RASC Winnipeg Centre

COUNCIL MEETING 5 Jun 2025

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Mark Irvine (Chair), James Fast (recorder), Ed Wright, gAIL Wise, Marc Sarrasin, Bryan Stach, Judy Anderson, Daemon Nightshade, Dennis Lyons

Absent: Wing Kwong, Scott Young, Rhianna Cohen, Stan Runge.

NOTE: The meeting was recorded by James Fast and later transcribed by Scott Young. Thank you, James!

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

   Mark Irvine presented the Centre's land acknowledgement.

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

   MOTION 202506-01 Moved by Daemon N. and seconded by gAIL W.. that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as circulated.

   Motion 202506-01 was CARRIED.

   The Agenda was adopted by consensus.

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

4. **Committee Business**

   a. Fundraising Committee (Acting Chair: Wing Kwong) - no report

   b. Observatory Committee (Chair: Ed Wright) - verbal report.

   - Flickering lights issue - Ed replaced dimmer switch and LED bulbs, hopefully it is corrected.
   - Jay and Stan replaced cable for trapdoor with steel cable, making it safer, a few more tweaks to do.
   - Big item is construction of new bathroom: progress on plans. Potential site has been staked at Glenlea on May 20, 2025, planning meeting on June 3 for key decisions. New bathroom will be west of observatory building, door on east side. Added benefit that U of M personnel can use the bathroom without requiring observatory key. Need to consider drainage in design. Flooding is still a concern

at the Glenlea site. Correction to last month: new building will not satisfy accessibility standards, but will be designed so it can be made accessible in the future without costly rework (i.e. size of building will not need to change). Will be wood-framed building built on a concrete pad on top of raised grade to reduce risk of flooding, with gravel pathway back to observing pad. Looking at contracting out difficult work such as lot grading and concrete. Mark and Ed are searching out contractors for quotes.

Mark I.: Committee is looking for quotes at this time, but wouldn't commit to a contractor without coming to Council. May have to revisit when quotes come in. One contractor scheduled to go out on Saturday. Ball is rolling thanks to Ed's leadership on the team.

Judy A.: will we be posting for quotes in St Adolphe, St Agathe? Might not have internet sites but could do local work. Ed: looked at what concrete contractors are in the area and sent direct quotes. Only about 5 that appeared in search. Judy: will look around for other possibilities.Mark: Once we have a couple of quotes to consider, we can look for more locals if we aren't "scared off" by cost.

c. Spruce Woods Star Party Committee (Chair – Daemon Nightshade) - verbal report.

- Insurance came in yesterday. National renews May 31, so we can't request for events in the summer seaons until after May 31. **(UPDATE:** changing to January 1 in future years; see Round Table discussion below)
- Porta-potties confirmed.
- Price is the same as last year ($40/person for age 13 and up).
- Commemorative pins have come in, got an offer for 100 3x3 stickers for $2 as a last-minute offer so Daemon created them and paid for them.
- EventBrite registration is up, ticket sales now being generated. Wing added on an option to donate to Telescopes to Kids at the same time.
- Jay is running public event. Wing is in charge of breakfast. Scott is doing keynote talk.

Mark: Do the stickers have a date? Daemon: nope!

James: EventBrite can have refunds up to 7 days before, event must be completed before money is transferred because it is our first event. Should consider another event as a test to make sure it works. Current budget has $2500 for Spruce Woods so revenue delay is not a problem.

(Daemon showed the pins and vinyl stickers on the Zoom meeting)

James: 12 tickets sold on EventBrite so far.

Marc S.: Is there group camping available for the public event? Daemon: not doing Criddle Vane this year, hard to get volunteers for so many events. Public event is Sept. long weekend, so asking for full weekend for camping to help attract volunteers for long weekend.

(Reminder: 2025 event is August 22-24, public event is on September long weekend.)

Mark thanked the Committee and Daemon for his leadership.

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

- Centre is spending a bit more than we are bringing in at the moment - usual for this time of year. Many memberships are second half of year. Not concerned about cash flow. $10,000 GIC matured and is in bank account.
- Credit card: three new credit cards issued. First couldn't be activated, still don't have new credit card, should be resolved soon. Mark I.: this results from transfer of authority from old treasurer to new treasurer.
- Marc S.: 249 members, 23 are due, 19 have lapsed.
- Mark I.: talked to Jenna - Mark and James have authority to look at members, all old names have been deleted. Executive have access to membership names, Mark and James have access to finance component.
  James: could be useful in budgeting
  Judy: usually a bit of rush by Star Party time so people who have lapsed want to come.

5. Business Arising

a. Friday, July 11th is annual BBQ at Glenlea, ObsComm will ensure grass gets cut. President is responsible for watermelon. Any other things that need planning for?

Judy: bathroom cleaning, supplies, water. Ask for people to bring a BBQ. Send out invitation about a week ahead.

Judy: can we ask people about Glenlea 50th? Good time to solicit member opinions.

gAIL: members and their guests only. Make sure Facebook states members and family only.

b. Bryan: National Council meeting is this Sunday. can't stay, must leave meeting, but will keep Council informed.

c. Member meetings (Judy) - Scott is doing most of June meeting at the Manitoba Museum's Planetarium, gAIL is doing Constellation of the Month.

Ed: Show and Tell and What's New are blank. Judy: Show and Tell is on demand. Ask Scott for brief bio and what the talk is about. Mark will talk to Scott as Judy is away. Need to remind members of change to location.

Ed: Parking? Mark: Street parking is free after 5:30pm is free. Judy: Keep car empty of valuables.

gAIL: Powerpoint - will it work? Judy: Ask Scott.

Judy: Thanks to gAIL, has connected with someone in Gladstone who is part of a big citizen science aurora project. Meetings are booked through February 2026!

d.Telescopes for Kids (Wing): no report

e.On the Move Outreach event: (Mark) Aug 15, volunteers needed.

James: invoice sent and acknowledged.

James: Canada Day at Assiniboine Park - potential outreach event at same location as Astronomy Day (by duck pond). Mark: should ask for volunteers at meeting. Judy: is that afternoon or evening or both? James: unknown at this point. Dennis: AP is very busy for Canada Day, might not have easy access to park. James: working to find designated parking for the event. James will connect with Wing and get update.

f. Glenlea 50th Anniversary - no report

6. **Round Table**

(NOTE: every Council member present is given an opportunity to bring up other business, but only business that is brought up is recorded in the minutes.)

Mark I - St Hubertus gun club observing site - has sent email on MoU to get that moving.

Daemon - can we get 1-2 minutes at meeting to talk about star party? Mark: yes.

Judy: really looking forward to Spruce Woods. Need to think about public event, maybe have QR code to find out about RASC membership?

Marc: website - minutes are being updated, Winnicentrics is updated. Member database being updated. Groups.io is up to date.

Marc: Did we accept the finance statements?

MOTION 202506-02 Moved by James F. and seconded by Marc S.. that the Financial report of May 2025 be approved as circulated.

Motion 202506-02 was CARRIED.

Dennis: National Insurance renewal has been moved to January 1 which will help for SWSP issue. (NOTE: added to SWSPO report above.)

Ed: When is Spruce Woods Star Party? James: Aug 22-24, 2025.

7. **Next Meeting - July 4, 2025, 7pm.**

8. **Motion to Adjourn**

MOTION 202506-03 Moved by Judy that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion 202506-03 was CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.