

MINUTES OF ASSA COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 3rd February, 2009

Held in the SALT Boardroom, SAAO, at 8.00

1. Welcome:
President Peter Martinez opened the meeting and welcomed all present.
2. Present:
Peter Martinez, Patricia Booth, Chris de Coning, Laurie Simone, Matie Hoffman, Kevin Govender, Ian Glass
3. Apologies:
Dudley Field, Willie Koorts, Lia Labuschagne, Maciej Soltynski and Cliff Turk.
Apologies from all up country members are automatically accepted.
4. Ratify Previous Minutes:
Peter Martinez ratified the minutes of the previous Council meeting of the 27th October. No corrections were required.
5. Matters Arising:
 - A) Council is waiting for a response from the Cape Centre regarding the invitation to host the 9th ASSA Symposium.
 - B) Parallax Campaign: A letter from Peter Martinez to congratulate the contributors to the campaign is pending.
6. IYA 2009:
Laurie Simone submitted to Kevin Govender the list of IYA representatives from all the Centres. Peter Martinez requested that Kevin Govender initiate proposals for a half day workshop. Kevin or Peter will run the workshop with the various Centres.

The Cape Centre has an initiative planned for the month of May on Galileo and Brian Fraser of Johannesburg Centre has a similar initiative. Laurie Simone is to obtain further details of these initiatives to possibly combine them as an IYA project.

Action: Laurie Simone is to correspond with Brian Fraser and Lia Labuschagne

Feedback from Kevin Govender confirmed that the response from the public at the Sutherland Star Party and the recent Eclipse was very good.

Robert Groess of the Johannesburg Centre submitted a list of activities for IYA. Council anticipates similar lists from the remaining Centres to be emailed to the Secretary and Kevin Govender.
7. Sky Guide:
Cliff Turk received a request from the head office of Exclusive Books for a larger than normal discount of 40% if they place a single bulk order to be sent to Johannesburg. Peter Martinez and Council decided that this matter be referred to the Editorial Board for a decision.
8. Treasurers Report:
 - A) Cliff Turk submitted a written proposal that ASSA make a donation of R5,000.00 to the Trust Fund set up by Tony Fairall's family to provide every school in South Africa with a copy of Tony's latest book "Starwise" The book is aimed at 11 to 14 year-olds and was Tony's dream for IYA 2009. The proposal was approved by Chris de Coning and seconded by Pat Booth and duly passed by Council and tabled in the minutes herewith

Correspondence was received from Case Rijdsijk encouraging all the ASSA Centres to give a public talk on Tony Fairall, s Project “Star Wise” and to raise funds at the same time furthering ASSA’s contribution to the project.

Action: Laurie Simone to contact all ASSA Centre Representatives regarding the above.

B) As above, Cliff Turk proposed that an amount not exceeding R3, 500.00 be made available to the Durban Centre to make up the loss incurred on the 2008 Symposium. The final amount is to be confirmed when Council receives their final accounts. The proposal was approved by Matie Hoffman and seconded by Ian Glass and duly passed by Council and tabled in the minutes herewith.

C) A budget was received from Willie Koorts to update the software required as per section 9 of the previous minutes. No decision was made at this stage. Peter Martinez suggested tabling this on the Agenda for the next Council meeting.

9. New Members:

We now have a total of 209 ASSA members broken down as follows; Full Members 55, Honorary 12, Limited 122 and new 20. The list of the new 20 members has being emailed to Willie Koorts. Council also received from Peter Martinez completed application forms for a further 5 new members.

Action: Laurie Simone is to submit a list of the 5 additional new members to Willie Koorts for MNAASA and to Dudley Field to update his records.

10. Correspondence:

Correspondence was received from Gerrit Penning requesting that ASSA finds a replacement for his position of Web Master. Peter Martinez has found a replacement in Christian Hettage.

Action: Peter Martinez is to correspond with Gerrit Penning regarding his replacement.

Laurie Simone confirmed and read out to Council a letter of resignation received from Atze Herder, Director of the Double Star Section. Recommendations were made to Council for two applicants to fill the vacancy.

Action: Peter Martinez suggested that he correspond with the two applicants and request a brief written descriptions on their ideas for the Double Star Section. Once the briefs have been received Council will decide who the nominee will be.

Pat Booth submitted a list of suggested increases to be made for honoraria payments made to officials of ASSA. For the record, the officials are as follows;

Office	Previous	Revised
Hon, Secretary	R 300	R 400
Hon Treasurer	R 300	R 400
Membership Secretary	R 450	R 500
Business Manager	R 550	R 600
MNASSA Editor	R 450	R 500
Sky Guide Editor	R 450	Nil
Webmaster	----	<u>R 400</u>
	<u>R 2500</u>	<u>R 2800</u>

- Council unanimously approved the above revised payments.

Correspondence was received from Oleg Toumilovitch and he confirmed that the line advertising Optoelectronics had been removed, however he did point out to Council that space has been made on his web site advertising ASSA and due to the quid pro quo, could an exception be made.

Action: Peter Martinez said he would discuss this with our new Web Master Christian Hettlage and then correspond with Oleg.

11. Any other business:

Magda Streicher has requested that Council be reminded that nominations for awards have to be submitted to the Secretary before the end of the 1st week in April. This is in accordance to the constitution and applies to all awards. Magda will arrange for the printing of the awards

Action: Laurie Simone to circulate reminders for the above and of any other dates to be remembered prior to the AGM.

We were also notified from Frikkie de Bruyn as Director of Cosmology that the paper on the possible influence of Dark Energy on the assumed merger of the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds with the Milky Way is almost ready.

12. Date for the next Council meeting:

Tuesday 21st April, 2009 - Subject to confirmation.

The meeting was closed by the President, Peter Martinez. Time: 9.10 pm