

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT HOME OF MR S. DE VOS

on 19/11/1996

Present : J.Watson, R.Roth, P.Hawkins, K.Hampson, R.Jarmain, S.de Vos.

ApoIs. : A.Versveld

1. Meeting commenced at 2006hrs, - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted,
2. Matters arising
Very pleasant evening spent with our fellow Natal Centre Astronomers for their mirror wetting evening of the revamped 12" telescope, 9 members went from N.M.C.
3. Planning
December Saturday 7/12/1996 confirmed end of year party date
Lunch braai at observatory site - time 1200hrs onwards
J.W. has a tarpaulin - R.R. can't get one
R.R. has 'gazebo' and Bidy & Rob Hall say can bring one as well
Skottel/Gas braais R.R., R.J., J.W., P.H., A.V. to bring
Members to bring & share food and chairs & tables
N.M.C. to supply charcoal (R.R.) wine 2 boxes (P.H.) juice 1 box
chips 4 pkts. (K.H.) box chocolates prize for local crossword (K.H.)
January
No meeting
4. Membership
Resignation - Jan Baxter
Anne Turton (Friends Mr. & Mrs Meyer will continue paying for her membership) K.H. to write to her
J. McKenzie has payed R50.00 & asks if husband Pat can also be a member - proposed K.Hampson seconded P, Hawkins
5. Correspondence to :-
All Saints Mens Fellowship - Thank you letter for R155.80 donation (K.H.)
Andrew Gray - Thank you for R100.00 donation
Congratulations re appointment to council
Re Mike Christianson being our council rep.
Re discussion with Peter Cramb & Arthur Arnold about Symposium next year. (J.W.)
Dr. J. Londt - Director - Natal Museum - re establishment of Planatarium and opportunity for discussion (J.W. - D Kain)
PMBurg - Msunduzi Trans. Local Council - re establishment of Astronomical observatory + complete Astro. Education centre including planatarium + what N.M.C. has already done + possibility of one time grant or annual grant for maintenance etc.
P.H. suggests if no quick reply - send a copy to Rob Haswell - Deputy Town Clerk (J.W. - D.Kain)
6. Treasurers Report
Observatory fund R410.71
General Fund R2031.85
Committee in agreement - all donations must be transferred into observatory fund + R575.75
Authorization from J.W. for K.H. as alternate signatory for Perm. accounts x2 - hand in copy to Permanent Bank hayfields Branch (P.H.)
P.H. wants to spend R40.00 on computer accounting package - committee in agreement.
K.H. will give secretarial costs to P.H. at end of November
7. Stardust
Thanks to R.R. & congratulations for superb Nov. copy of Stardust
R.J. says Dec. issue will be ready on time
P.H. suggestion - corner for beginners e.g suggested easy viewing of stars or constelations for beginners to find during the month.
Natal Centre to duplicate crossword & put in Indaba for N.M.C.

Stardust cont.

Extension of time for local crossword entrants to Christmas party
notify members in stardust - draw to be made at party - have photo-copies at party if members want to try there.

8. Library

Nothing done yet for binding S&T's -K.H. & S.de V to sort out all unbound copies from ± 1980 onwards
2 video tapes purchased - copying still to be done (S. de V.)
K.H. still to locate W. Herschel
S.de V. has slides
J.Dye says Ages in Chaos was returned for him to library by Frikkie de Bruin

9. P.R.O.

No report - still a phantom!!!
Calendar -R.R. showed ideas for monthly ^{tear-off} ~~taxe-off~~ portions with astronomical events for days + e.g. starmap for month on back etc - picture for calendar pref. Black & white less cost for photo copy. R.R. needs ideas for months
K.H. to contact Pat Booth -editor of handbook for phenomena for 1997 & 1998 + letter explaining reason why we need it.
Pied Blageek + 2 paintings to be sent to S&T, Astronomy, Astronomy Now, MASSA, & Australian Astro. Magazine - ? pay NMC.in £&S's for publishing -committee agrees worth a try.K.H. & R.J.to go ahead.

10. Instruments & observatory

Building

Use present money in observatory fund to cast floor of building
Natal Centre treasurer - works for Frankie Pile(sp)-will instruct Ready Mix to donate & deliver!! NMC. to set a date. Find expeert & offer to pay to lay floor -need reasonably smooth floor -R.R &R.J. able to be free during week to be on site.
R.R. knows handyman who may be able to help - J.W.'s neighbour may be able to do it during Builders holiday.
J.W. will contact Natal Centre treasurer to confirm the offer.

Site

Tree clearing R.R. brother has a chain saw to lend & Herman Buchler says has a chain saw & willing to help.

Soil

Soil samples have been analysed -John Lawrence still to give J.W. analysis on what grasses to plant etc.
Committee decision to reform observatory Sub committee - callextra observatory meeting before end of November, on site ,pref. weekend
Subcommittee Rogan Roth Ivan Schroeder Roger Clifford
Goeff Prosser John Watson Steve de Vos
Rusty Jarmain Kerry Hampson (tea maker)
R.R. to organize meeting

11. Education

Nothing more on schools calender
R.R. - has had query from Brownies/girl guides -interested in a lecture
All Saints Mens Fellowship evening a success
Letter to J.W. from Dept of Culture & Education re we are able to apply for funds for 1997 - J.W. will write a motivation to Ulundi

12. General

Nil -see 9.P.R.O.