

RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Dennis, Gord, Judy, Scott, Terra, Bryan, Abdul, Andrew, Ed

REGRETS: Michelle, Bill



1. Call to order 7 PM President

Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Welcome and Opening Remarks President

Dennis explained his approach to meetings:

- Follows Roberts Rule of Order.
- Any of the material sent out expect people have time to read it. Also will not read the minutes.
- Financials are one of the first things in the agenda so that we know how much money we have.
- Motions for spend should include what is it, how much is it, and the timing.
- Once a budget is approved, do not come back to council for approval if it is in the budget.
- It is not necessary to have a motion for everything.
- We will follow the time for each agenda item to keep us on track.
- Voting, best way is to call the question, will ask if everyone in favour, if no response then will ask if any opposed, and then pass if few negatives.
- Put short questions in chat if necessary.

Gord: Do we need a motion to increase the number of councillors by 1 to 6? Dennis: That was covered in the last meeting.

3. Additions to Agenda President

4. Adoption of previous minutes President
No copy available.

5. Financial report Treasurer 2 Minutes

Dennis: Report is the same as at the AGM. Abdul: Need to change the signing authority. Need to check on the rules. Normally president, VP, and past pres. **ACTION Abdul to check on the incorporation act.**

6. Appointment of Volunteers to Key Positions Vice President 5 minutes

MOTION: Appointment of the slate of positions was moved by Judy and seconded by Gord.

CARRIED

The two open positions stay open until we discuss the goals.

- a. Webmaster Gord Tulloch
- b. SWSP Coordinator Silvia Graca
- c. Newsletter Editor Gord Tulloch
- d. Glenlea Observatory Director Bryan Stach
- e. Communications Coordinator Ed Wright
- f. National Representative 1 Dennis Lyons
- g. National Representative 2 Open
- h. Membership Coordinator Open

7. Updates Key Positions – Bring Council members up to speed on past and future. Max 2 minutes each

- a. President
Dennis: Chair for the GLP program and the national rep.
- b. Vice President
Gord: Support whatever council wants to get done. Supporting Dennis. Pitch in where needed.
- c. Webmaster
Gord: Website going well. Looking at software to replace the RASC UoM system. Might set up test system. Do not care if the existing RASC list stays or goes. Thinks both lists get moved over. For official business, mail should move over. Bryan: National is creating their own. Dennis: Went through training. Heard from Eastern their system went down. Same technology as UoM.
- d. Newsletter Editor
Gord: Went out right after the meeting. Included a survey. 100% found it useful. 75% found Abrams Planetarium useful. Once pay for it goes to 50/50. To add \$1.50 to fees it goes up. Thank you to the contributors. Secret is to ask people to contribute. Upcoming articles from Stan and Scott. Have the next newsletter ready to go. Ralph does proof reading. I just follow the Facebook site for content.
- e. Glenlea Observatory Director
Bryan: Closed due to COVID-19. People use it sometimes, mostly senior members. Talk about replacing the scope. It is getting old. Roads plowed. Gord: My suggestion is to replace the fork mount, not the optical tube assembly, the optics are good.
- f. Communications Coordinator

Ed: This is a service-based role. Had it for the past year. Did the meeting invites in 2020. Mostly handling just email for now. For future could expand into other social media channels.

g. National Representatives

Dennis: They meet every 6 weeks. Working on the Centre handbook. The national council used to vet the incorporation, but now the authority lies with the Board. Trying to use it for projects. Now the Board does not have to go to anybody. Winnipeg Centre is entitled to two reps. Scott: Used to be council was 50 people and everybody had to go through them.

h. Membership Coordinator

Dennis: Will be recruiting for this. Gord not staying in this position. Gord: Role is outgrowth of maintaining the website. Download the list every week on Sundays. Send emails to new members. Send emails to expiring members. Sends emails to members who drop off the grace period. Need membership retention is part of the role as well.

i. SWSP Coordinator Report circulated to Council

Dennis: Silvia sent a report. Everybody in support of Silvia continuing. All: Yes. Dennis: We are not doing the insurance certificate very well. We are supposed to go to National to get the certificate stating recognized event. Scott: What that means is if not covered by ins and someone gets hurt they can sue each of us individually. Dennis: Need to follow the process in the habit to get insurance set.

8. RASC Winnipeg Centre Council Goals 2021 Dennis 30 Minutes

We reviewed the goals list.

Mentor Program – Bryan: in favour.

Bylaws – Scott: Would like them revised, then Glenlea updated.

Gord – By-laws and incorporation.. Relevant to each. As Inc would be in better position, missed STEM grant in the spring. Don't become a charity. Mentor program is important to get moving as soon as COVID allows. People ask about this most.

Loaner scope – Gord: It needs to be enhanced.

Incorporation – Ed: I have been speaking about this for a while now. In addition to the advantage of expanding sources of funding mentioned before, it is also important for reducing liability to the council members.

Strat Plan – Ed: The strat plan is critical for us to understand the reason for being of the organization and then how to go about making that happen. It is about knowing what to do, and then how to go about doing it. It will be difficult to grow without a strat plan.

Judy: Not sure what connection is between the plan and the action. In that survey socializing was very important. Crucial for new people coming in come at diff level. Special interest groups, everyone is different. Need to have breakout rooms for those groups. Diff rooms to start and then come into the meeting. Membership svcs are key, need to know why people are members. Could have a meeting coord who knows there are 4 rooms today, and start at 7:00 and go into that meeting. Strat Plan, council will be business as usual if we don't have a plan. Also think it's important to allow people to see one another during the meeting, and to schedule a social time during the meeting (as we did before covid) to facilitate, rather than leaving it to those who want to go to the virtual pizza. The discussion during the coffee break related more to astronomy/RASC than the one at the restaurant (before covid).

Terra: Have felt in past the mtgs got very repetitive, so didn't go as often, yes something new for mtg structure, we used *Gather* software, get an avatar with map of University type building, uses proxy of avatars to talk to people. For the strat plan, sounds like RASC Wpg got complacent, could do more events, guided. I am passionate about dark sky preserves.

Gord: We can consider beginners as special interest group in the club. Working with Scouts and about to work with Girl Guides. Next logical step is have them come to a meeting. Feedback is that a RASC member is more interesting than a physicist from UoM. We might want to tone down the forums.

Judy: Fund raising should be considered. E.g., how to survive a winter in astronomy outside.

Terra: It might be worth it have a breakout room during talks, so they can socialize.

Abdul: We should also focus on the younger generation rather than just technical talk, programs based on the newer technologies.

Scott: A youth group is a good thing as well. Kids won't go to RASC meetings. But could drive away the core members. Maybe separate meeting times or meeting rooms.

Bryan: At the star party his goal was to get older members to mix with the beginners. Gord: Having a separate youth area would be neat. Having great time with Cubs. Fun having a group of kids in awe of the sky.

Andrew: A recruitment program with him and other members going around to schools to get young people interested, why astronomy cool. Bryan: Brendan did that. Gord: I am expecting an avalanche, looking for presentations to fill up an hour. Could be outreach.

Scott: Recusing myself from those discussions.

Judy: In spite of the pandemic ending, Zoom will continue, especially for people outside the perimeter. Wondering in the by-laws if VP for youth.

Terra: Gord could include her in those events. Also, once back to in person meetings, live streaming meetings might be good way to reach them. Abdul: Unfortunately, the camera we have will not handle that. Gord: the sound needs to be good as well if we are webcasting. Terra: Had profs record lectures, could we contact the UoM to ask how they do it.

Dennis: SWSP we are supporting that. Really interested in the Working with like minded organizations. Recruiting for Open Positions. Public Outreach. Youth seems to be important. Meeting coordinator, a lot of support.

- National AGM? Was this approved? Bryan: Not in the minutes. Dennis: Not brought before council then.
- Funds held by National.

Dennis reviewed the main points from the list. Dennis to send out prioritized list. Likely: Incorporation, By-Laws, Strat-Plan in that order. Can send out an email on the incorporation. Gord: Strat Plan will be underpinnings of the budget. Dennis: There is a fund-raising person at national.

9. Budget 2021 – discussion for next meeting Dennis/Abdul
10. OLD BUSINESS
- a. COVID Dennis
Dennis: Expectation is less than five people outdoors, but leave everything closed for now. Glenlea closed for now.
- b. Bylaws Gord 10 Minutes
Dennis: Scott to work on this. Scott: Volunteering for this. Dennis: Make sure the person doing the incorporation works with him.
- c. Incorporation Ed 5 Minutes
Gord: Easy to incorporate as a NPO is easy in MB. Might be a problem with name search. Judy: Any other centres incorporated? Dennis: Yes half are due to fund raising. Might be funds available for STEM federally. National won't have a problem with inc. However, those that are charities is more work. Gord: Problem is if screw up, CRA has 100% revocation policy. If council is not on the ball. Scott: After the sponsorship scandal everything changed.
- d. Next RASC Zoom Meeting – Speakers/Agenda Dennis
Dennis: Next meeting in Feb. We discussed options for the beginner item in the agenda. Scott: He can help. Jay's What's Up is the beginner's section. Dennis: the topic what to wear when observing is a good one. Abdul: Another topic would be what led into this hobby. Bryan: He could help with the beginners' session, e.g., websites, software to use, ... Terra: I usually liked to see things I did not know about. It is an advantage you don't know. Dennis reviewed the meeting agenda. Dennis: We need to confirm Jennifer.
- e. Mentor Program Gord
Dennis: A lot of positives on this. Suggest that we identify terms of reference and a job description. Bryan expressed interest. Dennis: Would do the terms of ref and job description first. Then look at it in the eyes of the strat plan. Then go out and recruit. Gord: The guy who can provide a lot of effort is Darren Hennig. Gord: Have not seen progress on this, okay with Bryan handling, but time box it.
- f. Telescope Giveaway Program Gord
Gord: Very successful for short term initiative. Really helped with recruitment, press in Teulon. Would be good to give better scope to kids. Not a lot of money spend to get this. Star Blast 4.5 from Orion would be good. Happy to build this up over the next year. Dennis: Would need to get this in the budget. Abdul: Saw one that is under \$250. Terra: That should be our goal in the strat plan is to disperse ... Andrew: Have an 8" dob that could donate. Dennis: The planetarium can help out as well. Bryan: Still waiting for National to do the membership giveaway. Said we will pay by cheque.
11. NEW Business
- a. Communications Plan – Posting of minutes etc. Ed 5 Minutes
Strat Plan – Judy: Could include in next agenda about this
- b. Google Drive Gord
Gord: No place to store docs. Have set up a Google Drive. Could the old-timers (Jay, Stan, Scott ...) provide documents of historical value to be added to the Google Drive. You must create a Gmail acct and then login. **ACTION Gord to send out instruction for Gmail.**
Abdul: Need method to share.

- c. Terms of Reference Library Telescope Program Gord
 Gord: In other jurisdictions, centres are buying scope and mounts and put them in libraries in their area ... very cool, StarBlast is maybe \$500 per unit, could do a scope in every library, could be positive for RASC. Program is popular in USA and B.C. Can provide this before the next meeting. This would be part of the strategic plan.

- 12. Next Meeting Dennis
 Dennis: How much time for next meeting? All: Two hours is good.
 Dennis did a round robin review of the members feelings about the meeting.

- 13. Adjourn 9 PM

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

FUTURE ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Abdul Check stipulations in the incorporation act for cheque signing authority.
- 2. Scott Take on coordinating the by-laws rewrite.
- 3. Bryan Terms of reference and job description for mentor program coordinator.
- 4. Gord Send out instructions for Google Drive and the necessary Gmail acct.
- 5. Dennis Contact Council Members to confirm what projects or goals they would like to lead or assist with

	Name	Signature	Date
Secretary	Ed Wright		