

Minutes of the October 4, 2010, Board meeting of the Howard Astronomical League (HAL).

The meeting was attended by Treasurer Peter Friedman, Observatory Chair Joel Goodman, Webmaster Chas Rimpo, Event Coordinator David Stein, and Secretary David Illig.

Peter opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Observatory Chair Joel Goodman reported that he is working with the architect on a building design. The building will not be a complex design, and making it somewhat larger than originally planned will not add greatly to the design or construction cost. Joel is currently considering a 32-foot by 18-foot rectangle. He was to meet with the architect and the contractor on Thursday, 7 October. The question arose as to whether Martin Cohen of Company 7 would charge us for his assistance on the project. The consensus was that we should expect to pay him, but that he would work at a discounted rate.

Upcoming HAL events include Lunar Madness at the public star party at Alpha Ridge Park on 16 October, with Event Coordinator David Stein making a presentation at the pavilion at 6:30 p.m. On November 9, HAL will participate in the Howard County Community College Skywatch. Treasurer Peter Friedman will head up this activity and seek HAL volunteers to bring telescopes to the event.

There was a discussion about the number of keys to Alpha Ridge Park that are entrusted to HAL members. Some of the members who have keys are not well known to the HAL officers, and at least one member has failed to properly fulfill his responsibilities as a keyholder by hosting impromptu star parties and leaving early with the key, making it impossible to re-lock the gate (because the lock is re-locked after the gate is opened to prevent theft or substitution). The Board decided that there needs to be a reassessment of key allocations, and possibly a recall of all keys and a zero-base re-issuing of keys.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

David Illig, Secretary