

BVS Astronomy Club

Observatory Committee

Meeting Minutes, 1-6-23



Obs Resource
Plan_rev4.xlsx

Overview

The meeting was conveyed at 1000 via Zoom. Present were Bill Norton, Claude Plymate, Teresa Bippert-Plymate, John O'Bryan, and Michael Lewis. The meeting was directed by the Committee Chair, Bill Norton. This was the first meeting since the plan to build an observatory on community property, as an amenity improvement, was abandoned owing to greatly expanded county requirements. The meeting focused on a spreadsheet of steps and resources (attached) required to make John O'Bryan's personal observatory suitable for housing the Club's loaner scope and upgrade to eventual remote operation with camera. Items were added, struck out, rearranged, and with associated discussion. The meeting ran for 37 minutes until Zoom dropped the meeting.

Discussion

1. Electrical power is to be 12V throughout. An adapter to run the laptop off 12V will need to be obtained. There are multiple donors for a 12V battery and we will initially use John's. The AAA batteries for the Meade mount will not be used.
2. We will begin with John's donated laptop. Software for operation of the scope and remote operation of the garage door opener can be downloaded free. John's laptop was USB2 while we'd need USB3 for the imager. Since that is a future requirement we will leave that for later (another donated laptop we hope).
3. John and Claude will search for a power adapter for the scope. If necessary the Club will buy one.
4. We decided against floor padding as it may trap moisture below, against the plywood.
5. With just 12V power, wiring up inexpensive outlets seemed the best option for interior power distribution. Michael Lewis will purchase and install when the time comes.
6. The Wi-Fi booster will be explored on a step-by-step bases, first with a cellphone hotspot, looking to see if a connection can be made without an antenna, and so on. Whether any costs will be passed to the Club will be assessed based on those results.
7. John has two remote, battery powered cameras he will donate.
8. The door to the observatory is a light metal sliding unit with a flimsy lock. John will explore the best way to improve security or buy a better door.
9. Shelving a chair or two, and possibly a desk is advisable. Much can be donated – Teresa offer some shelves. To be addressed as we get to that point in the priority list.
10. Items that are the responsibility of the owner (John) will be performed with donated labor and finds as necessary. Phone and text will be used for such coordination.

Action Items

1. All – review and comment on the spreadsheet via e-mail. CLOSED

2. Bill Norton – to seek disbursement of the \$150 in the BVSACRFF to the Club. CLOSED
Terry Quinn will reimburse, sending Bill Norton a check.
3. Bill Norton – explore and recommend the best means of lighting a path from the bridge to the observatory, about 150 feet. OPEN
4. Michael Lewis – explore the best products for selectable red and white interior lighting.
OPEN

Next Meeting

John will take the steps to install and power up the scope in his observatory. Once that is achieved we will start going down the priority list, purchasing and working as necessary. The imager (camera), being a big-ticket item, will not be purchased without Board approval. Consequently, the date of the next meeting will be when such is identified as needed.