RASC Winnipeg Centre

COUNCIL MEETING 1 May 2025

DRAFT MINUTES WORKING COPY

Present: Mark Irvine (Chair), Scott Young (recorder), gAIL Wise, Rhianna Cohen, Ed Wright, Marc Sarrasin, Bryan Stach, Judy Anderson, Daemon Nightshade, Dennis Lyons, Wing Kwong, James Fast, Stan Runge.

1. **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (President)** -

Mark Irvine presented the Centre's land acknowledgement, and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

2. **Adoption of Agenda and Previous Minutes (President)** -

MOTION 202505-01 Moved by Judy A. that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion 202505-01 was CARRIED.

The minutes of the previous meeting were not ready at meeting time and will be submitted for approval via email.

3. **Reporting of electronic motions (President)** - none

4. Committee Business

a. Fundraising Committee (Acting Chair: Wing Kwong) - Small amount of money raised at Spring Telescope Tuneup (~$40). No progress on Fundraising Committee's Terms of Reference.

b. Observatory Committee (Chair: Ed Wright) - Circulated just before the meeting. Maintenance activities: Jay and Stan replaced trap door cable; no progress on the flickering light issues, some bulbs and a new switch have been purchased, next work trip is Sunday.

Build plan for 2025 - addressed in circulated material. 1 - new standalone bathroom; 2 - observatory baseplate repair; 3 - potential donated mount from Toronto Centre.

Judy - concerns over true cost of accessibility, and details of what is required for accessibility (not just size of building); Scott - plan still not approved by Committee, needs more discussion.

c. Spruce Woods Star Party Committee (Chair – Daemon Nightshade) - Committee is formed and met April 17. Dates: Aug 22-24, 2025. Suggested for 2026: September 11-13, 2026 - the Labour Day weekend has too much Moon (rises by 11:30pm).

MOTION 202505-02 Moved by Daemon & seconded by James. that the 2026 SWSP be Sept 11-13, 2026.

gAIL: access to the Park is free this year.

Motion 202505-02 is CARRIED.

d. Finance Committee (Treasurer: James Fast) - as circulated.

April saw some more significant one-time and annual expenses on our VISA card as follows:

- $322.93 Groups.io annual subscription (USD $220.00)
- $266.51 for two pull-up banners (which you will see in action on May 3rd)
- $500.00 annual donation to St. John's College RASC Scholarship Fund in lieu of rent for monthly meeting space
- $150.00 Eastview Church rent for the Spring Tune-up
- $120.00 annual fee for VISA card

Also, to offset looming price increases, we purchased 20 meteorite displays from Ralph Croning worth a total of $1000.00 for guest speaker gifts. This quantity is roughly a 2-year supply, and we will amortize this cost over the next two fiscal years. You will see this on the financial statements as $500 Speaker Honoraria plus $500 prepaid expense.

While these costs do impact our year-to-date cashflow, we remain in a healthy financial position with $6,245.35 in the bank account plus $26,000 in short-term and cashable GIC's. Regarding the GIC's, I will be meeting with the bank in early May to discuss options for the two expiring term investments worth $19,000 plus interest with the goal of keeping some funds available for expenditures at Glenlea as previously discussed.

Ed: Look at ObsComm report for an idea of potential costs when planning for reinvestment of funds.

Judy: Will FinComm meet after bank meeting? James: Yes.

James: Centre's tax return has been mailed (deadline June 30, 6 months after end of fiscal year)

5. **Discussion: Astronomy Day activities, Coordination with National** - (Wing) - daytime event at Assiniboine Park: 16 volunteers and 12 telescopes; nighttime event

people and 19 telescopes (not including “maybes”). Scott will be live streaming as part of the National event from 9:45 to 10:45pm.

James: will bring powerpoint presentation to do in evening with loudspeaker and projector (same one from telescope tuneup event)

Wing: walk-through at 8:30am on friday to check site.

Scott: is powerpoint competing with telescopes? Will bring the folkfest wagon to help James unload presentation material.

6. Business Arising

a. Member Meeting schedule (Judy A.) - next meeting is May - Scott beginners, Phil Ferguson update on student research. Jay - What’s Up, Matt Hank - Show and Tell.

June meeting is at Planetarium. gAIL - Beginner’s - What’s Up - Scott, main talk: remote telescope at Glenlea.

Stan: has loaner scope talk for May but not June.

b. Telescopes for Kids (Scott Y.) - Scott will set date and get details ready before astronomy day.

c. Outreach event - Science Rendezvous May 10, 2025 (Stan R) - not as many volunteers as Astronomy Day. Waiting to find out location from U of M. Stan will inform volunteers of details.

Stan: do we need handouts at Astronomy Day? Yes.

Dennis: got box of handouts recently.

James: plan for a large and popular event, could have hundreds of people in attendance.

d. Outreach event - On the Move day care August 15, 2025 (Mark I. reported that the date was confirmed previously. Need to solicit volunteers still. Invoice required (James will do), best to send it via email. Wing is coordinating. 10am to noon. Wing will recruit after Science Rendezvous.

f. U of M (Wing K.) - not happening, remove from future agendas

Wing: need to add Southwood Circle astronomy night to future agenda.

G. Glenlea Anniversary terms of reference - no further input on terms of reference.

No volunteers to work on committee except Mark I and Judy. Scott: Executive shouldn't be the only people volunteering. If we don't have volunteers to coordinate a big event, then we can't have a big event. Bryan S. will offer to chair the event committee.

7. Round Table/Other Reports –

   EtU - no update

   Workshops - starhopping workshop not finished

   St Hubertus observing site - no progress to report

   gAIL - liked the Launch Coworking space, comfortable at same level as audience, liked to have food there

   Rhianna - also enjoyed Launch space

   Scott - nothing to add

   Judy - apologies for missing June meeting

   Ed - will do invites for meetings

   Daemon - nothing to add

   Wing - making up badges for volunteers for public event - there may be some existing ones in Centre "suitcase"

   James - nothing to add

   Marc S. - will update groups.io member lists. This triggered a discussion on access to and use of Centre membership information - how do we gain access?

      Dennis - send in notification of change to national on our new Council to provide access to member database

   Bryan - nothing

   Dennis - thank you for nomination for Service award - he was informed yesterday at national board meeting

   Stan - has keys for observatory, will provide a key for Ed. Also: needs membership lists for loaner scope program. Scott: is there a way we can have a list that confirms membership for various programs (loaner scopes, observatory booking, workshops, etc.) that doesn't violate privacy regulations/have too much personal information? Mark I. will inquire through national and see if there is a way to share the needed information. Stan R.: need to be able to have contact information for people who borrow equipment, etc.

Judy A.: that information should be collected directly from the person when they fill out the form/get their key/etc.

Dennis: Council could have a list with membership names and when membership expires. Rest of information should be provided by individuals when they “sign up” for programs; program can collect the information it needs.

Wing: regular presentations on loaner scope is a cool addition to the meeting, should be a regular offering.

8. Next Meeting - June 5, 2025, 7pm.
9. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION 202505-03 Moved by Bryan that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion 202505-03 was CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.