

## **MINUTES OF ASSA COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2008**

Held in the Auditorium, SAAO, at 8.00

1. **Welcome:**  
President Peter Martinez opened the meeting and welcomed all present.
2. **Present:**  
Patricia Booth, Cliff Turk, Anthony Jones, Lia Labuschagne, Chris de Coning, Maciej Soltynski, Laurie Simone.
3. **Apologies:**  
Dudley Field, Willie Koorts, and Kevin Govender. Apologies from all up country members are automatically accepted.
4. **Ratify Previous Minutes:**  
There are minutes outstanding from previous meetings that still have to be ratified. The Secretary, Laurie Simone pointed out to Council that the minutes are emailed in draft form for all corrections to be made and this must include grammatical errors. When the final minutes are circulated they are complete. All the President, Peter Martinez has to do is ratify the minutes with his signature. It is thus unnecessary and time consuming to correct the minutes at meetings and should be avoided.
5. **Matters Arising:**
  - A) **S.A. Meteorite Database:** Gerrit Penning has been corresponding with Trevor Gould. Trevor's response was that work on the Meteorite Database is still in progress and he aims to have it finished by the end of the year. Peter Martinez confirmed that we have the go ahead for hosting the meteor database on the SAAO server.
  - B) **Iziko Museum:** As requested by Peter Martinez, Lia Labuschagne prepared a draft letter to Theo Ferreira to endorse the planetarium upgrade. The letter was submitted to Peter at the meeting and Peter will in turn formalise it and forward the letter to Theo Ferreira.  
  
**Action:** P. Martinez to send letter of support to Iziko.
6. **The 9<sup>th</sup> ASSA Symposium 2010:**  
Council was unanimous in its decision to invite the Cape Centre to host the 2010 Symposium. Council looks forward to receiving confirmation of acceptance from the Cape Centre.  
  
**Action:** P. Martinez to write a letter to the Chairman of the Cape Centre inviting that Centre to host the 2010 Symposium.
7. **University of Milan – Parallax Campaign:**  
An international parallax campaign to measure distance to the Moon and Mars, submitted by Davide Cenadelli, University of Milan, Italy to the European Journal of Physics has been accepted. Two members of the Garden Route centre, Lucas Ferreira and Case Rijdsdijk, were contributors to this paper, and Council congratulates them on this exciting achievement. Paper can be found at:  
  
<http://stacks.iop.org/0143-0807/30/35>.  
  
**Action:** P. Martinez to write a letter of congratulations on behalf of Council to Mr. Davide Cenadelli, Lucas Ferreira and Case Rijdsdijk.
8. **IYA 2009:**

It was agreed at the previous Council meeting Council would assign the IYA 2009 portfolio to Kevin Govender of SAAO and that each ASSA Centre would be requested to establish an IYA 2009 portfolio and to designate a person to coordinate IYA2009 activities in that Centre. Once these Centre representatives were nominated, Council will convene an IYA planning workshop.

**Action:** P. Martinez to draft a letter to the Centre Directors informing them of the Council decision repeated above.

**Action:** Laurie Simone is to correspond with the Centre Presidents/Chairmen to submit the name of an IYA representative.

**Action:** Lia Labuschagne to approach Cape Centre members to volunteer for the special IYA Open Night on New Year's Eve in Sutherland. Laurie Simone will also circulate an email to all Centre Representatives.

Correspondence was received from Kos Coronaios from the Limpopo Astronomy Club. He submitted an initiative for IYA 2009. Peter Martinez requested the Mr. Coronaios correspond with Kevin Govender with his initiative.

**Action:** Secretary to forward the relevant correspondence to Kevin Govender for follow-up.

**Action:** Laurie Simone to place a standing agenda item on IYA 2009 on the agenda of Council meetings. Kevin Govender is to take the lead on discussions of this item.

9. Sky Guide:

Anthony Jones advised Council the next issue of Sky Guide is with the printers, and that we can expect delivery in approximately three weeks. 4500 Copies will be printed.

Correspondence was received from Willie Koorts expressing his concern that ASSA may be using unlicensed software for the preparation of the Sky Guide and MNASSA as we only have a single-user licence for the software.

**Action:** Laurie Simone is to correspond with Willie for further details about the proprietary software used for preparing ASSA publications and cost implications of purchasing additional copies/licences. Laurie also to liaise with Gerrit Penning as ASSA's Webmaster, regarding the status of the software he uses.

10. Cosmology Section:

Council formally approved the above Section and that Frikkie de Bruyn is the Section Director.

11. Independent Clubs:

Peter Martinez has contacted John Saunders of the Hermanus Astronomy Club with the possibility of becoming a Centre of ASSA. Correspondence was submitted to Council. Peter will keep Council informed when he receives a response from Hermanus.

12. World Wide Star Count:

It was too late for Council to seek any participants for the above star count.

13. Treasurers Report:

Cliff Turk reported that the finances were all in order and there were no finance matters requiring Council's attention.

14. Membership Matters:

No report was submitted by Dudley Field as he was moving house. There seems to be some confusion regarding Dudley's resignation from Council.

**Action:** Cliff Turk to correspond with Dudley to clarify his position.

Lerika Cross has again offered her assistance to help updating the membership database.

**Action:** Laurie Simone is to correspond with Dudley regarding the database.

15. Correspondence:

Council wishes to advise Magda Streicher who corresponded on behalf of the Section Directors. The Directors have to work on a calendar year for their reports in terms of the Constitution. A calendar year however is not suitable for the Society. An amendment to the constitution would be required to change either of these provisions, should there be any support for it, and valid reasons for such a change would need to be forthcoming. Council could see no such reasons.

**Action:** Laurie Simone to write to Magda Streicher explaining Council's deliberations on the matter.

Correspondence was also received from Oleg Toumilovitch. Oleg proposed a Mobile Astro-Photo competition for IYA 2009. Council suggested that Oleg correspond with Kevin Govender with his initiative together with a detailed budget of expenses.

**Action:** Laurie Simone to forward a copy of the correspondence to Kevin Govender for follow up, with copy to Mr Toumilovitch.

Council did not accept Oleg's explanation regarding the advertising line at the bottom of the Imaging Section's webpage as tabled in the previous minutes and reiterated that the line has to be removed.

**Action:** Laurie to inform Mr Toumilovitch of Council's decision.

16. Any other business:

None

17. Date for the next Council meeting:

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2009

The meeting was closed by the President, Peter Martinez. Time: 9.30 pm