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

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

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

3. **Committee Business:**

a. Finance Committee & Statements 2026 — James

Revenue up YTD just over $2000, Day care centre. Expenses – star party expenses coming in, keep track through the year on the spreadsheet, profit transferred to the Fund. Annual donation to U of M, mad in April last year, make in May? Abdul noted it was in the fall in the past, came up at AGM, feel by the wayside for a while. Wing – all donors are supposed to credited when awarded. James – checking in the letter to see what the fund it is applied to. James will ask how the disbursement is made. Ed – on email of May 1 - wondered what the difference is? James – revenues up by $200 expenses are behind, speaker honorariums (meteorites) need to be expensed. Shared spreadsheet and went through.

Move to make donation to U of M in May — *James/Judy/Carried*

Motion to accept report: — *James / Ed / Carried*

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b. Observatory Committee — Ed

Ed - 3 motions forwarded – Lawrence donated observatory, 10" Meade ACF, and some other equipment.

- April 30 meeting was discussed, minutes forwarded to the Council list. Approved via electronic vote
- Telescopes are surplus from Loaner program. Approved via electronic vote.
  Jay has offered to loan his POD to the Club for an indeterminate time. It will allow us to get a read on how members will use the POD will be used. Approved via electronic vote.
- We will not take the building but will take the Meade and associated equipment for resale. Approved via electronic vote

Gord – why did we choose the 9.25 instead of the 10" ACF? Mark – The 9.25" was judged the better scope but we'll test them out. Judy – Did we pick up another scope? Mark – Yes Meade LX90 also donated. We have about 6 SCTs to deal with. James – Perhaps two LX200 scopes would be easier for people to learn. Mark – Defer to the Obs Cmte Mark – Please add the motions as eMotions in the minutes. Ed – Need reserve price on the

scopes. Also we have a sizable donation from a member – is there a better way to acknowledge these donations? Mark – sets a new precident if we do and haven't in the past. Ed – Perhaps a thank you card? Mark – Perhaps bring a meteorite to the next meeting for Lawrence when we go out there as a thank you?

4. Member Meeting schedule, meeting agenda — Judy

Judy – Upcoming meeting as advertised. June 15 is the BBQ, no members meeting. July is Gord, August is Dr David Crane from planetary institute, October meeting Allen Hweng will do Serendipity in Astronomy, need topic speakers and need meeting ideas. Wing – Virtual Reality Astronomy – brand new member Darien Lagman is doing a presentation in August

5. Business **Arising from the Minutes**

a. Expired member notifications update — James

Mark – we need to confirm with National on new member notifications etc. With Jena gone not sure who to contact. Jaems – heard from one member who rejoined and claims he never got anything. James – We did send an email out to anyone who is in expired status. Stats per this spreadsheet:

	May 7, 2026	May 1, 2026	April 9, 2026
Active (Current):	229	230	223
Active (Due):	6	7	11
TOTAL ACTIVE:	235	237	234
Expired (0-3 Mths):	15	12	22
Expired (3-6 Mths):	44	40	29
Expired (6-12 Mths):	33	39	39
TOAL EXPIRED:	92	91	90

Will send out surveys on a quarterly basis.

b. Glenlea Anniversary 2026 update – planning — Wing

Wing – Church Investigating Celebrity Chef and seeing what his fees would be gAIL – In the church would we have liquor? James – No liquor

c. Policies & Procedure manual — Mark

Mark sent out draft PPM, gives us a roadmap for the year, would have been helpful for new Presidents etc. Can be updated and modified with a 2/3 vote of the Council. Housekeeping things and checklists. Want to circulate and have it approved for the June meeting. Judy – Numbers would be good

d. Members Observing Night-Sign up Schedule — James

James shared spreadsheet of MON hosts – need volunteers for August on. Send out an email. Gord – Why only Council members? Mark – Can make announcement at the meeting. Ed – need to get training on the scope. Mark – Not a prerequisite to have had the training. Judy – Host just have to be there to help people and let people in and close up. Mark – During BBQ we can do a walkthrough in the dome. James – 9PM official start time

e. SWSP discussion — Daemon

Permits are in hand, insurance done, pins have been ordered (design sent out). Gerry should be able to do the Star Party and Public event. Committee contacted to do a meeting this month, no responses so far. Entertainment Director contacted to decline to do the Criddle event.

f. St. Anne Outreach — Daemon/Gord

Booked for the 15th, no cost. Gord – Are we charging? Mark – policy is $100/ ½ day or $200 for a full day. Gord – Is gas covered? Mark – No was intended to cover materials (which we got for free) Abdul – Should be on a case by case basis Mark – If we are supporting a event we will determine what support the Centre will provide and what the costs would be to the recipient. Wing – For most of us the cost of gas etc. isn't a deterrence but for students it might be. Dennis – Strongly suggest not reimbursing mileage just reimburse a gas receipt. Mark – Will send out a suggested policy

g. Outreach – Royal School — Daemon

Daemon – Not a very focused group. Thanks to Jay and Daemon for volunteering.

6. New Business.

- Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC) Dark Sky Application — Dennis

Dennis – (Offtopic) From National - lot of Centres were identified as running lots of outreach but never running things for members. (Ontopic) Document was sent out to everyone on the Council list. This has been ongoing for more than 10 years, Jay was one of the first ones to make contact, Gerry and Silvia then Dennis. It has been approved to sponsor a dark sky site at NCC. An MOU has been drafted between NCC and the RASC WC as the sponsor. Dennis ran through the indicated roles and responsibilities. We have use of the building and yard to two days and nights. First night for public event and second for members. A scope was donated to them quite a few years ago with an agreement to do outreach. They have some funding that hasn't been specified. Mark – are we obliged to provide handouts etc. Dennis – No just on their website. Gord – Are there accommodations/camping there? Big parking lot area – old farmhouse Weston Family Interpretive Centre Nature Conservancy Canada. Gravel road in, camp in large parking lot. Dennis – Jasper was controversial because the Centres committed to a huge dark sky public event that they couldn't get volunteers for. James – from a costs standpoint should we be budgeting for the event? Dennis – NCC is very well off but we haven't talked about reimbursement. They have a second site but its available 24/7/365 but the interpretive centre

would be where we would run the event Gord – Was there a date suggested? Dennis – Spring and Fall. Mark – We anticipate twice a year and need to work around twice a year. Dennis – About an hour Mark – the only concern is to get volunteers. Dennis – Dates are mutlaly agreeable. Judy – Not a big issue to get 3-4 volunteers, very pretty drive. Especially if you can put up a tent or stay in the farmhouse. Dennis – We would set dates where NCC is not using the site etc. Judy – This has been in front of Council for years and this is a event the club can do. Gord – We should set a date and line up volunteers to try out the event and see if it flies Abdul – If SWSP is successful there's no reason why this shouldn't be. Dennis – will sign on behalf of the Centre.

Motion – Accept the NCC proposal and sign the document as attached
Dennis/James/Carried

- Appointments – 2026 / 2027 Council

Mark – Appointments to be made. All members have agreed except Bryan has declined.

Motion to appoint these members to perform these tasks – Mark / Rhianna / Carried

National Reps,	Dennis Lyons
Finance committee Chair,	James Fast
Observatory committee Chair,	Ed Wright
Membership & Inquiry Coordinators,	James Fast/ Mark Irvine
Loaner scope coordinator,	Mike Karakas
Light pollution Abatement rep,	Gerry Smerchanski
Green Laser Pointer rep,	Dennis Lyons
Explore the Universe Coordinator,	TBA
Winnicentrics Editor,	Jay Anderson
SWSP Coordinator,	Daemon Nightshade
Centre Meeting Coordinator,	Judy Anderson
Meeting A/V & Technical Coordinator,	Kris Keller
Webmaster,	Marc Sarrasin

- Brian Cox – Manitoba Concert Hall May14, 2027 Daemon

Daemon – NDT had a Planetarium booth it would be nice if we had one for Brian Cox. Very large audience would be invaluable. We should reach out to Scott and begin the process of getting in touch with the organizers? Judy – I will contact Scott Wing – What time would we need to be there Daemon – We could have our meeting at the Exchange and people could attend both Mark – Would be nice to encourage members to attend both

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

Wing – quick status on the prep for Science Rendezvous. 19 confirmed volunteers. Will try to pick up t-shirts etc.

James – Thanks to Mark taxes have been prepared and sent off

Adbul – Based on the survey for the observatory need to look at scope or pad. Ed – Not going to do anything this year for the scope

Marc – email Council and ask for gmail address to set up for Google Drive

8. **Motion to adjourn, (no second required.) James**

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL – THURSDAY June 4, 2026.

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