THE RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE
COUNCIL MEETING September 11, 2025, 7:00 PM
APPROVED 2 Oct 2025

Present: Judy Anderson (Chair), Scott Young (recorder), gAIL Wise, Daemon Nightshade (left at 7:38pm), James Fast, Ed Wright, Marc Sarassin, Wing Kwong, Rhianna Cohen, Stan Runge, Dennis Lyons, Bryan Stach (left at 7:53pm).
Regrets: Mark Irvine

1. **Call to Order; Welcome and Land Acknowledgement** There being quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and read the land acknowledgement.

2. **Adoption of Agenda and Minutes**

The Agenda was adopted by consensus.

MOTION 202509-01 Moved by Daemon (Seconded by James) that the minutes of the August meeting be approved as circulated.

Motion 202509-01 was CARRIED.

3. **Committee Business Reports**

a. Finance Committee James

James thanked Daemon and the entire SWSP committee for an excellent star party (his first). SWSP 2025 was also a financial success with roughly $2300 in revenue for the centre. Expenses are still being finalized and the timing with month-end has made reporting a bit complicated.Some revenue and expenses incurred in August will only be reported on in September. Safe to say, SWSP 2025 will come out in a very good financial position.

Our current bank account balance of $17,570 includes designated funds of $10,000 for Glenlea Observatory maintenance / upgrades, $2,057 in SWSP fees, $2,563 in the SWSP fund, $2,034 in the Telescopes for Kids fund – something that we should discuss what to do with, leaving roughly $800 in available cash in hand. Expenses are tracking on par with previous years.

Bryan mentioned that he is new to the SWSP treasurer position, and asked when expenses need to come in? James - by end of Sept.

MOTION 202509-02 Moved by James (Seconded by Scott) that the Finance Committee report be approved as circulated.

Motion 202509-02 was CARRIED.

b. Observatory Committee

Ed reports not a lot of change from last month. Electrical issue unresolved despite two testing sessions over the summer. Jay brought Milton (an electrical engineer) out who did the wiring of the original pad, but no report on success.

Observatory Building lift and repair: no progress since last meeting. What have we accomplished? Analysis and planning, but no actual work. Opinion (not committee opinion): regroup until next year, contract someone to do building lift.

Scott: 5 companies contacted for building lift, but only 1 responded

James: should we contact U of M? Judy: they are very slow, very by-the-book, and very expensive. Judy can inquire. Ed: statement of work needs to be more detailed when going out to companies.

Wing: ask civil engineering dept or RRC for possible connections; UM Properties might be a resource. Judy: will still have high costs, but will investigate.

c. Spruce Woods Star Party Committee Daemon reported on the SWSP. Financials covered by James; all receipts sent in from Daemon, 65 people in attendance, great event, thank you to volunteers and committee for making it a great event. Interested in seeing bottom line once all expenses are in.

Judy - no suggestion form for improvements this year, were there any verbal suggestions? Daemon - event felt rushed because sit was not on a long weekend, should be 3 days from the outset rather than only an ”optional” third night. About 15 people stayed Sunday night.

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

This month: Scott for Beginner’s session; Jay for What’s Up, Dr. Samantha Lawler, U. Regina is the main speaker in person.

October: gAIL for Beginner’s session; Jay for What’s Up, Dr. Adam Sirek, Flight Surgeon is the main speaker.

What’s New – Jay in October; Danielle November & December. Others interested?

Buying guide topic in November; Scott originally volunteered to begin, and let discussion go from there.

Scott - could we move away from what’s up/what’s new to make it more flexible. Please encourage others to do presentations.

Rhianna - is is intimidating to join the ranks of speakers.

Judy - telescope panel could include more members.

Wing - should we do the telescope panel for the public.

All - solicit ideas for panel discussion

Bryan - can do a presentation on S50 since he had it for a while. Judy - tell me when.

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

a. Calendar order Stan

30 ordered, 27 spoken for, funds for 10 to date but will collect for more. cash/etransfer. Sell remainder for $20 to help cover taxes. James - shipping in October.

b. Telescopes for Kids - needs a volunteer to take this over; scopes and money are in the kitty; need the program to run. Wing will do it with Scott. Ed and James will judge. Scott - I don't have time. Judy will do instead. Judy - should be done this year. Could be 2-3 people.

c. Outreach: On the Move – brief report (Wing).

Fourth year, best one. Ivan, MArk I, Stan, Wing, Rachel and Aria co-presented; adam gear; michelle, vicki . They were really happy about the event.

Tipis & Telescopes (Scott) Sept 19-21. (update) Wing will come, Bryan, may just stay for day. Put it in the slides for the meeting.

d. Glenlea Anniversary 2026 update Bryan

Some suggestions collected at SWSP. Will give report next time. No date set. Has to leave.

e. National Welcome Letter James/Mark

No progress.

f. Green Laser Pointer training - update Dennis

2 training sessions, Dennis will send list, a dozen new members certified. Should run more. Judy - how long will you keep doing this? Dennis - until next spring.

g. Insurance - update James

For Glenlea, due Oct 1, covers building ($63,000) additional contents ($5000), rider for 12" Meade (5,000) (premium is $86*, 14.5" Dob ($1,000) deductible ($87 premium) $500/incident. Premium is about 5% higher than last year. $824/year.

Next year, look at in more detail - might have other options.

Wing knows executives at Wawanesa, can we get sponsorship?

MOTION 202509-03 Moved by James (Seconded by gAIL) that the insurance be renewed based on the recent quote provided to Council in the amount of $824.

Motion 202509-03 was CARRIED.

6. New Business.

a. Winnicentrics Scott

Scott has announced that he is stepping down from the Editor job, and a new Editor or Editorial Team should be found. Scott questioned whether Winnicentrics stills serves a role as a "news" source for announcement and content, or is more of a record of the Centre's activities after the fact - in which case the deadlines could change and it could focus on after-action reports rather than what is coming up. Now that the official "notice" for Centre information is the groups.io email list, it can evolve to be less work.

Wing - should be continued, historical record, could use online shared documents and share the work.

Judy - it is a record, has useful map to glenlea, president message, etc.would like to see it continue

James - what does Winnie provide that we don't have now between groups.io, monthly meeting recording, understand the tie to the document but sympathize with amount of work it takes

Wing - hard to go back and find older stuff on Facebook page, maybe treating it as more of an archive without the meeting information

Ed - valuable archive of Centre activity - more after-action reports

Judy - groups.io doesn't have many people in general chat.

Wing - send out call for volunteers

Dennis - reads it cover to cover, but we are older generation. Do a survey on whether the membership reads it or not.

Wing - modern day digital equivalent would be a blog with moderation - archive

Judy - Ed, can you do a poll for tomorrow's meeting on Winnie? Or try out Minti?

James - could blast single-question poll through groups.io to all members

ACTION - Scott will send a poll out to people on whether they read Winnicentrics or not.

b. Social Media Moderation Scott

Scott described a situation in which a member of the Facebook group was behaving contrary to the Centre's Code of Conduct online. Said member had also blocked Scott (the moderator) preventing moderation from taking place and leaving no possible moedration short of suspension.

Ed - bylaws have ability to remove members for bullying

Dennis - need amendment to Mod policy, can look at other potential punishment later.

MOTION 202509-04 Moved by Scott (Seconded by Rhianna)to add the following line to the rules for all online Centre forums:

"Blocking communication from the admin team of the forum will result in immediate suspension until the block is removed."

Motion 202509-04 was Carried.

C. Southwood Circle - James and Wing and Ivan

Met w/Nancy from UM Properties. Very keen, upwards of 500 people, be better prepared for this year's size of event. They are dealing with parking snarls. Perhaps include presentation a la Astronomy Day. Sponsors already involved. Maybe beer garden this time (not directly attached to telescope area). Last year very chaotic, didn't have speakers, didn't have tables or handouts. Sat Oct 11, 2025 7pm-10pm, prize draw at 9pm. Rain date Oct 12.

Concerns: about being adjacent to beer garden? Lights, children. Need volunteers.

7. Round Table discussion – General

Stan - No update on loaner scope program but the Centre should review what we should or shouldn't have

Stan - workshops - Richard Konrad image processing workshop tentative date Oct 18 at Launch Coworking, starhopping basics in November. Both about a dozen capacity.

Wing - two new members who are comp sci students in hackathon, can they use the name? Permission was not approved but will be discussed via email.

Wing - UM150 anniversary - suggestions for honorary degrees - Wing suggested Wilfred Buck - should Centre nominate him? Tabled to next month.

Ed - last membership survey was 2021 using Google Forms.

8. Motion to adjourn

Moved by James. Carried.

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL – THURSDAY OCTOBER 2.

Zoom meeting Link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88003372631?pwd=mWVijapQYA19utuVdFVFm3Gxvq9m6S.1