

# **BVS Astronomy Club**

## Observatory Committee

Meeting Minutes, 3-4-22

### Overview

The meeting was conveyed at 1000 via Zoom. Present were Bill Norton, Claude Plymate, Teresa Plymate, John O'Bryan, Michael Lewis, and Tom Bash. The meeting departed from the Agenda because of events occurring since its drafting. The meeting was directed by the Committee Chair, Bill Norton, and generally held to the agenda (attached). The meeting adjourned at approximately 1130.

### Discussion

1. Apart from the Joe Horswell interaction summarized in the Agenda there was a subsequent conversation between Anya Norton and Greg Hahn (CSD Board President) regarding a conversation Mr. Hahn had had with Butch Reyburn (BVSA Board President) during a joint Board meeting. Claude had a subsequent meeting with Mr. Hahn to hear the feedback firsthand. Mr. Reyburn's principal concern was any additional upkeep cost associated with the Obs. However, overall his reaction appeared to be frustration and perhaps apprehension about another amenities fight. In discussion about this feedback the Committee agreed the words in the Preliminary Plan suitably address the upkeep cost and the consensus building will also help ameliorate pushback when the Board does take up the proposal in a month or so. It was agreed Bill Norton will approach Wes Shryock (BVSA General Manager) regarding any impact to existing BVSA insurance associated with an observatory, emphasizing that the Club intends to purchase liability insurance, and also make certain that no additional cost is anticipated in maintain the High Country Park access road. Bill is also to contact Mr. Reyburn and make certain he does not oppose fund raising ahead of approval and see if he knows who must make the call regarding California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) impact.
2. Bill altered the Preliminary Plan (now Rev11) to reflect that the Obs would be an amenity improvement, not a new amenity. No additional changes were indicated at this time.
3. In consensus building Bill related that Anya had contacted the seven Wildlife Coalition Board members and all but two were in favor. One wanted to visit the site and assess herself if she saw possible negative impact on wildlife. (Ranger Rocco gave a verbal that he could not foresee impact.) The other member did not like the idea but thought we should make flora improvement and perhaps install another picnic table at the same time we erected the shed. The Committee discussed this last recommendation and decided not to propose it but rather to react if suggested at the BVSA Board meeting. Any newly planted trees and shrubs would mean additional upkeep costs. It was agreed that the Club should begin raising BVS resident awareness of what the Club is planning via social media and gauge reactions. Teresa Plymate agreed to undertake this with the understanding nothing beyond what the RAC already

adopted (the original flier) was to be communicated. Teresa was to share what she planned to post before doing so.

4. There was discussion about any promises the Club could make to remove the Obs and restore landscape should the Club fold or the Obs use fall away and BVSA saw no use for the structure. It was decided such promises would not likely be believed and we would respond if this came up. Easy to promise today but harder to follow-through a decade from now.
5. Bill said he would spend the \$59.95 from his own funds, as a Club donation, to acquire the SkyShed plans. Once he had this and had looked them over he would advise the Committee on how best to share the most relevant elements.
6. It was agreed that fundraising would be greatly assisted by having an electronic means of making donations. PayPal appeared the easiest and most familiar means of doing this and John O'Bryan agreed to set up an account for the Club. Michael Lewis would ensure a link or instructions were added to the website. Bill was to contact Joe or the responsible person at BVSA about how contributors via the BVSCRFF would get a receipt and how funds would be transferred to the Club. The Club can certainly provide a letter indicating that no goods or services were provided. Fundraising remains on hold until these matters are resolved.
7. One means of fundraising suggested by Anya was to call folks on our list who had yet to join and suggest setting up their membership provided they make a donation to the Obs beyond the minimal membership fee. This sparked a conversation about ensuring funds drawn from the Club's bank account does not deplete money essential to basic functioning of the Club. It was decided the Treasurer and President would undertake this given that no one wanted to setup a separate account and no one knew the basic amount required (the insurance still an unknown). There was then discussion about whether this require a vote of the Club Board or membership and how much advanced warning was required. Bill was to make a formal proposal to Claude to begin this deliberation while John also circulated the bylaws.
8. Another means of fundraising was to sell the remaining Club T-shirts bought by the Plymates. They agreed to donate any proceeds and sales at meetings and Star Parties appeared a good approach.

#### Action Items

1. Bill Norton will contact Wes Shryock regarding any impact to existing BVSA insurance associated with an Obs and also make certain that no additional cost is anticipated in maintain the High Country Park access road. **OPEN**
2. Bill is to contact Butch Reyburn and make certain he does not oppose fund raising ahead of approval and see if he knows who must make the call regarding CEQA impact. **OPEN**
3. Teresa Plymate should begin raising BVS resident awareness via social media of what the Club is planning. **OPEN**
4. Bill to buy the SkyShed plans and share with Committee. **CLOSED** 4 March 2022 (Bill shared username and password for two additional downloads.)
5. Bill Norton was to contact Joe or the responsible person at BVSA about how contributors via the BVSCRFF would get a receipt and how funds would be transferred to the Club, and if members could hand-carry someone else's check to the BVSA office. **OPEN**

6. John O'Bryan to set up a PayPal account for the Club and Michael Lewis to ensure a link or instructions for payments is added to the website. **OPEN**
7. Bill to provide Claude a proposal for the fundraising via joint membership/donation to assess if some vote of the Club Board was required. **CLOSED** 4 March 2022 (Bill send the e-mail and initial reaction was no vote was necessary. No decision was made about any minimum donation amount.)

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be conducted via Zoom on 11 March at 1000 (invitation hyperlink previously sent) with Agenda provide prior to that time by the Chairperson. The meeting may be delayed a week upon unanimous agreement of the Committee members via e-mail or telephone.