

# DUDLEY OBSERVATORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Minutes

March 10, 2010 - 7:00 - 9:00pm  
Schenectady, NY 12308

**Present:** Joan Wagner, Janie Schwab, Dan Wulff, Vince Amodeo, Francis Wilkin, Robert Ward, Peter Persans, Heidi Newberg, Douglass Klein, Alan French, Erin Breslin, Michael Kornstein

**Absent:** Traver, Marchand

VP Francis Wilkin conducted the meeting until Vince Amodeo arrived.  
Meeting was called to order 7:09 PM

1. *Approval of the minutes of Feb. 3, 2010 (Kornstein)*
  - \* Bob moved approval. Janie second. Approved.
  
2. *Report of the Site ad-hoc Committee (Ward)*
  - \* Bob reported: The Committee meets every two weeks. Voorheesville Public Library may ask \$1,000,000 for 5 acres plus library. A Meeting is planned with Open Space Institute. Will follow-up with State Parks.
  
3. *Report of the Collections & History Committee (Amodeo)*
  - \* Lost Jean Sheviak so difficult to continue with the Committee
  - \* Vince suggested contacting librarians. Joan suggested asking Chris Hunter (Schenectady Museum) who he would suggest. It was recommended that the person should be from Union College since then rare book collection is at Union College. We need someone interested in exhibits, history, etc.
  
4. *Finance Report (Amodeo)*
  - \* The Finance Committee met on March 9th. Doug will serve on the finance committee. The Committee needs to come up with a formula for taking money from the endowment by May. It will look at the Community Foundation of the Greater Capital Region to see what they do with endowments. The budget looks pretty good. Grant money covers expense for conference travel. Janie should travel to conferences. Mark Hathaway suggested that we move 10% of the endowment to a more secure investment that would give a more fixed amount. Presently, the entire endowment is in stock. Janie suggested that since stocks have gone up, may it be a good time to take some money out. WE have an investment proposal from KeyBank, and will ask the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region for one also.
  - \* We need an investment plan. Erin highly recommends the Community Foundation to manage the endowment.
  
5. *Report of the Nominating and Board Development Committee (Ward)*
  - \* The Committee met a couple weeks ago with the Executive Committee. Lou Suarato and Bryan Amedio were nominated as members of the Board. Mark Marchand agreed to serve as treasurer. Approved nomination of Mark. Joan nominated as secretary. Moved by Bob 2nd by Alan. All nominations were approved. A brief discussion of possible changes to the by-laws followed.
  
6. *Report of the Education Committee (French)*

*Curriculum (Wagner)*

- \* There are a number of rising star applications (13-14), and the committee will evaluate them at the next meeting. Craig Maughan was chosen as the winner of the Hessberg Award. The Curriculum Committee hosted a workshop for the Eastern Section of STANYS Lab Day called Starry, Starry Night. They are also working on the Summer Institute for Earth Science Teachers which will run at RPI from August 9-13th.

7. *Report of the Events Committee (Wilkin)*

- \* The Committee met for an early start on planning events for the year. Venus, Moon & Saturn can be seen, even in urban areas. Star parties are being planned for parks in Scotia, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Troy. The Committee will contact reps from local parks and also check to see if they will pay for this service. This would help in fundraising.
- \* A trip is planned to Oneonta to see the largest telescope in NYS. Alan French will do a survey to see how best to get there, i.e. car, bus. It is planned for May 5th, the same day as our Board Meeting. It was agreed to hold the Board meeting on May 19th. The Bus trip is estimated to cost about \$900 or about \$25/person. Will a small subsidy be needed? April 17th
- \* We will participate in Earth Day at the Henry Hudson Planetarium.
- \* Skywatch Lectures: Requested dates 9/28; 10/19, 11/30; Discussion on rate to charge students. AAAA will be asked to have the lecture replace their meeting on 10/19.
- \* TEN27 jazz with astronomy is talking to us about an event.
- \* A Gala fundraiser is being considered for March 2011. Perhaps this can be a cruise fundraiser for this year? The Committee is checking on costs.
- \* Interested in starting a younger age parallel for students with Galileo telescopes.
- \* Bob asked if an event can be planned at Thacher Park since it is being considered a location for Dudley. Shoot for May or June?
- \* Tanglewood star party is on August 3rd.

8. *Report of the Executive & Long Range Planning Committee (Amodeo)*

- \* Discussion of By-laws (Amodeo) already discussed.

9. *Report of the Membership & Donor Development Committee*

- \* Vince arrived and conducted meeting at 7:45 PM. Janie reported: Had a volunteer breakfast. Erin suggested an outline as to when to send out information to members. Erin will come up with a sample letter. We never had an action plan before. Erin will Chair the Membership and Donor Committee. Dudley is signed up to be involved with the Freihofer walk June 5th as a fundraiser. Volunteers will work at a table to collect pledges. Joan suggested a telescope for sun viewing. The event takes place at the Concourse.

10. *Report of the Executive Director (Schwab)*

- \* New educator began yesterday.
- \* Astrophotography group measured star magnitudes visually, and arranged for three imaging workshops with Harvey Patashnick.
- \* Janie replaced forum on website with a yahoo groups.
- \* Pollock Award shared by two people: Pamela Gossin and Linda French. Award of \$2500 each.
- \* Events: Reception to honor emeritus board members April 25, 2:00 PM here.

*11. Unfinished business*

- \* Next thing with Dudley vision list is to turn it into charges to the different committees. i.e. planning for the future, fundraising, etc. Vince and Janie will assign work.
- \* Meetings should be called by committee chairs; and members should let them know whether or not they are attending.

*12. New business*

- \* Need a proposal from Museum. Meeting to discuss involvement with Museum. Joan will deal with this.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04.

Proposed dates for board meetings 2010

May 19 - Wed - PLEASE NOTE CHANGE

July 12 - Mon

September 15 - Wed

November 8 - Mon

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Wagner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the list of proposed meeting dates.

Respectfully Submitted by Joan Wagner, Secretary