

Cindy,

Below we've summarized our understanding of your proposals of November 15th and respectfully submit the Austin Astronomical Society's (AAS) suggestions for contract revision.

We agree with some items in your November 15th communication and have suggested changes to others. All of our suggestions are in the interest of forwarding our individual and mutual goals. COTE needs to maximize the EEO observatory ability to attract and retain resort guests and maximize profit.

AAS exists to provide a venue for educating the public and our members and providing our members with a dark sky site that allows them to enjoy and grow in the hobby of amateur astronomy.

If either side exercises their option to terminate the current agreement we will continue to live up to the provisions of that contract until the termination date. In this case we will need to establish the dates for the remaining public and private star parties, so we can inform our membership and the public.

To assure that AAS has options should COTE terminate the contract, we are conducting a search for an alternate observing site.

Such a move will not be necessary if we agree to alterations to the current contract.

We hope that in subsequent discussions COTE and AAS can fine-tune the present contract and that can continue our mutually beneficial partnership.

Respectfully,

Tim

Tim O. Brown
President
Austin Astronomical Society
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Summary of Changes proposed in an email dated 11/15/2017

In a November 15th email to the Austin Astronomical Society (AAS) Executive Committee you proposed modifications to Calibre's relationship with the AAS regarding use of the Canyon of the Eagles observatory and observing field for AAS members' use on monthly "private star party" nights.

Additionally, you proposed restricting AAS access to the observatory and observing field to COE sponsored viewing nights with the single exception that "special arrangements for locking for late departure will be available on an individual member basis."

In that email you also indicated that:

"If an AAS committee cannot be formed for this topic as promised and have some options presented to us by December 1, 2017, then the following recommendations, based on input from some AAS members, will be in effect as of March 1, 2018."

Subsequently, on November 17th you agreed to my request to delay the date by which AAS must submit a counter proposal:

"No problem on moving the deadline to December 15, 2017; we agree to this extension."

Austin Astronomical Society Proposal to COTE for Contract Revision

In accord with our agreement to present a proposal by December 15th we respectfully submit the following for consideration and discussion:

AAS Private Star Party Nights

AAS prefers that the "Members Only Star Party" arrangements remain unchanged from the present contract.

However, we understand the business necessity of COTE providing consistent access to an observing field for its guests. AAS is willing to work with COTE to reach a mutually acceptable alternative.

Therefore, we propose - for discussion - the following potential alterations to the current contract.

- 1.) On "Members Only Nights" AAS and COTE will share the field in the early evening with dark sky protocols enforced two hours after sunset.
- 2.) On "Members Only Nights" relocate the public observing to another location on the COTE property. We can discuss the ways in which AAS might be able to assist.
- 3.) On "Members Only Nights" relocate the AAS Private Star party to another site on the property with assistance from COTE

No Special AAS Access

You indicated:

“AAS members will share the venue with Canyon guests.”

Our members have requirements that differ from the public’s needs. To fully enjoy our hobby, we need late night access, early morning access, dark sky protocols and clear skies.

For example:

- 1.) Access to late evening and early morning hours. That is often the only way that we can complete an observation program – not to mention astrophotography.
- 2.) Our special classes for members training – “Fast Track Classes” don’t require the observatory, but will often include day and nighttime sessions. These classes can occur alongside your public nights, if we have extended night access.
- 3.) Daytime access to the observatory to maintain equipment

We propose that:

- 1.) AAS members have daytime access to the observatory for maintenance and upgrade (if any)
- 2.) That members have individual access on non-star party nights under the conditions stipulated in the current contract.
- 3.) That we have the right to conduct “Fast Track Training” – daytime and night sessions of course, with your agreement on dates.

Public Star Party

It’s in our mutual interest to conduct public star parties on a regular basis. We offer an established and effective infrastructure in support of these parties as well as experienced observers and their telescopes.

Therefore:

- 1.) We propose that the arrangements under the current contract be continued as before.

AAS is pleased to work with COTE to continue the mutually beneficial relationship that we have enjoyed for many years.

We submit these proposals for discussion and as we continue to work together on a new contract.

Tim O. Brown
President
Austin Astronomical Society