**THE RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE**
**COUNCIL MEETING November 6, 2025, 7:00 PM**
# DRAFT MINUTES

**Zoom meeting Link:**

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

Present: Mark, Marc, Ed, Rhianna, Gail, Judy, Dennis, Wing, James, Kris Keller (guest), Bryan, Stan
Regrets: Scott,

**Call to Order; Welcome and Land Acknowledgement** President

1. **Adoption of Agenda and Minutes** President
   Motion: Judy – CARRIED
   Motion to accept agenda as circulated - Daemon; CARRIED
2. Electronic Motions:
   - **"Form a technology committee with Kris Keller as chair evaluating current and future technology needs including monthly meetings (hybrid) and educational workshops. The committee is tasked with identifying and recommending equipment to be purchased (laptops, wireless mic, etc.) in time for the next council meeting on November 6, 2025. Maximum total budget is $4,000."** Moved by James Fast, Seconded by Ed Wright
   - **Carried – October 17, 2025 – 10 for, 3 abstentions**

**4. New Business.**

- **Recommendation – Technology Committee** **Kris Keller**

- Background discussion by the committee, and recommendation were pre-circulated. Kris thanks Council for giving him the opportunity to lead this process, and thanks members of committee for their hard work. Reminds council that projector is 14 years old, and the amplifier was made in 1997 (likely the year of purchase); council should also keep in mind that both of these could die, and likely are not worth fixing. New amp ~$1000; projector has only 300+hrs and usual use is close to 3000hr, but one day will need replacement.
- Laptops selected LeNovo Ii, unless something else is on sale/better (market changing continuously).
- Wireless microphone: currently have one purchased in 2012 and that system is no longer available. Recommend dual microphone wireless system, so one is for emcee and another is for a presenter; also suggest using adapter to handheld to make it wireless (and use it in audience for Q&A). Will need new mixer (input for 4 microphones). Will need a few extra cables to connect mixer and amp.
- Streaming video camera: somewhat contentious whether to use a stationary or tracking-panning camera. Kris suggests getting the panning camera to keep presenter in-frame.
- Also recommend training more people as Kris and Scott are not always available. Rhianna volunteered and Marc as well. The club needs to develop instructions on where plugs go in connecting the equipment, at some point after the new equipment is all in-hand.
- Anticipate ~$3500 is the estimated total cost, including tax. Will also need new Windows on computers.

- Kris takes opportunity to ask what we would do with unused equipment; currently he is already storing the previous projector in his basement. Mark suggests silent auction or recycling old electronic equipment (after destroying computer hard drives) so it's not stored forever.
- Mark – would like to see the new equipment up and running as soon as possible in the New Year.
- Motion: Ed/James to proceed with the recommendation. CARRIED
- Aim to acquire the equipment asap, and begin assembly and testing. Will leave the purchase up to the committee. Ed thought the implementation of new equipment could be 2-phase. Also might run into something other issue that would require a surprise additional purchase; would do this by an electronic motion.
- James will talk offline on technicalities of purchase. Mark reminds people about Black Friday and possible deals. Budget is up to $4000. Will need a dry run with the new equipment. James confirms he has authority to use credit card for up to $4000.
- Council thanks Kris and the committee for excellent, expedited work!

- **Year-end celebration - Pot Luck** **Mark**

- Likely will need to book a location, usually January. As a reminder for upcoming task.

- **Purchase of LX90 Telescope Case** **Stan**

- Motion: Stan on behalf of Mike (who purchased the case ~$236); Judy seconded. – To approve the above purchase and reimbursement of Mike. CARRIED. It's not for a loaner scope, but it and scope will go onto our list of assets.

- **Expired member notifications** **James**

- Using *Driven* software (with National's database), the list now includes the GLP-trained list. Now there is no longer, the 2-month grace period, so membership quickly reverts to "expired" at the end of the paid-up period. James noted that 2-3 once-active members are now in "expired" status. James suggests we have a generic email for Membership, so he can email those people and inquire/remind about renewal. Dennis notes there are 2 reminders from National if they've kept up their membership. Also notes that once someone's membership expires, they are no longer authorized by Council to use a GLP until they renew. Bryan and James did get a reminder from National about upcoming expiration; Driven showed their renewal very rapidly (within an hour of renewing). Mark suggests it would be nice if the reminder went before expiration. So far this year 67 previous members have not renewed.
- James will draft a generic email, and work with Marc on the generic email and remember to protect privacy. Mark asks James to tell him when/if any council members have their membership lapse.

- **Spring Tune up/ Outreach** **James**

- East view Community Church discussions: if we wish to use the gymnasium and parking lot, would like to book it sooner than later. Now would like to start from 3-6pm and then do a membership bbq and then open to make it a public event, potentially into the evening. The Church is in favour of doing that; an evening use of the facility would incur rental charge, or if they wanted to partner with a men's or women's group as a co-event. They won't charge for the evening aspect except for use of washrooms. Gym costs $75/hr and James gets 50% reduction. Could plan to use gym in evening only as backup for weather.

- a date that works well for what's up in the sky is **Saturday March 28th** (Friday is the start of spring break). Wing likes the idea of combining members only tune-up with a public event. BBQ would be cold weather (or could do potluck or bring in pizza). Facility is booked in April. Could also do May 2 or 9th (pretty good in the sky then too), but it doesn't get dark until 10pm.

- Mark suggests using the same group to organize the event. Cost not prohibitive, although we won't get the income of an outreach event but we are getting a member benefit for the tune-up event. Consider options and come back with program/agenda. Doing Astronomy Day at the end of April, and it is a good opportunity to lever a tune-up event.
- Wing suggests could have outreach event as non-observing, or more like a 'trade fair' or auction, and that could be earlier. Could be discussed by the committee planning it. James will tentatively book for March 28 from 2-10pm, and times can be adjusted.

5. **Committee Business Reports**

a. Finance Committee & Budget 2027 James

-nothing much to highlight from report pre-circulated; had 8 new memberships billed last month and 10 more so far in November. Started budgeting process for next year, and there is an initial draft budget for filling out by the finance committee. Goal to have something drafted for December Council meeting.

Motion to accept October financial report as presented: James/Daemon - CARRIED

b. Observatory Committee Ed

-build plan and repair from flooding and deterioration of baseplate are on hold until 2026.
-electrical issue since April: intermittent and seemingly random, irritating and disruptive. Milton and Dan (both retired electrical engineers) saw old connectors which were replaced by MB Hydro. 2 weeks ago, members were there when an interruption occurred, and James/Ed went back and found the problem is a short somewhere in the black wire that comes to the main panel. Red side was still working. Therefore, the power coming from Hydro, but MB Hydro owns up to the pole, and Farm Service and meter are owned by University of Manitoba. Somewhere in that supply is an open circuit. UM likely needs to be involved.
-Judy has drafted an email using Ed's language, and emphasizing that we'd like this done expeditiously. Mark suggests we should express that we're willing to do the work with their consent. Ed notes that typically MB Hydro says that typically it's the farmer's responsibility to hire an electrician to do the work. Judy asks whether we know someone who might do this. James has a neighbour who drives a bucket truck, and he will ask the neighbour how best to approach the task so it is expedited. Wing notes UM likely has a roster of approved contractors. Mark notes that now we have a liability and we have an obligation to do something: fix or mitigate the problem. Judy will follow up with UManitoba and update.

6. **Member Meeting schedule** Judy

-introduction to start; astrophoto corner (Judy); main presentation Dr. Paul Charbonneau from U. Montreal; break; telescope/bino purchasing discussion (no beginner session); Jay What's Up; Danielle doing What's New. Ed will work on the draft.

7. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

a. Calendar order Stan
-calendars arrived, and will be at the next meeting. Stan will message that people should bring cash to the meeting.
b. Telescopes for Kids - update Judy

-10 applications (1 ineligible; 2 pairs of sisters) reduces that to 7 eligible applications; we have 3 donations (one needs 2 eyepieces: a 25mm and a 10mm, to be ordered) and plan to order 4 DOBs on Monday (5% off the order from Telescopes Canada, plus sale price). James asks about collimation; Daemon suggests giving people a collimator as they are inexpensive; Judy suggests we collimate ahead of giving away and invite them to the outreach event in the spring. We're aiming to give the scopes out in December. Wing suggests we could invite winners to the December meeting if we have them by then. Can be added to meeting agenda for Dec 5.

c. Outreach: Southwood Circle Astronomy Night review — Wing
-Wing had pre-circulated a summary of the event: about 60 people attended, about half came specifically for the event, some to the wrong location. The other half were walk-ons as it's a heavily traversed pathway. A visual scope (Abdul) and a SeeStar (Wing) were going, plus a table with T4K handout. The volunteers were kept busy with questions and there was interest in the smart scope. At 8pm the draw occurred; the food truck was excellent and used by people who showed up. Unfortunately the weather wasn't cooperative. Wing/James were not able to do a debrief session with UM Properties, and they would like to do this annually. Next year's date is set for Sept 19.

d. Glenlea Anniversary 2026 update – planning — Bryan
-stepping down as chair of the committee. Mark will have to find another volunteer to chair. There was discussion about a fundraiser, but we wanted to have a celebration of the observatory without it getting lost in a big fundraiser. Wing will volunteer to take this on. Promises this will not be exclusively focussed on a big fundraiser, and will take guidance from Council. Mark will help (Bryan may help in New Year).

e. National Welcome Letter — Mark
-finally reached out to Jenna and Michelle at National, will have to confirm that really happens, when/if new members get welcome letters with more information than we currently give new members; it helps reinforce the welcome to RASC Winnipeg.

f. Green Laser Pointer training – update, November session? — Dennis
- this likely won't be until early December. RASC is grateful to Dennis for doing this.

7. Round Table discussion – General

Gail – Next Council meeting (listed here as Dec 11) will be on Dec 4. TAKE NOTE.

Rhianna – visiting Montreal soon, and will connect with the Montreal Centre (possible ideas)

Dennis – National Council was focused on finances; on track for budget but still a deficit; revenue not coming in (journal lack of subscriptions); Handbook has a huge subscription (largely from the USA and giving revenue) although essentially, no publications make money.

James, Marc, Daemon, Judy, Stan – nothing

Ed - thanks to James for being there when they found the electrical problem at Glenlea.

Wing – Richard Konrad will do another StarTools workshop but the date has been delayed from Nov 15. Will be rescheduled to a Saturday (maybe 22 or 29 Nov). Wing will book Launch Co-working.

Gail – planning the potluck. Which of the 3 locations would we like to use (new location is building next to the Convention Centre (where IchiBan restaurant is located). January is not heavily used. Mark

will look at the Jets Hockey schedule (don’t do Jan 17 or 24). Could do Saturday 31 or 10 instead of MON). Decision to use Lombard or IchiBan on **Jan 10**. Wing will check availability.

8. Motion to adjourn – Gail – Carried

**NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL – THURSDAY DECEMBER 4, 2025.**

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