

Minutes of the Morris Museum Astronomical Society's Board of Directors Meeting, June 13th 2020

Note: Because of the Coronavirus Pandemic and the closure of the Morris Museum, this meeting was held *via* conference call

Meeting called to order at 10:02 AM by AP

Attendees: Anthony Pisano (AP) President and Publication Committee chair
Paul Blass (PB) Secretary
Bob Coccaro (BC) Program Chair
Ron Furia (RF) Treasurer
Joe Molnar (JM) Outreach chair
Ron Russo (RR) Rule and Credential Committee chair
Cleveland Johnson (CJ) Morris Museum liaison

Secretary: Minutes of the previous meeting had already been e-mailed to all participants and were accepted.

Rule & Credential Committee:

All members of the Board have had an opportunity to re-read the MMAS's Constitution and suggest changes. Most had to do with advances in technology allowing information to be distributed and votes taken electronically. After several cycles of revision and re-revision, consensus was reached and the new Constitution unanimously accepted by the Board.

It must now be put to a vote by the Membership. The revised text will be part of the next edition of the Heavenly Herald.

Treasurer's report:

Finances good. Expenses have been nil – due to cancellations of just about everything. We have 26 members, of which 4 have yet to pay dues. Given that most people pay at meetings (and we haven't had any) this delay is not considered serious.

However, people want to feel they're getting something for their money. Accordingly, a suggestion was made that all current memberships (including any which have been paid up by the date of our next physical meeting) shall extend through December of 2021. That is, we won't ask for more money until next year. Voted on and approved.

Those members who've not yet paid will be contacted by phone or e-mail by RR and informed of the new policy. It will also be announced in the Heavenly Herald.

There's also the possibility that people have mailed checks to the Museum and they're sitting in our mailbox there. CJ will check.

Old business:

The last meeting was so long ago that all Old Business had either been forgotten or been rendered irrelevant because of CV-19.

New business:

The Heavenly Herald, including the new Constitution and the membership extension, should be sent out in a week or so. Before the end of June, certainly.

Our annual August picnic currently appears unlikely. The Park Police (figuratively) laughed when we inquired. The facilities are closed and the toilets aren't being cleaned. Nevertheless, the matter will be discussed again around the end of July.

There are no Outreach events scheduled for the summer. Schools and libraries, our usual "customers", are all closed. There are a few previously scheduled events further out. JM will check, around two weeks prior to their dates, if they're still on. Our Facebook page will be updated on all as soon as we know. Same applies to any new requests which might come in.

We will also try to improve communications with the public about any events, such as Solar Observing, which may be scheduled at, but not inside, the Museum.

Future programs:

When will the Morris Museum reopen? That's up to the Governor and he was not in attendance.

Program Chair Bob Cocco (BC) has a full lineup of speakers for the Fall, most of whom had agreed to re-schedule after the Spring meetings were cancelled

Lonny Buinis, one of those scheduled, says he's been giving talks through the Internet. Facebook or whatever. If the Museum's still closed, we'll look into that. But it's a last resort since not all members would be able to "attend".

When the Museum *does* re-open, CJ says they will enforce Social Distancing; 6 foot (or 2 meter) separation. That means that the downstairs classroom where we usually meet will be inadequate. All venues are being measured so allowable attendance figures can be set for each. We might wind up meeting in the Dodge Room or the Bickford Auditorium.

The Display case will be updated in the Spring, or earlier if the Museum reopens to the general public before then.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35. Went surprisingly well for a first time using new technology.

Next Board Meeting: October 24th, 2020 at 10 AM. In person, if feasible.