

RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Tuesday, Apr 6, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

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

REGRETS:



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| 1. | Call to order | 7 PM | President |
| 2. | Welcome and Opening Remarks | | President |
| | strategic plan will focus the discussion. | | |
| 3. | Additions to Agenda | | President 2 Minutes |
| 4. | Adoption of previous minutes | | President 2 Minutes |
| | Judy: Wanted seconders in for the motions. Observatory director to talk to Danielle. There was to be an update. | | |

MOTION: Gord moved to adopt the minutes as presented with the one addition – PASSED

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| 5. | Financial report | | Treasurer 2 Minutes |
| 6. | OLD BUSINESS | | |
| | a. COVID | | Dennis |
| | We cannot stop people from using the pad, but we set the policy. Dennis will announce at the upcoming public that people can use the pad, but must keep social distancing, no more than 10 and maintain the 2 metres distancing, no sharing of equipment. | | |
| | b. By-laws | | Gord 10 Minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gord: Started with existing by-laws. If we do it right, we should not need to touch them again. Policy should show up in the operations manual for the Centre because that is under the control of Council. Things in the by-laws should be just the mandatory committees. If in the by-laws we must have those committees, e.g., the Finance Committee. Also, the content on National had to change because that changed. E.g., Membership Classes should refer to the National definition of that. We don't want to have to change our by-laws every time National's by-laws change. Finally, because going to incorporate, we will have directors and officers of the corporation with articles of incorporation. The board is the elected people who are also the officers. If we ever have employees, the directors would share liability for risk. If we split the executive committee from the board of directors and the BOD are ex-officio members of council, and they are part of council, and they have a vote, then it will work as now. The BOD would show up on the corporate documentation, have signing authority and show up on the annual return and have liability. I have been changing 'board' to 'council'. Don't think we want ten people as directors. This has no impact on the governance, because the BOD are members of council as they are now, the council is the governing body of the org. It would continue to function as it is now. The area where we need to decide if agree or not is the idea to take everything not requiring membership approval out of by-laws. • Dennis: Agreed keep by-laws as simple as possible. Council needs to be able to strike a committee based on the by-laws and then the procedures should how you strike a committee. However, anyone who is on council should be in the annual | | |

report because the 10 members can out vote the four BOD members. The four on the annual report share the fiduciary duty. Always recommended that every elected position must be on the annual report. Then the fiduciary duty is shared amongst all 14 directors. Right now we have fiduciary duties.

- Judy: I do believe that everybody would have responsibility. National went to a Corporation for tax consequences. Now they do not elect a president from the AGM. Rather they appoint the president from amongst a defined set of board members. Think we should have a minimal by-laws but there are certain things like a list of committees in the by-laws while procedures for them are somewhere else, but important to list something. For example, a standing nominating committee is useful. That is how we replace people on the board. Gord: Read the by-laws and the policies and procedures manual. Rather than saying what is wrong, just change it. So if fundamental changes needed, you need to make the fundamental changes. I don't want to hold the pen. Look at both documents before you start making suggested changes. It needs to be a consensus. Also, the word 'Board' needs to be changed to 'Council'. The power resides with council, not board.
- Dennis: Number of councillors? Gord: There are five. Dennis: So, what is a practical number? Gord has done a lot of work. Signing authority, it is President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer. Ed: Yes, the orgs I have worked in it has been the four for the executive committee. The bank should require dual signing, two of the four officers. Currently, Bryan, Brendan, and Abdul have signing authority. That should be updated.
- Gord: Board members need to be age of majority, so if councillors are on the board, they would need to be 18 or older. However, we could have a youth in as a Youth Rep as an appointed position.
- Dennis: How much time until we need to submit the by-laws? We could submit new by-laws later. Gord: have about 30 days. Ed: Should we change from Strategic Plan to by-laws for now? Dennis: Need 30 days to ratify the by-laws. We won't get by-laws ratified by the deadline. Gord: I would like Strategic Plan finished before by-laws. **DECISION: The current by-laws can be submitted for now.** Note we don't have some of the standing committees. **ACTION Dennis will send out an email in a week to see if everyone okay with the existing by-laws.** If any discussion, will have that. Any standing committee can be struck if required. **ACTION Gord to post current by-laws.**

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| c. | Incorporation | Gord | 5 Minutes |
| d. | Next RASC Zoom Meeting – Speakers/Agenda | Dennis | 2 Minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryan is doing the Beginner Session. “Online Resources for Getting Started in Astronomy”, 7:00 to start. | | |
| e. | Strategic Plan | Ed | 30 Minutes |
- Dennis: Wanted to thank Gord for the assist to a member on the German mount. Consistent with what was in the survey. Gord: Worthy of a beginner's session. Ed provided an overview of the strategic plan status and next steps. This is going slower than originally hoped. He also provided an overview of the membership survey analysis. Helpers for interpreting open text questions in the membership survey: Terra and Abdul and Dennis. The strategic planning committee will divvy up 10 questions. The results should show up in the SWOT.
- Dennis: Everyone's thoughts on the survey results?

- Gord: Reacting to the way things are, not the way they could be. One of the comments was not timed to the phases of the moon.
- Judy: Not as much of an issue with age and respondents. Potential for recruiting volunteers. Themes emerging are consistent with last survey.
- Terra: (trouble getting into Google Docs)
- Abdul: Similar to 2019, but some newer members.
- Andrew: Interesting points of view, one stuck out, "They are on a Friday night, I have a life, timing couldn't be worse"
- Bryan: How truthful are they, are they being truthful. What was the response rate? Ed: About 19% which was not bad.
- Ed: Happy about the interest in volunteerism, and nugget about internet access to Glenlea scope. Gord: Would be \$25k if we use open source software, \$27k if we use commercial for that but could do fund raising. Dennis: RASC has a telescope although it is a chargeable service. Gord: Might be worth a newsletter article on how to buy time on its. **ACTION: Dennis: I will find out.**
- Dennis: Thought was positive, they like the idea of getting help, appetite to get out as a group and learn how to use their scopes. More pointed this time than last. People stated an interest in getting out to mentor. Bryan: Training session by Zoom? Could show person through Zoom as a 1-1 session, how to use scope and camera.

f. Mentor Program

Bryan

5 Minutes

- Bryan: Getting help from National. They are wanting ability to be able to click on an area to see who can help the member out. After seeing what National is putting together, will get back to the council. It appears the other centres do not have the mentor program. Dennis: Several people in the survey indicated interest in helping with the mentor program. While waiting for National should we ask for mentors to be available, let them choose the times? Judy: Agree. Abdul: Agree and could test with National, they could use ours as a template. Dennis: At Friday meeting will call for volunteers to help and ask people to respond to forum, would set up on forums, could do Zoom or 10 people at Birds Hill Park.

g. Operations Manual

Gord

Tabled

h. Centre meetings break out rooms/surveys

All

5 Minutes

i. Social Events Post Covid

All

Tabled

j. Scout Camp

Gord

5 Minutes

- All were in favour of proceeding with this. Gord: This is an official Scouts event, just need to line up people to go. He will report the details. It is an existing Scouts camp. Sep 29 is the date.

7. Job Descriptions

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

- Terra: No change. Dennis: Tim Teeter contacted him from National dark sky, asked our permission to go to the various councils to present what was already put together for them. MLA, Tourist Council, etc. are on board. Challenge is the timeline. It has been a priority for Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Winnipeg Centre. National site has light abatement content.
 - Terra: The Wpg Centre contact for National needs to change. Dennis: Please have changed to you. Ed to help.
- b. Youth Outreach Andrew 5 Minutes
- Andrew: No change. Would like to get involved in the meteorite thing. Judy: Would be great for Andrew to be a judge in the science symposiums. Andrew to reach out to Brendan to offer help in the science symposium.
- c. Work with like minded organizations Dennis
9. Budget 2021 – develop based on strategic plan Dennis/Abdul. 5 Minutes
10. NEW Business
- a. Recruiting All 5 Minutes
- Dennis: There are two councillor spots available. He would like to announce at the meeting looking for volunteers, will use president@winnipeg.rasc.ca email account for responses.
- b. The RASC Winnipeg Centre Awards Dennis 5 Minutes
- Bryan: Have the one plaque from Glenlea.
 - Motion passed.
 - Dennis will get the plaque from Bryan and get the engraving done.

MOTION: Dennis moved to spend up to \$75 to buy another plaque and the engraving – PASSED

11. Next Meeting Fixed dates first Tuesday of the month Dennis
12. Round Table All 5 Minutes
- Judy: Updated the *Beginner Session Coordinator* job description. Will continue recruiting people for upcoming sessions. Got a big box of sky news that they can pick up from Jay.
 - Terra: Looked through the survey results. Not as many interested in the social events. For Glenlea, people concerned about the pad and internet access. Gord: We could put Starlink out there. Terra: Some interest in volunteerism, but not as much as expected. Lukewarm in her opinion, but hopefully can stoke the fires.
 - Bryan:
 - Andrew:
 - Gord: For the mentor program, let us get on with it and not wait for anything National might not come up with in a year or two.
 - Abdul: Everything, financial report, \$18,304 in the bank. Needs to meet with Bryan to sign the cheque. Bryan: Needs it for the Zoom account. Abdul: Still have 14 or 15 calendars left over. Dennis: Could have Andrew and Brendan hand out at the science fair.
 - Ed: Will initiate the send of the invite to Friday’s meeting.

13. Adjourn 9 PM
 The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

	Name	Signature	Date

Secretary	Ed Wright		
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