THE RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE
COUNCIL MEETING April 9, 2026, 7:00 PM
FINAL MINUTES

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

1. **Call to Order; Welcome and Land Acknowledgement** Mark
   - **Welcome to new Council members**
     i. Abdul Al Manni
     ii. Gord Tulloch
2. **Adoption of Agenda and Minutes** Mark

MOTION: Adoption of Agenda by Daemon Seconded by Marc Adopted

MOTION: Adoption of Minutes by Rhianna Seconded by Ed Adopted

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3. **Committee Business:**

a. Finance Committee & Statements 2026 James

- Not much to report, quarter to date up 14% on receivables for events that we hosted at Living Prairie Musuem, membership dues down 5%, operating expenses tax and shipping for moongazers and starfinders, James has items. Office equipment and supplies, cloud service fees, groups.io coming up.
- Bank $12,240, healthy account

MOTION: Accept Finance Committee Report by James, Seconded by Gord Adopted

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b. Observatory Committee Ed

- Ed presented Powerpoint (see attached). Training not yet started. Evaluation of equipment not yet started. Victoria telescope sale determined to be too soon, re-evaluate after mount assessment. Bathroom door not yet fixed. There was a complaint that the height of toilet is too high – fabricate a raised floor for it. Table #3 stolen need to rebuild. Skyshed POD suggested in survey – people don't use dome, POD suggested. Easier to use than the dome, mount on the concrete pad (Jay has done this). Different versions of the POD, made to order. Committee selected an appropriate version. Cost just under $10k.
- Wing: Diameter of POD? Also do we need to budget for electronics? Considering in his back yard Mark: Diameter 94-96" Ed: No electronics.
- Gord: How many people asked for it? Ed: Maybe 4. Gord: Has a pier been considered? Ed: Jay had his POD on the pad previously, the thought was make it as flexible as possible. Use existing Pad so as not to incur any construction costs. Mark: POD was arrived at to increase

usability of the site. Move from Dob Altaz to POD to Dome. How do we get people interested in being at Glenlea? Is the dome something we want to keep? It was ambiguous whether it was what people wanted. Dennis: Did someone look at the book at the observatory? Poll the membership to determine if people support spending 10k on Dome, or POD, or something else. Ed: In the survey there was a question would you support spending money doing repair/upgrades. Generally people support. Gord: Is it not better to improve the pad? Wing: Another take on this is to view it like an investment like the loaner scope program and the dome could be signed out for a month. Go out and test out the telescopes. Try it out. Mark: Some pointers to take back to the committee Ed: In the last Council meeting there was positive feedback. Dennis: If people are able to compare the options and ratify one it would be better protection. Mark: Make it as pointed as we can. Dennis: Three options: Dome, POD, Pad Mark: Pad technically doesn't belong to us. Ed: Feedback leads to a second survey. James: Survey seems to point us the next direction.

c. Spring Tune up/ Outreach - Review James

- James: Another successful event, 50ish people came out, last year 70, lower turnout. Busiest place was repair / collimation, seems to be a highlight. More presentations or activities would be nice, optics, cleaning, jay was only person to do presentation. With 200+ members getting 50 pretty good. Shouldn't be disappointed with that. Already had a few conversations. Open to suggestions.
- Mark: Went really well, people who went were enthused and appreciative. One of the better events that we have offered. Aside from Spruce Woods this is our biggest event. Wing: Collimation the bigger area. Mark: Talked about specific issues with member scope, Scopes for Kids good job. If you have a big telescope make an appointment. People were learning either way. Gord: I didn't really hear that presentations were being solicited etc. James: Several emails went out Wing: Posted on Facebook several times, reached out to T4K winners. Mark: Tap on the shoulder better and experts volunteered. James: Always looking for suggestions.

4. Member Meeting schedule, meeting agenda Judy

- Judy away
- Program

7:00 – Beginner's Session, gAIL Wise*"VIRgO"*
7:25 – Mark Irvine, Meeting Welcome & Land Acknowledgement
7:30 – What's Up? – Jay Anderson
7:50 – Information session - Astrofiler – Gord Tulloch
8:10 – Astrophotography Corner (calibration workflow) – Mark Irvine
8:30 – Break
8:45 – Main Speaker – Ryan Wierckx, University of Manitoba

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"*Remote Astronomy – Making the Most of Our Night Sky*"

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5. Business **Arising from the Minutes**

a. Expired member notifications update — James

- Mark: Would be nice if someone else could take on Membership Coordinator notifications
- James: 234 members 11 of those are due for renewal 90 expired memberships 22 in the last 3 months 29 in the last 3-6 39 in the last 6-12 months
- Gord/Ed – Send out exit survey as a reminder and get feedback? **ACTION: Gord will mock one up and send out to Council**
- Wing – is there an automatic renewal system? It would be helpful. James checking
- Abdul – there is an auto-renewal
- Wing – because of the high turnover for the first year we should have a program to have the member mentored to let them know how to take advantage of the programs.
- Marc – Add people to groups.io and website so would like to do but lots of work to take on.
- Mark – don't want to add work to busy people
- James – could not find a way to auto-renew

b. Glenlea Anniversary 2026 update – planning — Wing

- Wing: Done a lot of research full gala is $125-200 casual dinner $65-110. Very expensive to get a few more quotes from hotels. Lower cost to have a buffet style. Best to have a plated dinner to control agenda.
- Gord – community clubs and caterers might be cheaper – Wing will talk to Gord about his prior experiences with Pipe Bands etc. doing large gatherings **ACTION: Gord share with Wing previous information on large gatherings**
- Ed- Is there some way we can have Glenlea involved
- Wing- Absolutely, hoping that we could have a historical presentation about the Glenlea
- Ed – BBQ at Glenlea – community centre in St Norbert – have it catered and go out to the observatory

c. Policies & Procedure manual — Mark

- Mark - Executive has had a crack at it, Council will get a look at it next. Trying to make operations stricter so they operate smoother. Processes have been loose and if new people are involved sometimes things fall by the wayside. Up to 9-10 pages, work through by end of April then put it before Council. Working, living document in plain language to be helpful to work with. Make volunteering to be less of a hassle/stress.

d. Outreach – Royal School — Daemon/Judy/Jay

- Daemon – Jay not involved – going well. Kids are scary sometimes. Presentation will be done in time.

6. New Business.

- Appointments – 2026 / 2027 — Council
  - National Reps, Finance, Observatory, Membership,
  - Loaner scope, LPA, GLP, ETU, Winnicentrics, SWSP,
  - Centre Meeting Coordinator, Meeting A/V
  - technical Coordinator, Webmaster

  - National Reps – Dennis Lyons, Bryan Stach
  - Observatory – Ed Wright
  - Membership – James Fast
  - Light Abatement Rep – Gerry Smerchanski
  - GLP – Dennis Lyons
  - Explore the Universe – **Open**
  - Loaner Scope – Mike Karakas
  - Winni – Jay Anderson
  - Centre Meeting Coordinator – Judy Anderson
  - Meeting AV Technical Coordinator – Kris Keller
  - Webmaster – Marc Sarrisin
  - Spruce Woods – Daemon Nightshade

  - Mark: Need to speak to volunteers to ensure they're ok with being appointed and have a motion to formally appoint. P&P Manual will help us be a lot more formal about this stuff.
  - Ed: When you can actually show the benefits that are coming out of the different appointees work – other orgs will do a Powerpoint to list outreach to recognition and acknowledge volunteers.
- Members Observing Night-Sign up Schedule — James

  - Mark: Need people to sign up
  - James: Anyone designated for this Saturday to be the host, James not sure he can make it. May 8 Mark June BBQ July 11 Wing.
  - Mark: Put the link for the list out to Council
  - Marc: We are talking about access to the Google Drive. Shared link not secure, ways to control access.
  - Ed – Comment on having the admin account to have MFA on it. Can be a problem but good. On Member observing night from Obs Cmte they want to go out and take measurements etc. May 9 might be a good date. BBQ might be an obvious time.

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- Members raised concerns regarding security of Google Docs

- Gord – You really need to have individual accounts on Google docs – I will take on if Marc ok (he is) since I set it up originally.
- **ACTION: Gord to review and enhance Google Docs**

- Discussion about Media/Press relations Groups.io address All

  - Mark – Artemis 2 query – set up something so queries can be responded to relatively quickly. That suggestion was presented around that media request but looking for suggestions.
  - Wing – Advertise an email address and forward it to the Council list
  - Marc – inquiries@winnipeg.rasc.ca – not sure if it would work with groups.io
  - Wing – We can register with groups.io
  - Gord – Contact page on website should be forwarded to council as well as inquiries email
  - **ACTION: Gord and Marc to work on setting up for website**

- SWSP discussion Daemon
  - Daemon: Dates
    - SWSP Sept 10-13
    - Public Aug 22
    - For the RASC handbook
      - PE 2027 – Aug 7
      - SWSP – Sept 3-6
  - Committee met on Mar 26, same as last year, not as large surplus, want to purchase prizes etc. so not as much a profit. Purchase Smart Scope as door prize. Papers are in to register. Invoice to James for payment.

MOTION: Accept 2027 Dates Motioned by Daemon, Seconded by James Adopted

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- St. Anne Outreach Daemon
  - Got March 11, Daemon contacted, wanted beginning of March Early April, at next Council meeting. K teacher in St Annes, Ivan Yuen lives out that way might be a good opportunity
  - Gord – Really young kids so nighttime tough. Daytime better. I'll talk to her.

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

- Daemon:
  - Do we need a vulnerable records check as a mandatory thing?
  - Mark: I got it to be sure we are covered in case there is a event that it is needed

- Gord: I got one for the School Division 13 years ago – some Divisions might be more stringent but I doubt it. Scouting is probably the strictest and it's not required because the Scouters are responsible for protecting the kids not the presenter.
- James: We should have a policy. We should be charging for outreach events.
- Mark: If we are requested to a non-RASC event we have to be cautious. We're not in the business of making money. We don't want to be soliciting business. Fundraising for a large event we need permission to do it. We don't want to do things for money where we are making a profit might jeopardize our status.
- Wing – Hate to turn away kids – perhaps we need to do a larger event to consolidate demand.

- Wing– 2 very important events
    - April 25 Intl Astronomy Day – preparations ready for Assiniboine Park
    - May 9 10-3 Science Rendezvous – James and Wing working on
- Marc – no comments
- Ed – Wing will contact people next week
- Gord – no comments
- Daemon – no comments
- James – no comments
- gAIL – Sept members meeting is for Sept 11 same date as Spruce Woods need to look at Sept 18
- Markl – No comments
- Abdul – No comments

8. **Motion to adjourn**

MOTION: Adjourn by Daemon

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL – THURSDAY May 7, 2026.

Zoom meeting Link:

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