RASC Winnipeg Centre

COUNCIL MEETING 4 Apr 2025

DRAFT MINUTES WORKING COPY

Present: Mark Irvine (Chair), Scott Young (recorder), James Fast, gAIL Wise, Daemon NIghtshade, Ed Wright, Rhianna Cohen, Marc Sarrasin, Wing Kwong, Bryan Stach, Judy Anderson, Stan Runge

1. **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (President)** -

Mark Irvine introduced himself and presented the CEntre's land acknowledgement, and welcomed James and Rhianna to Council.

MOTION 202504-01 Moved by James F.. & seconded by Ed W. that Daemon Nightshade be appointed to the position of Councillor.

Motion 202504-01 was CARRIED.

2. **Adoption of Agenda and Previous Minutes (President)** -

MOTION 202504-XX Moved by Scott Y. that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion 202504-02 was CARRIED.

MOTION 202504-03 Moved by Judy A. & seconded by XXX that the minutes of February 6, 2025 and March 3, 2025 be approved as circulated.

Motion 202504-03 was CARRIED.

3. **Reporting of electronic motions (President)** -

Motion to investigate some surplus Toronto Centre equipment.

MOTION 202504-04 Moved by Mark I. that the Centre investigate acquiring some surplus telescope equipment from Toronto Centre.

Discussion: Mark - ObsComm will discuss first, then recommend to Council. Shipping may be an issue. Scott: may not be best telescope for a beginner's observatory, should look at ObsComm. Bryan: may be able to help on shipping. Ed: will ObsComm recommend to accept the gift or not.

4. Committee Business

a. Finance Committee (Treasurer: James Fast) - as circulated. Very healthy position. Several term GICs maturing in coming months. Appointment in early May to look at options. Total 26K in 4 GICs, 10K and 9K maturing in next few months (4% interest). Looking to Council for direction - 1-year terms is usual, but may keep some cash more liquid if we have more expenditures. Suggest we stagger the GICs so they don't all come due at once.

Ed: may be Observatory expenses coming up, but no plan yet. Also potential for recession, may see membership losses due to economy.

MOTION 202504-05 Moved by James & seconded by Judy A. that the Financial Report for March 2025 be approved as circulated.

Motion 202504-05 was CARRIED.

Use of credit card can be approved by Executive Committee when it is a purchase approved by Council in advance; new purchases require a motion by Council.

b. Fundraising Committee (Acting Chair: Wing Kwong) - Fundraising Committee terms of reference, didn't get to suggestions that were made but will get to it after this meeting and wee can handle via email.

c. Observatory Committee (Chair: Mark Irvine) - Mark is stepping down as Chair of ObsComm.

MOTION 202504-06 Moved by Mark I & seconded by Daemon. that the ObsComm be made up of Ed wright as Chair, and Jay Anderson, Mike Kakaraks, Stan Runge, and Scott Young. The President is a voting member ex officio.

Motion 202504-06 was CARRIED.

Ed reports: flickering light issue to be dealt with, site visit was postponed by ice storm (now April 12). Big issue: flood resistance, several options to be discussed. Issues: Bathroom has to be moved outside of building, different choices for lifting/floodproofing. What is achievable in 2025, so we can ask for funding. Capacity of resources this year to do work. Judy: not keen on equipment if it isn't appropriate, bathroom is an important item, expedite that without waiting on funding. Bryan: we should put a guide scope on it, could leave ti there. Mark: work through committee on that idea.

d. Spruce Woods Star Party Committee (Chair – Daemon Nightshade) - Committee is formed and met Mar 20, next April 17. Dates: Aug 22-24, 2025. Suggested for 2026: September 11-13, 2026.

MOTION 202504-07 Moved by Daemon & seconded by James. that the 2026 SWSP be Sept 11-13, 2026.

Stan: could it be a week earlier, balance moon and be on long weekend. Scott: Could go back to committee?

Daemon will **withdraw motion**, needs approval next month. People should provide feedback to SWSP committee.

Public event Aug 30, 2025. Passing on Criddle Vane event this year. Gerry S. has agreed to do both events this year.

Marc S: Do more people come on new moon or on long weekend? Daemon: long weekend is best for most people, but if moon interferes it is a problem.

Gail: Does store etc close after long weekend? Daemon: yes.

5. **Discussion:** Astronomy Day activities, Coordination with National - some confusion regarding A Day and PL centenary. Need someone to handle coordination. Wing will handle coordination. James can help with wifi. Scott will live stream as part of national event.

6. **Business Arising**

a. Member Meeting schedule (Judy A.) - next meeting is April 11, gAIL, Jay - The Sky This Month, Gord - Seestar EQ mode, Mike and Stan - loaner scopes, Feature: Jay on Mars. Location is at SmartPark.

May - Scott beginners, Phil Ferguson update on student research.

June is open. Have requested dates from St John's for summer and beyond but no answer yet.

Send contacts for talks to Judy.

Ed: add meeting location to spreadsheet?

Wing: can consider Launch coworking permanently? Mark: U of M is valuable connection Scott: can't depend on single member relationship.

b. Telescopes for Kids (Wing K.) - starting a new giveaway for promo. Scott will go back to running it. Should advertise at Astronomy Day and Science Rendezvous. Wing, Judy Stan, and Scott will work together to make it go.

d. Outreach event - Science Rendezvous May 10, 2025 (Stan R) - collecting names of volunteers, needs a couple minutes at meeting to recruit. Need insurance from national. Scott will send link to Stan.

e. Outreach event - On the Move day care August 15, 2025 (Wing K.) - hasn't contacted them yet. Date was confirmed previously. Need to solicit volunteers. Invoice required (James will do), best to send it via email.

f. U of M (Wing K.) - priority has changed for homecoming, don't want an official star party but could do one before or after. Shouldn't be that ambitious. Date in September would encroach on southwood circle event (Thanksgiving long weekend last year). No homecoming event this year.

Danielle trying to create a fund to hire PL staffing. Could promote their fundraising or provide donation.

g. Outreach banner production (Judy A.) - discussed banner (design circulated). Can buy them one by one (no bulk deal). Wing: could also look at flag sign as well? Judy: should we get 1 or 2 now? Mark: get both if we are confident in the resolution.

f. Glenlea Anniversary 2026 planning discussion (Judy A.) - discussed, adding Chair to be a council member. Judy will update and circulate for next meeting. Judy: think about what we should do as an event. Not a huge public thing, but important for the club.

7. Round Table/Other Reports –

   James: Telescope Tuneup is Saturday, April 5. Donation box for Telescopes for Kids beside coffee/tea/sodas. 1pm - 4pm. Scott will send out a groups.io and Facebook. Link to website.

   Scott: sent in AR to national. We didn't do awards this year, need to do them next year.

   Mark: St Hubertus - need to contact to see what they think of our memo.

   Wing: national "Discover the Universe" educator workshop has space.

   Ed: Bylaws were updated at AGM. Scott: will work with Marc to put on website as well. Ed: has been accepted as volunteer as Science Rendezvous playing the theremin.

8. Next Meeting - May 1, 2025 7pm.

9. Motion to Adjourn

   MOTION 202504-08 Moved by Daemon that the meeting be adjourned.

   Motion 202504-08 was CARRIED.