THE RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE
COUNCIL MEETING

Present: Mark Irvine, Judy Anderson, gAIL Wise, James Fast, Rhianna Cohen, Daemon Nightshade, Dennis Lyons, Wing Kwong, Ed Wright, Marc Sarrasin
Regrets: Stan Runge

1. **Call to Order; Welcome and Land Acknowledgement** Mark
2. **Adoption of Agenda and Minutes** Mark

MOTION: Judy moved and gAIL seconded approval of the agenda	PASSED

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MOTION: James moved and gAIL seconded that the draft minutes be adopted	PASSED

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3. Committee Business:

a. Finance Committee & Statements 2025 James

- James: These are unaudited results. gAIL and Kyle joining the audit committee. Once audited will finalize the GST and tax return. Have small surplus. Have $5,800 depreciation, lost $4000 but actually profit of $1,700. (James reviewed the details.) Expenses were mostly in line. Loaner scope a little over. (Reviewed the Visa transactions.) Ledger of SWSP shows balance transferred out. Balance is just over $4,000. Still trying to account for all of the scopes, and trying to get a book value for these.

MOTION: James moved to accept report seconded by Judy	CARRIED

b. Budget and fee increase James / Mark

- James: In 2025 budgeted $5000 for membership revenues, goes to $6150 with the fee increase. Leads to a balanced budget. The total fee will go from $23 for Centre, increasing by $6 to $29. (James discussed the calculation.) gAIL: Will be have people renewing at the lower price. Mark: The earliest to implement is the Monday following the meeting and it is not retroactive. James: We did have a surplus this year but expecting higher expenses next year. I anticipate some questions at the meeting tomorrow. Mark: The budget is discretionary for the Council, so only if there were significant pushback from the membership, it will go ahead subject to the Council approving the budget. We decided to not have the SWSP fund the Centre. This is the option that allows us to remain solvent. Judy: We have not had an increase since at least 2010. Need to emphasize the good things doing for the community. Dennis: The thing right now is diff ideas to improve Glenlea; everybody knows that Glenlea needs to change. James: If we do not take care of the revenue, as long as can reinvest back into the Centre then we have a leg to stand on. James: Will send final draft out after the meeting.

MOTION: James moved Judy seconded to approve 2026 budget as presented	CARRIED

c. Nominating Committee update Judy

- Judy: Met twice since last Council meeting. Determined which to be re-elected. In the second meeting developed list of people for the position. One person declined. The position left open is Secretary. Will be seeking nominations for Secretary. Currently the ones open are 5 positions on Council and the Secretary. The ones on Council are filled. Would like to fill all positions at the AGM. Will have to appoint if not nominations. Wing: What are min requirements for the Secretary. Judy: See 8.6.1 in the bylaws. They does correspondence for Council, records the minutes, keeps custody of the records (on Google Drive now). Largest job is the minutes and the correspondence. Would be helpful if she was a member for a year. Wing: The candidate has been a secretary at a large corporation. Mark: There is an element of judgement required as well. Some idiosyncrasies of the Centre. If we do not get someone to fill, then have it rotate through Council. Primarily would want someone with experience to fill. Stan decided to not renew. James: To Wing this person could be nominated to Council and then grow into the position. Dennis: You could leave the appt of the Secretary outstanding. They are not mandatory elected. She could run as a director, then mentor them, then appoint as the Secretary. (Dennis asked about the position left open when Scott exited.) Judy: Dennis is correct. We need to elect a Secretary and a member of Council.
- Mark: We will present the nominees at the AGM.

d. Observatory Committee Ed

- Ed: Had a meeting on Jan 3. So far there is no sign that the electrical intermittent outage issue has returned. We spent most of the time however planning for the 2026 build season. It has become clear that we need a more strategic approach until we can decide what work needs to be done. For example do we remediate the flood damage in the observatory or decommission it? We need a better understanding of how our observatory users are using the facilities and how they might like to us them in the future. Therefore, we are planning a survey of members to ask specific questions about this.
- Ed: I am away Feb 5 to 12 on vacation so will need a backup.
- Judy: Re the electrical issues, the U of M electrician said they have something in to log the power. Could ask if they can do that. Mark: Last time we were out there, the power was good for Dennis and me.

ACTION: Ed to ask if the U of M would like to put in a voltage logger.

e. SWSP chair Daemon

MOTION: Daemon to modify agenda to include appointment of chair of that committee ADOPTED

MOTION: Judy / Wing nominated Daemon for appointment to this position.

4. **Member Meeting schedule**, meeting agenda Judy

- Mark: Will include the $6 increase at the meeting. Ed: Could mention the new A/V equipment.

- Judy: For Feb we need what's new and astro. More March we need others. For April What's new and main presentation. No main speakers yet for Mar and April. Could get the Obs Comm in front of the crowd to talk options. Had quite a response on SeeStars.
- Wing: Heard a while ago about having a membership meeting at LaunchCo. Judy: We have heard pros and cons from the members. It is difficult to book the room at U of M. Was difficult to get for December. May is questionable. Wing: the space could be booked in short order. Mark: Our primary relationship is with the University. Wing: LaunchCo is always flexible. gAIL: I can do Beg Session for March as well. Judy: Will put you in tentatively. James: Could skip the guest speaker for March because that is the AGM. Wing: Could suggest in place of speaker, could public screen the dark skies documentary. It is CBC. Should be lower cost. Shannah Lee Videl was the person.

ACTION: Judy to approach CBC about this.

- Mark: That would be good for March. If CBC falls through, we stretch everything else.
- Judy: For tomorrow's meeting the main speaker to be right after beg session.

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

a. Telescopes for Kids - update — Judy/James/Wing
   - James: Presented the scope to the last winner on Saturday, so T4K is done.

b. Expired member notifications update — James
   - James: Had problem with emails getting rejected. Marc: Still working on that issue. Will have another chat with Site Ground on that. Mark: Yes to be to advantage of folks that have expired. James: Lots of notifications go out. National does a couple before they expiry. Mark: I have been getting responses from people on the GLP training.

ACTION: Mark to confirm with Jenna that the new member communications is occurring.

c. Glenlea Anniversary 2026 update – planning — Wing
   - Wing: Still looking for a venue. Scott said there would be a charge for the planetarium. Next is the Degrees restaurant. The manager then explained renos happening in the summertime so not comfortable to book. Therefore, might have to go to a nice restaurant. Chef Rob is still interested in leading the cooking. He could lead some special dishes. Trying to encourage Chef Rob to be the prize for a future event, just to bring in the diners. Mark: Could try the 2nd floor of The Leaf.

d. Green Laser Pointer training – update, another session? — Dennis
   - Mark: Dennis offered to do Jan 21 at 7:00 p.m. (Invitation not sent yet.) Referred people to the National site for info certifying for the GLP training. Dennis: The limit is two years because don't want people to leave and abuse the authorization, so is risk mgmt. tool. Judy: Do we have a list of lapsing people? Dennis: This is on the National site. James: The people who took in 2025 are not updated on the National site. Dennis: You need to ensure that your address is updated with National. Mark: We need to have the list of who is expired.

e. Update – Technology Committee — James
   - James: Did do a trial run with all the eqpt, Ed, Kris and me. Tested at Eastview Church. The camera follows the speaker. We have a remote mic for audience questions. More robust and newer. It can pan to the audience if needed. We are planning to be there by 6:00.

f. Year end celebration - Pot Luck Mark/Wing

- Mark: Things still good at Grain Exchange LaunchCo? Wing: Yes, liquor license is in place, checking on utensils, warming trays, got a raffle license. We are behind on the raffle. We will have tips for drinks.
- Wing: Can someone do another broadcast for the main group in Groups.io? JSA: Put in that families are welcome.

ACTION: Mark to send out this broadcast.

6. New Business.

- Spring Tune up/ Outreach James
  - East view Community Church – James: Wing and I are working on that. Traditionally it has bee a 2 to 3 hour event. Washing, collimating, social thing. Should we do a outreach evet, it is on Saturday Mar 28. Could have a meal there. The church is okay with this. Could have the gym available if weather is not amenable to observing. Will have members there with their scopes. Venus is nearing greatest eastern elongation. Jupiter is high. The moon is out. End about 10:00. Public 7:00 to 10:00. Feedback?
  - Wing: We have always started about 12:00 or 1:00. Tag teaming a public event would be nice as a parade of scopes. The idea was to have a cross over, members from 12 to 3 would leave, could have a one hour cross over, so two things at one shot. The observing part after would be for the die-hard ones. James: There will be enough to show in the sky. The total cost would be $350 for the full day and prorated if less time. Mark: The northern lights might be there as well. James: Can turn the outside lights off, public could park on west side. Wing: The draw for the public would be the equipment showcase. James: We could ask someone to do a talk in the gym. Wing: We could use it as a recruiting event. The hint that this might be a hit with the public, was the response to the guy with his own group (Kenton). They had a telescope parade. It was incredible how many views that had. That is a hint that the public has a great fascination with scopes. Mark: Have we budget for the $350? James: We have $500 for that. James: $600 budgeted for publications and $600 for T4K. Mark: We should let James and the subcommittee plan it. We should try because we can spread the word.
  - James: I have started a list of all the outreach events. Make comments. Wing: One of the execs at the Bonavista Res Group want to work with us on a Southwood Circle. They are still interested. Is another $200.
  - Mark: We need to chat on when these are to occur and whether we have adequate volunteer support.

7. **Round Table discussion – General**

- Judy – Mark Thanks to Judy for all the NomComm work.
- Wing: In less than two years FB members went from 620 to >1,000. That indicates that the social media is working. When is the MON for Jan? Mark: it is Jan 17 due to the potluck.
- Marc: Doing some work on groups.io. Will look at Site Ground emails bouncing. Groups.io will remove expired members and ensure new members not missed. Website content is late. Judy: Jay volunteered to do Winnicentrix. Marc: No chance to look at the exposed content on the website to non-members. Mark: You could reach out to the TechComm for their help.
- Rhianna: Now have better handle on school so should have more time now. Would like to bring skills forward on graphic design etc.

- Mark: I am working on the policies and proc manual and operations manual as well.

8. **Motion to adjourn, (no second required.)** Moved by Judy.

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL – THURSDAY February 5, 2026.

Zoom meeting Link:

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