

# **BVS Astronomy Club**

## Observatory Committee

Meeting Minutes, 2-25-22

### Overview

The meeting was conveyed at 1000 via Zoom. Present were Bill Norton, Claude Plymate, Teresa Plymate, John O'Bryan, and Michael Lewis. The meeting departed from the Agenda because of events occurring since its drafting. The meeting was directed by the Committee Chair, Bill Norton, and held to the agenda (attached) apart from a discussion about the next Star Party. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1100.

### Discussion

1. Revision 10 of the Preliminary Plan was briefly discussed as well as Joe Horswell's feedback. It was judged acceptable pending any other feedback or brain storms.
2. Claude showed his draft presentation to be shown to the BVSA Board at their 15 March meeting. There were some comments about potential backup slides but otherwise the briefing was judged suitable.
3. John suggested we place pictured of private "backyard" observatories under construction on the Club website and this would be referenced for the Board members to look at should they seek further insight and understanding of our proposal.
4. The 17" RC Cassegrain telescope Tom Bash offered via an owner seeking a dark-sky site was discussed as an alternative the loaner Meade scope now under repair. It is certainly a superior system but the expectation is that the owner expects to use it under remote operation. That suggests that we would need to execute all three Phases of the BVSAC observatory project, implying additional fundraising and time. Given that, at a minimum, it is months before we would be ready to mount a telescope, it was decided Bill Norton would ask Tom Bash to have a look at the telescope to assess adaptation for a pier mount. Bill would also contact the owner about how he envisioned joint use would be conducted.
5. Regarding fundraising, Denise Lewis suggested selling hot chocolate at Star Parties for a cash donation. John made clear cash donations are certainly permitted but the donor could not seek a tax deduction which would only come via donations to the BVSA via the fund account.

### Action Items

1. Claude Plymate is to prepare the first draft of the presentation for the Board to be reviewed at the next Committee meeting. **CLOSED** on 25 February
2. Bill Norton to ask Tom Bash to have a look at the donor 17" RC Cassegrain telescope from the perspective of mounting it on a pier and then report back. **CLOSED** on 26 February
3. Bill Norton to contact the donor of the 17" RC Cassegrain telescope to begin a conversation on how he imagines joint operation of the unit would be coordinated and if this would involve remote operation. **CLOSED** on 26 February

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be conducted via Zoom on 4 March at 1000 (invitation hyperlink previously sent) with Agenda provide prior to that time by the Chairperson. As this meeting would come just days after the next RAC meeting on 2 March, where we could get additional input and discussions in person, there may be no additional actions to take short of the BVSA Board meeting. Consequently whether to hold a meeting will be discussed after the RAC.