RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Tuesday, Mar 02, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

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

REGRETS: Scott, Michelle

1. Call to order 7 PM — President
2. Welcome and Opening Remarks — President
   One member is not on council now.
   Minutes from last meeting.
3. Additions to Agenda — President — 2 Minutes
   See 'e' under New Business, Glenlea update

   MOTION: Judy moved to adopt the agenda as presented with the one addition – PASSED
4. Adoption of previous minutes — President — 2 Minutes

   MOTION: Judy moved to adopt the minutes as circulated – PASSED
5. Financial report — Treasurer — 2 Minutes
   Balance of $17,962, less two outstanding payments leaving about $17,500.
   Letter received from St. John's College about a $500 annual award. It is late this year. This is a way we payback for the use of their area. **ACTION Abdul to archive the letter in Google Drive**.

   MOTION: Abdul moved to issue a cheque for $500.00 to St. John's college for this award – PASSED.
6. OLD BUSINESS
   a. COVID — Dennis
      No change. Policy left unchanged. No in-person events allowed for now.
   b. Bylaws — Scott — 10 Minutes
      Scott not in attendance. Gord to contact. We need them for May for the business registration and incorporation. We could incorporate without approved by-laws, but would require updating the by-laws after ratified.
   c. Incorporation — Gord — 5 Minutes
      We did register the name "*The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Winnipeg Centre Inc*." We will need a letter from National approving it. Finished the incorporation document. There are four officers, Dennis, Gord, Ed, and Abdul. We will need to update the officers every year with the Business Office. There is some liability being an officer of the corporation, for example gross negligence. Every officer should be aware of that. The cost to file is $120.

      MOTION: Gord moved to spend $120.00 to proceed with the incorporation – PASSED
   d. Next RASC Zoom Meeting – Speakers/Agenda — Dennis — 2 Minutes
      ACTION Scott to send the invite to the presenters. Gord just gave Scott access to be the licensed person to book meetings.
   e. Strategic Plan — Ed — 20 Minutes
      Ed gave an overview of the status of the strategic planning process and where we are in that process. The stakeholder engagement will be composed of the following:

- Workshop with the council to complete a questionnaire. **ACTION Ed to send out a Doodle poll for the time and book a meeting**. People should come with thoughts on the form.
- Questionnaire for external stakeholders which can wait until later in the SP process. We added the Manitoba Museum science programs to the list. We can go to Scott for a contact. We also added University of Winnipeg to the list.
- Survey questionnaire for the general membership. This is based on the 2019 survey but adds questions on Glenlea and volunteering. We moved the demographics to the end, and we added examples for volunteering. **All agreed that the survey can be issued with the two changes**.

f. Mentor Program — Bryan — 2 Minutes
Bryan is getting ready to write up a plan. **ACTION Bryan to have ready for next meeting**.

g. Operations Manual — Gord — 5 Minutes
National has a committee working on this but it should be as finished as will be. **All agreed defer this until strategic plan and incorporation is done**.

h. Centre meetings break out rooms/surveys — All — 5 Minutes
Scott not in attendance. Dennis to find out from Scott how to do break out rooms. **ACTION Gord to talk to Scott about this**.

i. Social Events Post Covid — All — 2 Minutes
In the past we had a couple of social events, for example a potluck. Agreement that social events are very important for the members and will be after the pandemic is over.
We could try allowing people to be panelists during the Friday webinar meeting so that we can use the breakout room feature. We could create a "break" breakout room during the meeting.
We could open the Mar 12 meeting up to Facebook Aurora members. If we post our meeting, we could have 100s join but would be limited to 100 in Zoom the account. However, it will be live streamed in Facebook. There seems to be a massive up swelling of interest in astronomy.
The January potluck, barbeque, and New Years Eve hike are highlights of the social calendar. Pancakes at Glenlea would be attractive. We might want to budget for equipment for grilling for a larger group. **ACTION Dennis to reach out to Silvia about equipment needs such as gas grill for the SWSP**. Popcorn is another option for movie night at the observatory.
ACTION SP Committee to add a question in the membership survey on socializing events.

7. Job Descriptions
(Not discussed)
   a. Beginner Session Coordinator — Judy
   b. Newsletter editor — Gord
   c. Membership Coordinator — Gord
   d. Webmaster — Gord
   e. Loaner Scope Coordinator — Abdul

Break at halfway point — 10 Minutes

8. Updates
   a. Light Abatement — Terra — 5 Minutes
   Some people are willing to help Terra with the cause. The RASC conference on this topic would be a good avenue to pursue. The RASC office would need to add her to the group.
   b. Youth Outreach — Andrew — 5 Minutes

Not a lot of change. World Wildlife Fund youth group ("Wild Canada") group is an opportunity.

c. Work with like minded organizations — Dennis
This is part of the strategic plan.
Judy has been working ahead on beginner sessions. Has all of the meetings done including July. Looking into August and the fall. Only the June speaker (Wilford Buck) has not confirmed. Otherwise have up to October. This will attract other people to give talks. The BBQ event would be in July, but not this year.
National IT System – It looks really good, commercial software, feature complete, should be able to automate an interface. Web forums and mail should be able to replace RASC Winnipeg and RASC council. It does the echo to email. Can create whatever sites we want on it. It has *Volunteer Management* and *Donor* functionality as well as *Member* functionality.

9. GA 2022 — Dennis — 2 Minutes
Dennis told Robin that we are not doing 2022, but 2024 or 2025 could be an option for Winnipeg.
10. Budget 2021 – develop based on strategic plan — Dennis/Abdul. — 5 Minutes
As we roll out, we will be able to figure this out.
11. NEW Business
    a. Two Councillors not attending — Dennis — 2 Minutes
    Bill Krosney is taking himself off council. Gord to contact Michelle about whether she plans to continue. We might need a minimum attendance for councillors on council. There should be a mechanism in the by-laws to remove someone from council and appoint someone else to council for the remainder of the session. Gord confirmed that Michelle has a family issue and is backing away from council. Her position is considered vacated.
    b. Recruiting — All — 5 Minutes
    We will look at this for the strategic plan. The Facebook group could give us potential new people.
    c. Social events post COVID — All (duplicate)
    d. The RASC Winnipeg Centre Awards — Dennis — 5 Minutes
    We have two RASC awards that could be given out for 2021. Tim was nominated for his work for a *Service Award* for the Spruce Woods dark sky. Silvia might be another recipient. We could accept nominations from the membership for next year. The awards should be in the warm room at Glenlea. Also, Sheila could be an option, but she received two national certificates last year. **ALL AGREED: Tim for the service award and Sheila for the achievement award subject to they are paid up members**. Someone will get the plaques engraved.
    e. Glenlea update — Bryan
    Bryan reported on Glenlea and Danielle. They are using their own domes. She has two students. It is their property. If not going inside our building, it is not an issue. There is a ***Closed*** sign on the building. **ACTION Bryan to talk to Danielle and report back**.
12. Next Meeting Fixed dates first Tuesday of the month — Dennis — 2 Minutes
ALL AGREED: The first Tues of the month will work.
13. Round Table — All — 5 Minutes
    - Judy: Several people are interested in next steps council will take.
    - Terra: Looking forward to getting started.
    - Gord: Looking forward to warm weather.

- Ed: The Strategic Plan will not be a panacea for every issue. Facebook could be a great opportunity for outreach. The technology needs to keep up.
- Bryan: This is a good opportunity to fix things up. Facebook can be used to broadcast as well.
- Andrew: Looking forward to what comes out of this.
- Abdul: Hope we can make progress.

14. Adjourn 9 PM

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

	Name	Signature	Date
Secretary	Ed Wright		