astronomy:** We are negotiating with SUNY Press to have George Wise's book published in paperback.

**Long Range Planning Committee** (Amodeo): ESCOT Recommendations from Nov. 5 meeting: establish a board committee for new members to provide orientation (the nominating has been charged with this); place Board handbook on the website, and distribute table of contents to members; have Board adopt an agreement detailing responsibilities of board members, seek 100% participation in annual donations.

**Events Committee** (Wilkin): Next speaker is Own Gingerich, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Michael Turner's talk was very well received. It was preceded by a video segment on dark matter and dark energy from Jazz group TEN27's Black Book Project.

Rising Star Interns bring telescopes to Troy Night Out on the last Friday of every month, weather permitting.

**Site Committee** (Ward): look in southwest area such as Helderbergs because removed from light center of Capital Region; State Parks a possibility for a site, such as Saratoga Spa State Park. Members should email Bob list of potential sites.

**Finance:** Treasurer Vince Maine will be resigning.

**Vince Amodeo nominated as Treasurer by Wait.** 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schwab. Board approved.

**Records Management:** It was clarified that we can get rid of old bills and business records, which are not archives. We may sell duplicate books.

**Pollock Award:** Proposals are coming in, and will be read by the Collections & History Committee members.

**Nomination Committee:** Bob recommends Erin Breslin as a Board member, approved.

**Sam Wait noted that he was retiring from RPI and would not be President Jackson's representative in the future.** Vince Amodeo had written to President Jackson about a replacement. No action had been taken yet. Sam Wait requested Emeritus Trustee status as of Jan 1, 2010. Approved.

**Dudley and Schenectady Museum:** Joan will talk to Museum about status of reciprocal board positions.

Meeting adjourned approximately 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Wagner