RASC Winnipeg Centre

COUNCIL MEETING 7 Aug 2025

MINUTES APPROVED

Present: Mark Irvine (Chair), Judy Anderson (recorder), James Fast, gAIL Wise, Daemon Nightshade, Ed Wright, Marc Sarassin, Wing Kwong

Regrets: Scott Young, Dennis Lyons, Rhainna Cohen, Stan Runge

Absent: Bryan Stach

1. **Call to Order; Welcome and Land Acknowledgement** (President)

   There being quorum present online, Mark Irvine called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. introduced himself and presented the Centre's land acknowledgement.

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

   The Agenda was adopted by consensus.

   MOTION 202508-01 Moved by James F. (Seconded by Judy A.) that the minutes of the July meeting be approved as circulated.

   Motion 202508-01 was CARRIED.

3. Committee Business Reports

a. **Fundraising Committee** (Chair - Wing K.)

   No report. Wing announced intention to try to raise funds at the swap meet at Spruce Woods for Telescopes for Kids.

b. **Observatory Committee** (Chair - Ed W.)

   Major Issue: Flickering lights / power issues – bigger issue than originally thought, intermittent and recurring. Ed, Jay and Kevin N. met at Glenlea to try and track down circuit by circuit. It was fine that day. We'll have to keep watching in order to track down the problem.

   Marc S - is any power on the pad when the lights go out in the warmroom? Ed- no, only put the circuit for the observatory under load, and that was not a problem. Marc wonders if the problem is local to one area or excludes the pad. Ed indicates the

reports suggest it is not a total outage. Could be “a floating neutral” that can stop one side of the black or red to stop working.

Wing K. – we have a club member who is a P. Eng and is a grounding expert (Dan Zelich); he may be a resource. Ed - Kevin Nebrowski who does a lot of electrical stuff, and Ed is an Electrical Engineer. Main issue is it infrequent and intermittent.

Mark I. - the outage at the BBQ occurred when Scott had plugged in his electrical bbq. So maybe the draw was from the bathroom, the warm room, and the pad.

Marc may be onto something. Breakers seem okay, and are costly but we may have to replace them. Mark I has leftover Siemens breakers if they are useful. Did anchor the switch in the bathroom so it doesn’t dangle.

Minor Maintenance:

- Jay and Stan (?) put in a stop for the safety hatch

Major Repairs:

- The lift and repair of the observatory and the 2025 building season: lower plate 2X6 needs to be replaced as it is rotten after multiple floods. The thinking has gone slowly. One option is demolish and rebuild bathroom – decided not to do that. Instead plan to bring in a portapotty and lift the observatory, repair, and put bathroom back. Got some advice from a lift company (one that moves buildings, “Vieville Building Movers”), but no response yet. Ed will call another meeting, but concerned that there is no contractor who has done this before, and have some DIY ideas, but need to decide. There is some risk to doing it ourselves. Only need building lifted for a few weeks. Big concern is the building season.

c. **Spruce Woods Star Party Committee** (Chair – Daemon)

Getting close to the event. Ticket sales ongoing. Committee met July 17, still waiting on permit paperwork from the park but they say everything is a “go”. The Park has approved people staying on an extra night if they want on Sunday night. Judy and Wing will push ticket sales at the meeting tomorrow.

Ticket sales to date: 30 sales, 2 free, net revenue (minus fees) of $1,103 (fees of $97). Likely some people are waiting to see about weather and smoke before committing to the event.

Daemon will remind park to mow the field; we ordered 2 portapotties to supplement whatever park provides. We will have to pay the bill for permits before the SWSP.

Judy reports that Jay has received 12 people volunteering and bringing scopes for the Public event on Aug 30.

4. Finance Committee (Treasurer - James F.)

Documents submitted and in Google Drive. A GIC ($9000) was just renewed as cashable GIC. Cashflow pretty steady and we're covered for expenses for SWSP and Scopes for Kids liability. Membership revenue starting to even out from last year. A number of renewals coming in. Mark I and James will go through the dashboard on communicating with members.

MOTION 202508-02 Moved by James F. (Seconded by Daemon N.) that the Finance Committee report be approved as circulated.

Motion 202508-02 was CARRIED.

5. Business Arising

a. **Member Meeting schedule** (Judy A.)

This month: gAIL for Beginner's session; Jay for What's Up?, Dr. Abby Azari is the main speaker. September: Scott for Beginner's session; Jay for What's Up?, Dr. Samantha Lawler is the main speaker. Speakers are booked through to February 2026.

Ed thanked Judy for advance planning.

There is a need to contact someone to do What's New. We'd like someone to do a Buying Guide (in advance of Christmas) in place of What's New.

Wing suggests a quiz that can be done online and in the meeting. Would need an emcee to ask the questions. Would need to collect questions and answers. Can be tricky or funny questions. Menti is one of the best Apps.

b. **Telescopes for Kids** (Wing K.)

As this is covered under the fundraising committee report it will be removed from the agenda for future meetings.

c. **On the Move daycare education event on Aug 15** (Wing K.)

Adam Gear will do a presentation and so will Mark I. James happy to share his presentation from last year if he'd like to see it. Wing has bought some stickers of the solar system to hand out. It's a 2-hr event. Mark thanks Wing for taking on coordination of this event.

d. **Glenlea Anniversary 2026 Committee** (Bryan S)

No report was received and the Chair was absent. Judy suggests Danny's Whole Hog, and self-catered (buying salads). Wing - could we have a fundraiser event like a

gala dinner with tickets and raffles, a feature speaker, and entertainer. The public could attend too. Used to have Dan Robertson (funny Dan, a comedian) as a member.

6. New Business

a. Calendar order (James/ Stan) 30 calendars have been ordered, need to announce to members. Stan volunteered to manage sales. Centre has not ordered additional handbooks. Mark suggests bringing old handbooks for distribution at outreach events.

b. National Welcome Letter, & mailing list using national system, Driven (Mark/James)

Signed in again today to recall how things work, but would like to get Council to confirm our participation in the national welcome letter and the communication system. Council approves.

James notes we can tailor the text in the letter, and it's sent by National to the new member. Mark asks for a volunteer to talk to national (Wing will do this for now) – James or Mark will cover this. We provide a template and National uses mail-merge to insert it and member name. James volunteers to work with Wing on this. There's a new social media person on National named Ashley, and Wing is interested in being point person on social media. Mark will get back to National that we will participate. Wing asks for a link (Treasurer and President get access, and it's fairly restricted as it contains personal information). Contact person James and Wing helping. Marc S also has access to members through groups.io. Mark has cut off some legacy names who were still able to access member information. James reminds us that the 2-month grace period on membership is now gone (as of April 2025). It was in the August bulletin. Judy/Mark got renewal reminder 2 months in advance. It should be announced at meetings. Judy encourages us to communicate with lapsed members to invite them back. Would need to use a RASC email as follow-up. Ed notes a number of professional organizations who check with lapsed members (sometimes a survey) on whether they might rejoin. A "membership director" could do that. James feels that it is contacting people who provided their private information to RASC. Could send a BCC: email –we're just reconnecting (we missed you) from a RASC email, and that should be okay for a follow-up.

c. New National Communication Manager - how can we leverage this? All

Was skipped, no discussion.

d. Lockhart Lecture update (Judy)

Will announce at meeting tomorrow. Dr. Katie Mack, author of “The End of Everything” is giving a public lecture at UManitoba.

e. Green laser pointer training (Dennis)

Dennis got a letter about expiry– should be announced at the meeting tomorrow. A time would need to be booked. We did it remotely before; last one was during COVID. Daemon wonders if the laser pointer users are certified, Gerry especially for binocular tour, plus spotters, Silvia. Possibly lapses are in November. James will talk to Dennis about date, and also the expiry dates (maybe he has access to a list of members who need to renew). Marc’s expires in June. Daemon could be a spotter as his is good for another year.

7. Round Table discussion

gAIL – last 2 invitation emails sent by Ed for approval did not arrive, although she can see everyone’s responses. She and Scott flipped for Beginner’s session for a few months. She will change names on the spreadsheet.

Daemon – has anyone heard more about Tipis and Telescopes – has volunteered but not heard anything more.

Ed – nothing else. James notes that the idea of being careful and having a pro do a building lift is good, instead of rushing in to try and do it ourselves. Ed – Glenlea is a key asset.

Judy – Scott asked Council for volunteers for Tipis and Telescopes but didn’t announce to membership. It’s in September. Mark notes Scott seemed to have a commitment from the Planetarium.

James – insurance for Glenlea; coming up for renewal, October 1. We might want to add something for the newly acquired scope. Will follow-up with executive, and bring it to the next meeting. Judy notes we should remember to depreciate some of the equipment especially if we are going to add an instrument. Ed – we need to remember that replacement value is more than the market value. We need to ask whether we would replace (and how) if something got stolen. Remember valuation considerations. Second thing regarding insurance: Ed was very disappointed with Wawanesa who brushed off the concerns about overland flooding. Broader part is “all perils” – fires (what type), theft, tornado? – important to know what type of peril is covered, and should we spend the money we already have. Also remember the deductibles consideration.

Wing – now that Oak Hammock Marsh interpretive centre is renovated, he noticed that they haven’t listed astronomy nights in their events calendar. Usually members are free if we give a talk in their lecture room before viewing from the rooftop (through RASC scopes). The director of OHM Jacques Bourgeois was at the Planetarium

presentation in June meeting. Mark will ask him. It was a nice arrangement, and Gerry, Silvia, Wing, etc. and people who live in the north end of the city participated.

Mark – Bryan didn't attend or give regrets.

Marc – asks about a special mention of the recently-deceased Peter Toth (pronounced with a long "o") as a former president at Sept meeting

Date of next Council Meeting: The Council meeting conflicts with Lockhart lecture. Next meeting moved to September 11th.

Wing asks whether we can send condolences to someone or an organization. Wing undertakes to find an obituary.

8. Motion to adjourn Council

MOTION 202508-03 Moved by Judy A. to adjourn the meeting.

Motion 202508-03 was CARRIED.