THE RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE
COUNCIL MEETING August 6, 2026, 7:00 PM
DRAFT MINUTES

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

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

Moved to accepted amended minutes Gord Sec Brianna CARRIED

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3. **Committee Business:**

a. Finance Committee & Statements June July 2026 James

Motion to approve June Statements Moved James Seconded by gAIL CARRIED
Motion to approve July Statements Moved James Seconded by Gord CARRIED

3.Observatory Committee Update Ed

- Toilet – Remember that we found back in May that the venting fan motor in our *Sun-Mar Excel Composting Toilet* is not working leading to the build up of fumes in the bathroom and liquid in the compost not evaporating. I attempted to procure a replacement fan assembly. However, I discovered that our toilet was manufactured in 2001/2002. Sun-Mar and the Canadian distributor Cabin Depot no longer stock parts for that toilet. The furthest back they go is 2004. We likely will need to replace the toilet although we have not yet disassembled the existing fan unit to ensure some miracle cure is possible. Costs about $2400 incl tax. Mark – Can we use it the way it is? Ed – Usable needs to be tested

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Motion to allocate $2500 to toilet replacement by Ed Seconded Gord Carried
Discussion as to source of funds to be determined

- Road Improvement – The gravel company is planning on delivering the gravel sometime this week. Council has already approved $1,500 for this work. (Approval via email vote)

Motion to amend previous motion to approve expense up to $2000 by Ed Seconded James Carried

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- LX200 Mount – During our evaluation of the observatory on May 19, we determined that the optics in the LX200 appear to be good, but the mount is bad. (The fork mount RA jammed and

the declination axis and clutches of the tines also jammed.) Observatory committee to ascertain path forward and make a recommendation to the Council for approval

- Observatory building repair from successive flood damage – This is on-hold until the 2027 build season so that we can evaluate usage of the dome and the loaner POD. Recall:
  - ObsComm proposed to Council in July 2025 that we decommission the bathroom and lift the building so that repairs could be made to the bottom plates and siding. $10K was approved. However, we did not find a suitable contractor. Ed – a suggestion was we do it ourselves but recommend a contractor.
  - After concerns were raised about how much use the dome and LX200 were getting, ObsComm decided in Jan 2026 to do a survey of the membership.
  - Council in March agreed to have ObsComm investigate procuring a POD for $10K in line with what came out of the survey. (Later Jay volunteered to loan his old POD to the Centre to allow members to try it out and have another option from the LX200. Gord – Do we have any idea on usage of POD? We should have people sign out the POD and the Dome. Abdul – should we mention at the monthly meeting? Ed – Good idea We can survey people who use the dome about usage Mark – we need more information, we don't have an estimate, we have never moved the building with the dome on top. We need a process to get some quotes on what it would take to repair the plate. Gord – Have we shared the engineering report with the membership, should we? Mark – We have not, I have a copy. Gord – I've only heard of two people using it so that might not be a reasonable use of funds Wing – Would the University participate in a new building Ed – This is not a common thing so it's hard to get a contractor who do this kind of work. Daemon – Since the U of M just built a new one they might not be interested in ours. Mark – come back to Council with 2-3 quotes
  - In the April Council meeting there was a long discussion about the dome repair. There were concerns that majority of people come to use the pad, not the dome, so why spend $20K on a dome repair. A strategy expressed was to have people go from the pad to POD, and POD to dome.
  - Final decision on hold in 2026 til 2027 based on POD usage.
- Shutter Motor – Scott reported in mid-July that it is not working.
- Table #3 – This had been stolen. Jay rebuilt it with help from Judy. They also repainted the other two tables.

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4. Member Meeting schedule, meeting agenda — Tabled to September

5. Business **Arising from the Minutes**

a. Dwarf Labs donation update on equipment — Wing

All three scopes were not functional, Mini had a damaged lens. One Dwarf III has been returned and is fully functional, in Rhianna's hands. One has been shipped and other two soon. The other two will be shipped quickly. A swag box has been received by James. James – We have advertised a Dwarf Mini do we have a backup plan? Mark – Gift Certificate Daemon – there's budget money to buy a replacement

b. Glenlea Anniversary 2026 update – planning — Wing

No update

c. Members Observing Night-Sign up Schedule (Wing for July) — Mark

August – Ed James will try to be there
Sept cancelled so many other events
Oct - Judy
Nov - James
Dec - Abdul

d. SWSP discussion — Daemon

Many volunteers, campsite full, some people may camp separately. Wing – Ivan and Wing will not be staying overnight

Porta potty company confirmed, awaiting news on Mini, sent email to coordinator for public event to confirm power available for Adam Rogers. 25 Tickets sold one free (kid) and net sales – fees = $877.41. 94% of last year.

e. Consolidation of mailing lists in Groups.io — Marc/ Gord

Council agrees more engagement especially for new people. Marc – only 4 people dropped out, some people moved to digest or no emails. Ed – tried to leave the group and it looked like it would kick her out of main. Marc – Don't think so based on testing.

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6. New Business.

1. Telescope donation update — Gord

All telescopes sold total proceeds $8056. Only one Mallincam sold for $600. Suggest we post on Astromart. Mark – Do we post to other Centres? Gord – Astromart

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Motion to proceed with Astromart Sale by Gord Sec Seconded by Ed Carried

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2. Accounting for Proceeds — James

Currently recorded as a donation which lands on our income statement, which is probably not the best place. There has been some discussion about creating an Observatory Fund for upgrades and enhancements of Glenlea. We would move those funds to that fund. Mark – it's a donation revenue or a donation to a fund. Anything we receive into our possession we own it before it's sold. If we put it through income, it would stand out as a unusual income. This is not an operational it's an unusual thing. There are various guidelines and reporting standards if we device to leave it as revenue we would have to recognize it as one time revenue realized from donated telescopes. We don't recognize the revenue they would be balance sheet items (some of them would be). Disposal of assets should also stay in the balance sheet. Could be a General Fund for the Observatory or for Loaner Scopes etc. Any approved draw could be taken out of that fund. Like the SWSP that $1400 came from Bank of Montreal. Daemon – James asked earlier how we were paying for the new toilet. Ed – like the idea of a separate fund and keeping it in the balance sheet want to make sure donated telescopes that is not part of revenue Mark - It's a donation and recognized Debit Asset Credit Donations. From donation revenue move to the fund. Ed – Once it's in that fund can we invest it Mark – Can be invested as cash

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Motion to amend the July financial statement to reflect the proceeds from the donated telescopes into a special fund By James Seconded by Ed Carried

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3. Expense reimbursement policy – new draft August / 2026 — Mark

This is a policy moving forward. Concerns about retroactivity are thereby addressed.

Motion to accept attached Reimbursement Policy by Gord Seconded by James Carried

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4. Copied Membership to general list evaluation — Council

   Already discussed above

5. Documentation of Zoom file transfer process — Gord

   Addressed previously

6. Schedule for Council meetings — All

   Set last meeting

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

Gord – No comments

James – Calendars – National has received our order, 6 sold already, ordered 35, round to $25, make an announcement at meeting. If we said send an email to finance to get a confirmation back to manage how many we have rather than sending a cheque or payment - No communications received from National by new members – Mark will contact National and see where we're at – Mark and James are taking turns managing the inquiry mailbox, lots of inquiries are being received 2-3 per week. Who is managing Facebook inquires? Wing – perhaps send them to inquiries emails.

Wing – Need to start up Telescopes for Kids program, Wing will coordinate again this year. Mark will announce on Friday and ask for volunteers. On The Move Daycare private outreach volunteers (Aug 7, 2026 10AM-11:30AM get there 45m in advance) : - Ivan Yuen (white light & H-alpha telescopes) - Vicky Isliefson (solar bino's) - Wing Kwong (H-alpha live-stacked display on external monitor) - Mark Irvine (moon phase indoor presentation) - Gordon Gilbey (Dwarf 3 or indoor magic show)

Daemon – none

Ed – none

gAIL – Trying to access beginners sessions don't have access. Marc will check on it

Marc – Double checking meeting at Launch next week

Rhianna - none

8. **Call for motion to adjourn, (no second required).** — **Gord**

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL – THURSDAY September 3, 2026.

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