THE RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE
COUNCIL MEETING June 4, 2026, 7:00 PM
DRAFT MINUTES

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

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

Moved to adopt Agenda: Daemon Carried

Motion to adopt Minutes: James Carried

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3. **Committee Business:**

a. Finance Committee & Statements 2026 James
Motion to accept report: James

Sent reports out (attached) not much to highlight – we have communications out to expired members and renewals have been coming in. Bank account in good positions with $12k in there. Things are looking good, a GIC maturing in July which we should reinvest which we will take to the Finance Committee unless other direction from Council. Mark: Donation to scholarship fund made. What do they do with the scholarship money brought up, James will connect with Wing to look into.

Moved: James Seconded: Gord Carried

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b. Observatory Committee Ed

Some comments on what has transpired over the month since our last meeting. On May 13th a group went to Lawrence ____ in Lac Due Bonnet. They have sold their property out there and moving back to Winnipeg. On that property is his homebuilt observatory and equipment that he decided to donate to the Centre. He was ok that we sell some of it. That collection was successful and is now sitting over at Jay and Judy's place. Jay has done an inventory and some is valuable good. We have 5 surplus SCTs 4 8" and one 9.25" goto scope with mounts. Mallincams etc. also, some of which can be sold or given away to the membership. Jay has said he wants it out of his basement so we need a plan. Jay sent out a 3 ½ page list of equipment. Have been trying to book a followup meeting with the Observatory Committee.

Committee went out to Glenlea to do an eval of some of the issues that have been reported including the 12" and an eval of the dome. We determined the LX200 optics are good but the mount is bad. Mark quarterbacked the LX200 eval. Fork mount jams in RA due to cable jams,

Dec also jams. This adds to the challenge and confusion for running the telescope.
Abdul: Defork and replace with EQ mount.
Mark: Could also be user options but issues seem to be mount related.
Daemon: Is this still the old mount from Dustin Haertl
Mark: Need to have someone with more knowledge to exercise the scope
Gord: Suggest we not put any more money into it. Dustin might be convinced to have a look at it since he procured it for us?
Ed: Jay is going to on a temp basis loan us his POD. Nothing has happened so far.
Judy: They're cleaning it up this weekend and will have it out to Glenlea soon
Should the OC be responsible for selling the gear
Judy: Shouldn't be them necessarily. Plan to offer to Members?
Mark: Nice if someone could oversee it. Guidelines should be set. Went to council only.
Daemon: Dustin won't be helpful
Gord: Previous sale was based on Astromart pricing.
Judy: Where are the other scopes for sale?
James: All at Obsy except Ivan has one

Discussion about method of selling. Suggested use Groups.IO For Sale Site.

Issue with composting toilet with exhaust fan and pipe, James needs the serial number. This could be important for the BBQ so might be a little more smelly in there.

Gord to Quarterback sale.

4. Member Meeting schedule, meeting agenda Judy

Tentatively 2026-09-18	NOTE: NO MEETING ON SEPT 11 DUE		Jay Anderson				gAIL Wise	Observing certificates
Friday, August 14, 2026	Launch Co-working - Chevrier Blvd	gAIL Wise -Sagittarius	Scott Young				Kevin Black	
Friday, July 10, 2026	Schultz theatre	Scott Young, "Meteors and meteorites"	Jay Anderson				Gord Tulloch	AI in Amateur Astronomy
2026-06-13 NOTE: on SATUI	Glenlea BBQ — NOTE: NO MEETING	X	(NOTE: Jay and Judy at eclipse)					

We should put out an invite to members Tuesday reminding them. Since SWSP moved Sept to the 18 . Cancel Member Observing Night September 19 due. Judy: Chronic issue with booking Theatre at St Johns last minute. Mark: Need short notice fallback. We've used Launch as a fallback need to talk to Wing. Will check to see what's available. James: Church available on a week or two notice. Gord: Virtual only is an option

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Moved to Cancel: gAIL Second: Abdul Carried

5.

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Business **Arising from the Minutes**

a. Expired member notifications update — James

James: See above in Treasurer report Mark: New executive director at National, exchanged emails about new member communications. Reach out to National on welcome letters and departing contact them. Mark initiated a request to join that program but it got dropped when Jenna left.

b. Glenlea Anniversary 2026 update – planning — Wing

Wing not at meeting

c. Policies & Procedure manual — Mark

Send out for review a few times. Handy tool for new Council members. Clarification, not intended to supersede the bylaws. P&P manual gives us guidance on how to apply bylaws, new executive have a playbook. Not having been on Council it's been very helpful.

Motion to accept current iteration of P&P Manual — Motion: Gord Second: Judy Carried

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d. Expense reimbursement policy – draft — Mark

Anyone on a Centre approved event can be reimbursed for reasonable expenses. Do we want to go in this direction?

Ed: When we went out to Lac Du Bonnet we had two vehicles there were significant expenses
Gord: Rationale
Abdul: Limit to a certain radius within 50km of city centre
Daemon: I am opposed in most circumstances, a whole bunch of people doing the SW public event. If it's that hard to get out there then people shouldn't be doing it.
Judy: It could be a budget problem if a lot of people go out to an event.
Gord: It's important to recognize that if we are being paid for something, otherwise shouldn't apply
Mark: Donating back their reimbursement would recognize the visibility of the costs of doing the activity
Gord: Should have a posted cost schedule for events where we require reimbursement
Mark: Original intent was to recoup costs, have to be careful about revenue endangering our status
Abdul: Is this a permanent policy? Mark: Yes

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e. Members Observing Night-Sign up Schedule — James

Mark: Find a way to publish the schedule so members can sign up, distinguish between leading and attending.
Gord: Need to advertise to membership rather than offering up a spreadsheet
Mark: I don't mind advertising but we need to publish something for someone to maintain
Gord: Send out an email with a picture of the schedule
Mark: Don't feel emails are fruitful
James: Won't be a lot of email
Abdul: Will take December
James: Need someone for August 15 Ed: I volunteered
Mark: Offer to co-host to make people more comfortable

f. SWSP discussion — Daemon

We had a committee meeting 2 weeks ago to hammer out some stuff. Need to find out from Wing if there's any progress for registration. We'd like to do bigger prizes like a Smart Scope. Need to approach vendors to donate noting we give them business. Fees are the same. Gord – be cautious about using Starlink due to negative connection to astronomy

g. St. Anne Outreach – review — Gord

St. Anne's Elementary School K class – 20 kids, very engaged and interested, printed multiple copies of images of planets (including Mike Karakas' recent Jupiter image) and gave them away to the kids to great acclaim. Brought lots of extras to make sure everyone got one. Teacher would like a Thursday visit but it's looking doubtful before the end of June based on my schedule so next term.

6. New Business.

- Transferring Zoom meeting recordings to Youtube — Kris Keller

Kris: Members were asking for recordings of the meetings to be posted on Youtube. There's not enough room on Zoom to hold 12 meetings. Since we started we have recordings on Aug and Dec of last year. Feb 13 Mar 13 Apr 8
Abdul: Just need to download from Zoom and upload
Gord: Happy to help upload the videos
Mark: Lets take it offline Kris Marc Gord Abdul and Ed to create a mini committee to deal with this

- Glenlea Barbeque - June 13, 2026 — All

In Lieu of Friday meeting. Meeting at 5:30PM. Decide the night before to make a call on weather due to poor forecast. Rain date is following Saturday.

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Round Table discussion – General **All**

- Ed – going to Greece for 6 day cycling tour.
- Daemon – Ed had set up a Star Party meeting on Zoom and couldn't get in, but Daemon was able to log in without being approved.
- Judy – for zoom meeting for Spruce Woods there was a problem
- Gord – Add a topic to next meeting to discuss merging the General lists
- James – Financials for this month will be partial due to vacation with final when James returns from vacation Mark – Just do two months to catch up
- Abdul – Side note on the youtube Gord and Abdul members Ed and Brendan managers
- gAIL – Vote for meeting on the 2nd of July
- Rhianna – Vote for meeting on the 2nd of July

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

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL – THURSDAY July 2nd, 2026.

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