THE RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE
COUNCIL MEETING February 5, 2026, 7:00 PM
DRAFT MINUTES

Zoom meeting Link:

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

Present: Mark, James, Judy, Wing, Daemon, Dennis, gAIL, Marc, Rhianna, Bryan
Regrets: Ed,
Absent: Stan

1. **Call to Order; Welcome and Land Acknowledgement** Mark
2. **Adoption of Agenda and Minutes** Mark
   - Minutes & agenda as circulated – moved/seconded, James/Rhianna - CARRIED

3. **Committee Business:**

   a. Finance Committee & Statements 2025/2026 James

-$6500 transferred (2.9%, one-year, non-renewable) to a GIC

-another GIC up for renewal at the end of February. Decision about investment for this will be discussed at the Finance Committee. We are fiscally sound.

- new membership fee now in effect (an increase of $6 to Winnipeg Centre)

Motion to accept report: moved/seconded, James/Judy - CARRIED

Audit committee meeting this Saturday. Audit report in prep for National.

   b. Nominating Committee update Judy

- there is one nominee for Secretary and one nominee for Councillor. Call for nominations will be reiterated at the meetings, and up to the AGM (nominations from the floor of the AGM are accepted).

   c. Observatory Committee Mark (Ed's away)

- committee (Ed, Jay, Judy, Mark, James, Rhianna) toured the new UM remote observatory at Glenlea (0.5M$ expenditure). It gives a "pie-in-the-sky" upper limit to the ideas available for our own observatory facilities.

- there's now an online survey launched to members, so the committee/council can get input and direction on what we should build (or not) for those interested in using the observatory dome, pad, and warm room.

4. Member Meeting schedule, meeting agenda Judy

- gAIL Beginner session, welcome, What's Up? Jay Anderson, Show & Tell James Fast "Dance of the Galilean Moons", break, Main speaker Donna Lach "Auroral Citizen Science"

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

   a. Telescopes for Kids - update Judy/James/Wing

-waiting for Mike's return to know about incorporating two scopes that were offered as donations. Seed money $265 for T4K. Winners from last year invited to the Telescope Tune-Up and 2 have joined as members. One of the winners is also taking the processing workshop with Richard Konrad (coming in March).

b. Expired member notifications update — James
   - A few issues – email bounce-back – Marc. The problem should now be fixed with SiteGround coding no longer spoofing emails. Emails to add: Wing suggests activating send/receive emails for "events@winnipeg.rasc.ca", "president", etc.; [these use space on our website]. This is a project to be done. Please send Marc a list of the emails that we'd like to set up.
   - National's website issue with people trying to buy a membership; might be skewing the number of expired members. As of last week, there are 93 memberships who are currently expired; 13 were due to be renewed in January but haven't. This issue has been fixed. James will resend the note by email (modified for the update) to those members who have had membership expire.

c. Glenlea Anniversary 2026 update – planning — Wing
   - Wing setting up a meeting with management at Delta Hotel (they have a rooftop); building has lots of possibilities and service is good. Communicating with the general manager and events manager. He will see if they will do anything with their normal pricelist.

d. Green Laser Pointer training – update — Dennis
   - Successful training and certification Jan 21 for ~6 people. 6PM CDT was an issue for 3 people. Hopefully will be repeated. Dennis has trained other centres as well, but others are also trained to give the training. gAIL noted that people who have taken the training are supposed to be on the National list, but the list is not complete. She couldn't find the list. Mark noted that gAIL was last trained in 2025. Mark suggests you need to do a search on GLP in order to see the second and later training dates. Current listing is only the original date on the National spreadsheet. Local googledrive has a spreadsheet for GLP training, but only was updated in August 2025. Mark will try to map out the process he used to see into the National site and send a link to the googledrive file. Mark notes this is a good hook/benefit for membership as we had 2 members renew long-expired memberships specifically to take the GLP training.

e. Update – Technology Committee — James

- only a few minor issues; video was good quality. Wing suggests we have a microphone on a stand for Q&A. The speaker liked to see the people asking a question.

6. New Business.

- Spring Tune up/ Outreach — James
  - East view Community Church – will be a bit of a hybrid event that includes members-only event, then invite people to stay for a casual dinner and invite the public for an outreach. The feedback was that this would be a very long day (including setup and cleanup). So will change so it's the members-only event, and do another outreach somewhere, later in the year. New schedule would be 12-3 or 1-4. If it's a sunny day, people could pick up a snack and come back for solar observing. Booking will be changed from 1-4 for the event, and volunteers from club can help with setup. Wing asks whether we could divide the large room into 3 (for instance) and have simultaneous talks rather than one at a time, and have people circulate around the room. There might be one key presentation. Could arrange the chairs in three groups; even with one area for Gerry.

- Outreach – Beavers/Scouts (Tullochs) – no fee (one hour) Mark
- Outreach – Royal School Daemon/Judy/Jay
  - Scheduled for April 28 over the lunch hour – no fee (one hour)

-Outreach supply order James

There's an opportunity to leverage a bulk supply order (national's opportunity). Wing has large suitcase and smaller briefcase; an inventory to see whether we should order moon maps or planispheres. We use a lot at Science Rendezvous, Astronomy Day, Southwood circle, Assiniboine Park, SW public event, etc. The budget line for this is $600 and there's $600 in "other events" including T4K. Judy suggests seeing what is available for $400. Judy suggests at Spruce Woods and other outreach sites, to avoid planispheres going into the trash, have a QR code so people can print their own planisphere from our website. It could even be a suggestion for national. And we could also supply a list of Apps for people to get skyviewing programs, maps, etc.

- Outreach – Living Prairie Museum Wing/James
  - Will look for a day with both moon and sun; last year Adam presented (well received).
  - Wing noted that one child said "I saw this last year"… cute.
- Policies & Procedure manual Mark
  - Mark is working on this. Ed showed him there are a number of documents on our GoogleDrive, and Judy Black from National gave him permission to use her Word document (national's P&P manual) and modify it.

7. **Round Table discussion – General** **All**

-Dennis, James, gAIL Rhianna, Bryan

Judy – BBQ is in June, and speakers booked into August. Judy will draft meeting announcement and James will help send it.

Wing, no response from Tyler Funk. He will find the right person at CBC or go into their website (planning for March meeting). Asks about public event in March 3rd at 2:30 am. Also Aug 28 (95% eclipse from here). Stan will step down as coordinator of Science Rendezvous so Wing has volunteered to pick that up.

Daemon – Royal School event at April 28 (grades 3-5); Spruce Woods star party on the agenda for next month's council meeting. Will be polling last year's committee to populate this year's.

Marc – 231 members right now; last month (mid-January) did a big cleanout of expired members and added the new members. Need to send another reminder of the AGM.

8. **Motion to adjourn, Judy. CARRIED**

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL – THURSDAY March 5, 2026.

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