

NEKAAL Minutes
November 5, 2006

Members present: Russ Valentine, Bill Leifer, Gary Hug.

Members absent: Jerry Majers, Walt Cole, Janelle Burgardt, Debbie Roberts, Tom Kelley, Brian Martin, Graham Bell, Scott Sackrider. Kevin Dobbs.

The Chairman, Russ Valentine, called the meeting to order at 3:50 PM on Nov. 11, 2006.

Previous Minutes - The last approved minutes were of the July meeting. No issues raised.

STANDARD REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT – Walter Cole:

No Report.

FPO Facilities Report – Bill Leifer, Russ Valentine:

The Kessler roof track problem is solved. There was a small flap of flashing that was interfering. It was bent out of the way, and the roof now operates normally. No progress to report on installing electrical and data. The pier still needs mounting. The bolts needed should be 5/8" according to Gary, with 11 threads per inch and 3/4" anchors. A special drill bit for drilling concrete is all that is needed. Bill will look into completing this.

The sidewalk is a big project that requires building and setting forms and placing re-bar. This is delayed until spring.

Preventive Maintenance and supplies were performed for October. No problems. Certain supplies needed.

Dan Tibbetts fixed the door to the main building and painted it.

Russ received the board to the 14" scope back and will get an estimate from Meade on repair. The estimated total cost of repair is \$500.

Education/Public Outreach Update - Janelle Burgardt:

Bill provided a brief report. The big event involving Mission Valley 3-6th grades was a success. A group from Alma high school will be coming on the 12th. Janelle will be doing an event in Manhattan.

IDA/AL Report - Janelle Burgardt:

No IDA items to report.

We have new membership in AL.

FAST report – Gary Hug:

The NASA grant obligation will end on April 15. We will have approx. 5000 observations, of which 4000 having been from Farpoint and the remainder from Sandlot by the close of the program. This includes 410 designations currently. After the end of the grant period, use of the Tombaugh telescope will be opened up for club members. Gary recommends that Dan be appointed as the director of the Tombaugh operations.

OTHER BUSINESS

Newsletter:

Russ is still working on the e-newsletter program.

December Meeting:

Bill will announce the specifics of the December Meeting via the Yahoo Group and will call those who are not on the group after he receives the specifics from Marshall Miller. A coordinator of the potluck will be needed. Russ will email Jim Markos and invite him to the Christmas meeting.

Lights at the School:

The issue of turning off lights and trying to get switches installed for the school lights was discussed. Those needing darkness need to call the night janitor to turn them off for now and also call him on leaving to have them turned back on. We are waiting for an estimate of the cost of a switch for the shed lights from Jim Markos.

SBIG Equipment:

The adaptive optics have been installed for the Tombaugh. We need to get the filters for the filter wheel from Jerry.

Nominations:

Bill summarized the nominations situation so far. A fairly low response on nominations has been received.

January Meeting:

The telescope meeting is set for the second week in January. Janelle is in charge of coordinating this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Leifer, Secretary

11/26/06