

RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Monday, April 04, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Dennis Lyons, Mike Karakas, Ed Wright, Abdul al Manni, Marc Sarrasin, Scott Young, Russell Brown, Michelle Boyce, Bryan Stach,

REGRETS: Kevin Galka, Michael Stephens, Judy Anderson



1. Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement Dennis
2. Welcome and Introductions All
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3. Adoption of Agenda Dennis
- .
4. Adoption of previous minutes Dennis

MikeK moved, Russell seconded, ADOPTED.

5. Financial Report Abdul
 - Abdul: Statement for March, balance \$17,811.27. No txns, \$356.42 coming in for membership for equivalent of 15 members.
6. Council Work – Committees and Council Meetings Dennis
- .
7. Committee Work Reports
 - a. Policies and Procedures Manual Mike and Mike
 - MikeK: Nothing from my end. Were going to look at the code of conduct. Scott was going to look at pirating some of the museum's. Not talked since. Michelle: Wants to be a member of the P&P committee. Got no emails. MikeK: There is no chair of the P&P committee. I will reach out to MikeS to see about getting this moving again.
 - b. Bylaws Judy
 - Dennis: Judy hoping to get something to council by late fall. She wants to get a copy of Robert's Rules for USD\$30.

MOTION Dennis moved to reimburse Judy US\$30 for a copy of Robert's rules. CARRIED

- c. Observatory Committee Gord, Michelle
 - Russell: Did an informal meeting with Jay to get familiarized. Talked about flooding. Jay did an amazing email about. As long as not at 1997 levels, we should be fine. Is a watermark on the dome just above the floor of the warm room. We just need to make sure nothing on the ground floor level of the dome or underneath the warm room itself, everything up off the floor in the dome and power off on the pad. Keeping an eye on the water level. Michelle visiting and sending messages on status. I am watching the government sites. If takes turn for the worse will sound the alarm. Once flood over will get down to business and figure out where going.
- d. Incorporation Tabled
- e. Finance Committee Abdul/Mark Irvine
 - Abdul: Have not had any meetings yet. Trying to get traction with Mark Irvine. Dennis: Mark sent a document on policies and procedures for finance. I will fwd out to the rest of council.

- f. Star Parties
 - SWSP – Russell: Planning a 5-day event this year, starts on Thursday, the public star party not happening prior to this due to scheduling conflict with the park. This year on Sunday at interpretative centre will be a public event. Just GLP and few scopes and presentation on dark sky preserve. No details on that yet.
 - Trying to get quotes for porta potties then will bounce off Silvia. The SWSP is interested in this. Other than that their committee is fine. The Porta-Potty is a hit with them. They will have a request for that next month.
- 8. Directors and Councilors Tabled
- 9. Appointed Positions Recruitment Dennis
 - Dennis: No update on that. Will talk about this at each meeting and hopefully get people to step up.
 - a. Spring Star Party
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 - b. Explore the Universe
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 - c. Webmaster
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 - d. Volunteer Coordinator
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 - e. Mentor Coordinator
 - Judy.
 - f. Meeting Coordinator
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 - g. Light Abatement Committee
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 - h. Youth Outreach
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- 10. Web Infrastructure and io email list update Russell and Marc
 - Russell: Marc and I working on this. I am getting the emails, linked to my phone so I can jump on them right away. Last month approved Gord to purchase a groups.io subscription. But Gord stepped down before buying the \$200 subscription. The trial ends this Friday, if want to go ahead I can make the subscription. I have not poked around in the settings yet. Dennis: Consensus is to move forward. Ed: It was \$200 for Zoom. Scott: There was going to be an overlap of a number of months between our webforums and groups.io. Recall we decided to go ahead for now. Think we approved the subscription to groups.io. Dennis: Thought it was approved the last time. We didn't buy the whole account. Ed: It is free up to 100 people and then for > 100 people it is \$20 / month. Dennis: pretty sure we approved the \$20 per month because would be same as the Zoom account. Ed: Did not have the motion last month. It was just the \$20 for Zoom. Dennis: If no motion last month we can do it now. Russell: Got the groups.io info. Prem plan is what we currently have for free subscription until Friday, that would be \$220 for the year or \$20 / month. Go with full year membership. Scott, suggest up to \$260

MOTION Russell moved to subscribe to groups.io premium plan at cost of US\$220 (not auto-renew), seconded by Ed. Mike: How does the \$20 per month work? Russel: That is not autorenewal either. Amended to increase to up to US\$260 in case GST comes in. ADOPTED

- Dennis: Send the bill to Abdul.
- Marc: Need the details on the Friday members meeting. Need that for the website. Also do you want something for astronomy day on May 7? Ed: See the month-by-month tracker in Google Drive. It is in the folder "Planning for Monthly Meetings".
- Russell: Marc and I are handling. Gord is doing good handover and helping them.

11. Business Arising

a. Membership Meeting

Judy

- Dennis: Wed have all the speakers in place, slides out tomorrow night to Ed.

b. Meeting format/streaming

Dennis

- Scott: Have not coordinated all that much. I pulled together the inventory. Not sure the gear will work for good for seamless hybrid event. At planetarium better equipment and have a tech to make it work, the sound system we have barely handles the room. There are a number of things pending our relationship at the U of M. Can we figure out a way to access the U of M system. Michelle: They wanted to charge us for that. Scott: That was the old guard. Because renegotiating the relationship the UofM, maybe can work into those negotiations, loath to repurchase new laptop and sound systems equipment and then 6 months later don't need it. Michelle: Danielle might be the one to liaise with because she does the open house, get advice from her. Scott: When starting in-person mtgs? Dennis: Will try to reach out again. The UofM has a committee. Didn't get response that they received it. Will resubmit the form again to the committee. Michelle: Might be able to finagle it under the Dept of Physics just as the open house has done. Might give it some cloat. Would need to go through Danielle for that. Same as the MOU for Glenlea. Would fit under the Physics dept. Might be good to pull all of these things together. MikeK: Great idea, agree need to confirm whether is a go or not. Ed: Saw that email message in for questions might be way to go. In the scenario where regular broadcast for the internet, it is the incoming audio that is the problem. We could just do it by text, have watchers say what the questions are. Scott: Yes, the text in is good. Avoids the feedback loop. Small penalty of having to submit questions via text for not being in the room. Certainly, something for the short term. That is how we run most of our programs. Does lower the bar. Can stream out from our existing sound system, then camera with capture card can get video out to internet, would mean people need to use the mic in the room, the question would have to be repeated in the room. Dennis: Sounds like a workable solution. Ed: Could be an interim solution. Russell: We could experiment in a closed stream. Scott: The 3 of us should try out. I could pick up the equipment from Chris. Marc: Sounds good. Dennis: That would allow us to meet the members half way on that.

c. CN Railroad

Russell

- Russell: Waiting for incorporation. Then will put the info into CN. Once incorporated, will set that up.
- Ed: Doing something similar, Canada Life has Community Volunteer Grant, used to be for registered charities only, I have been talking with the community relations person, they have expanded to include any non-profit organization, I have submitted the application, if approved it would be worth \$1,000 for this year.

d. Scouts Canada

Gord:

e. Fischer River Cree Nation

Gord:

f. U of M Support

Dennis

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- g. Free Press Ed
- Tabled. Ed: In progress.
- h. Speaker Gifts All
- Dennis: Got the 8 meteorites from Gord. Judy got me the address of one of our last speakers. Can get more if necessary. Ralph has more available. Ed: We have already had very good speakers. Will this become the standard practice to offer a meteorite gift? Dennis: Yes this should be the standard. This is why we had some spares. With COVID it fell by the wayside.
- i. National Council Report Dennis/Bryan
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- j. Memberships from OHMIC and MB Museum Dennis
- Dennis: Got good interest in this. Sent email on whether people wanted their name on a list. Will see how many responses and hopefully can give the, away.
- k. Awards All
- Bryan: Did meet. Lost connection to Google Drive. Russell: I am managing it. I saw the request. Will authorize through Wpg admin. Bryan: Thinking of recognizing regular members on anniversaries. Did have ideas of recognizing long-term members. Maybe a certificate. Recognizing maybe 25 years. Did consider Gord. Yes he will get an award. The service award. Bryan: Trevor Grant? Ed: Trevor Bryant, Brandon. Bryan: For the long-term member award, Bryan to get back to council. Trying to recognize more members. For the dark sky preserve, thinking about that. Life time membership award, John Iverson, member since 1971. Abdul to check if he is still around. We will give you a list please. For the membership awards, might during the meeting make an announcement about how long have been a member. Will send a list soon.
- l. Insurance notes from National Dennis
- m. Dalnavert Museum
- .
- n. Arthur E Wright School Gord
- .
- o. Public events post COVID Dennis
- Astronomy Day – Scott: For the Friday night (May 6) open 7 – 10 as part of First Fridays. Will have scopes outside. Science Gallery will be open. If rainy will retire indoors. Will invite the various news media. This will be the Museum’s First Friday event. Hope turnout will be good because everything to be free. This is May 6. Dennis: I will put out call for volunteers. Scott: We will reimburse people for their parking and will have drinks and snacks for volunteers. We will reimburse people for meters.
 - Dennis: Saturday events. Two of them.
 - Day event – Likely at Chapters. Solar observing. Table setup. More info coming. Looking for volunteers. Marc: Judy contacted Chapters at Polo Park. They are awaiting COVID situation. Waiting for that.
 - Evening event – I contacted McNally’s. They are very excited. They said contact the mall about parking lot because parking lot is theirs. As a fallback called Indigo. No reply yet. McNally would pull out their astronomy books. Dennis: Will announce at Friday that we are looking for volunteers. (To Michelle) I have not heard if UofM doing anything.
 - Peace Garden Star Party – Russell: Their visitors manager reached out, wanting us to support public event. Themed dinners throughout summer to celebrate 90th

anniversary. One is outdoor stars. Will be 4 course dinner on their patio under the stars. Not traditional star party. Told her someone would be in contact with her. At this point is just a proposal. Can someone else take over correspondence. Not versed in these. **Looking for August 26.** Dennis: Suspect similar to Fort Whyte used to do (dinner then observing). I will reach out to them. Dennis: I could get the rest of the questions. Scott: Is a new moon so no early evening moon but Jupiter and Saturn are up, maybe by 9:00 p.m.

- Artemis project – Dennis: RASC National is putting together info on the Artemis project. Will be at meeting on April 6. The rocket out for final tests. Will decide whether we have an event on that.
- p. Bino Interest Group – Darren sent out a report. He has 10 people. He also mentioned there is option for member discounts. Cryptic. Are we interested? MikeK: Downside for getting a discount? Scott: Usually they want brand out there in website. Russell: We could give them a spot on the website for member discounts. Russell: There could be a sketching group as well become active. Dennis: There are some really talented people for drawing out there that are shy about what they can do. I will get back to Darren.
- q. Council – Dennis: One open council position. Thought Mark Irvine. Not talked to him yet. I will approach him to see if he would like a council position. **Everybody thumbs up.**
- r. Women and girls in astronomy Dennis

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12. Round table

All

- Ed: Bylaws, heard targeting late fall for these to come back to council. Dennis: Aug / Sep for the bylaws to come back to council. Ed: Concern about bylaws. Dennis: It will just take 2 days for the incorporation at the most. Mark Irvine said we should have the financial policies as part of it before incorporating. I am confident will happen in this term.
- Ed: June speaker from Canadian Space Agency on JWST is in jeopardy. The contact has not gotten back to me. Will likely have to get something else for June.
- Marc: Are we doing something for the lunar eclipse for May 15-16? Scott: Planetarium talking Assiniboine about this, planning to do live event with broadcast, they want money for this, meeting with Shaw about the first half to broadcast totality around 10:30 to 11:30, so not super late. Dennis: Council is good for that.
- Scott: Idea of member communication, how to get messages (notices) out to people, important as we head to incorporation, need to make it accessible to members, so people not tuning out. Russell: You are talking the send only accounts? Scott: Need to know what groups, we have overlapping ways of communicating. Russell: Will poke around in groups.io, could have links in the members only areas to the groups.io groups, this group here is the link, using the website should make it easier to go anywhere, the hub for information. That is my vision for the website.
- MikeK: Received any inquiries for loaner scopes? Nothing came to me, dobs are tuned up, what is the channel for a new member to make the request? Russell: There is an email ('loaners@...') that is directed to your email. Looking at other centres. Found that Edmonton has loaners open to public for a deposit. Scott: That dovetails with the scope in libraries initiative where scopes in library and they handle the public access. Russell: Would have to be more work for people on the committee. Mike: Important to keep scopes maintained. Scopes will need cleaning and aligning. Important to keep tabs on that. Stan was diligent to get driver's license and ensure they are responsible for

damages. Dennis: Could you send a list of what is available? Mike: We have two 8" plus Jerry refurbished a 6" and there is a 9". Also have a 5" ETX. A push pull dob is good for beginners. Also have a solar scope PST with Bryan. Michelle: Please call a PST a personal solar telescope. If someone borrows and damages a scope, are they responsible for the cost? Mike: Bigger issue is if someone just takes it and leaves with it. Michelle: Deposit? Mike: We just make sure they are in good standing for 3 months, driver license, and get them to sign the form. Not aware of any scope theft or damage. Just wear and tear.

- Bryan: Happy to help at the public events, will be at the May 7 event. I will be there for the lunar eclipse Scott and the May 6 / 7 events. Want to be on list for Astronomy Day.
- Abdul: Still have several calendars. Have 16 left, less a couple, so maybe 10 – 12 available. Dennis: Could slip in with the meteorite gifts. Ed: Promote them at the membership meeting? Dennis: Common that they don't all get sold. Can take one for Glenlea. Can also give out at the public events.
- Russell: Nothing
- Michelle: Nothing
- Ed: Will put together an invite for this Friday's membership meeting.

13. Next Meeting Monday May 2, 7:00 p.m.

14. Adjourn

8:20 PM

	Name	Signature	Date
Secretary	Ed Wright		