

RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.



PRESENT: Dennis, Gord, Andrew, Mike Karakas, Bryan, Judy, Abdul, Ed, Mike Stephens

REGRETS: Terra

- | | | | | |
|--|---|------|-----------|------------|
| 1. | Call to order | 7 PM | President | |
| 2. | Indigenous acknowledgement | | Gord | |
| 3. | Welcome and Opening Remarks | | President | |
| 4. | Additions to Agenda | | President | 2 Minutes |
| | • Telescope donation | | | |
| 5. | Adoption of previous minutes | | President | 2 Minutes |
| MOTION: Gord moved to accept. MikeK seconded. Minutes were adopted as presented. | | | | |
| 6. | Financial report | | Treasurer | 2 Minutes |
| | • Abdul: Current bank balance is \$16,721.19. | | | |
| 7. | OLD BUSINESS | | | |
| | a. COVID- Glenlea Opening, Member events | | Dennis | 5 Minutes |
| | • Dennis: Things become more open as of Saturday. What do we plan for Glenlea?
Bryan: Masks? Gord: We would have to check. MikeK: Good. Dennis: Ok restrictions lifted, people must notify Bryan if they want to use it. People should take their own precautions. Can we have club sanctioned events now, e.g., Perseid at Glenlea. Gord: We had the BBQ. Dennis: Club sponsored events are now acceptable. They must notify council to be recognized as club sponsored. | | | |
| | b. Bylaws – Feedback? | | Dennis | 2 Minutes |
| | • Dennis: Just got two pieces of feedback, were all clerical / minor edits from Jay and Scott. We can incorporate them. | | | |
| | c. Incorporation | | Gord | Tabled |
| | d. Next RASC Zoom Meeting | | Dennis | 2 Minutes |
| | • Dennis: Following Friday. Status? Judy: Have a beginner’s session, Bryan with the Perseid meteor shower, Bob Stevens, Judy to send the info to council, Dennis: Two breakout rooms, couple of us chairing, will decide later on the topics. Gord: Could have one as social and the other could be on minor planets. ... Could do one on GEMS. Judy: Could have you in Sept. | | | |
| | e. Strategic Plan | | Ed | 15 Minutes |
| | • Ed: Seeking preliminary feedback – aiming to bring better experience and value to members, taking the experience to the next level with multiple plans. Steps are minor changes and others are major transformation (incorporation). To be successful, need people to step into active roles (HR recruitment). There was appetite to help out from surveys. Next step for Council to review, revise, and vote to accept the plan. Then we would operationalize plan and begin year-1. Gord: How will we get it to membership. Some on SPC who want only exec summary circulated; Gord suggests the whole thing should go out to members. Nothing controversial. | | | |

Council to decide if whole thing or not. MikeK: Read the whole thing. Could be daunting for the membership to read the whole thing. Also could scare people away from council roles. It is a suggestive approach, but is ambitious plan. Gord: Issue is that some of the some stuff might not do. Are we going to ask people to follow along and not tell them why? They might ask for background. Could publish cheat sheet and have whole document available. Ed: Makes sense. MikeS: Some members will glass over with the 60 pages. For transparency should have full document, but amazing document, well thought out, it was good the SPC called out deficiencies. Judy: Originally thought to publish the exec summ, but it is very cursory. I would say should ensure nothing pejorative, and allow people to either read the exec summary or the whole thing. Gord: Could put out a summary and ask people to provide input. As we roll out FC minutes will be on the website. Dennis: So an ES is to be developed, then in the Sept meeting go through the ES. **ACTION Judy to do the exec summary before September.** Judy: Need to know if council has ideas for changes for the SP. Hoping people are interested enough to read it. **ACTION Council members to shoot questions and concerns to the council list over the next two weeks.** Dennis: Winnicentric is Sept-Oct issue. Thinking to get down to a one pager. Year one actions more detail. Then this refers to the whole document.

- | | | | |
|----|---|--------|-----------|
| f. | Mentor Program Update | Judy | 2 Minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy: Received four people volunteering to mentor and nine to be learners. Assigned seven of the learners to a mentor. Something came up with one of the mentors. Useful to announce to members still looking for mentors. MikeK: He just put his name in. Judy: One or two more mentors would give us more flexibility. Bryan: He can help and fill out the form. | | |
| g. | Operations Manual | Mikes | 5 Minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MikeS: Still doing a lot of reading. Lots of learning curve. Tough until after labour day. It is a work in progress. Gord: Definitely want to focus on bylaws draft in terms of operations manual so it dovetails with Bylaws. | | |
| h. | Centre meetings break out rooms/surveys | All | 5 Minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (already discussed) | | |
| i. | Social Events Post Covid | All | Tabled |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dennis: What should we try to organize, Perseid night. Happens Aug 12 as the peak. Aug 13 is the monthly meeting. Dennis: I could host the night if on Saturday Aug 14. MikeK: Moon sets at 11:40. Dennis: Ok members night on Aug 14. Gord: and hoping to catch tail end of Perseids. Simple twilight starts at 9:00. Make it for 9:30, and they can set up scopes with a bit of light, and then observe meteors when it's darker. | | |
| j. | Scout Camp | Gord | 5 Minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gord: Planning meeting next week. That will determine the week: either last week Sep or first week Oct. We discussed timing of the new moon (Oct 6) and Thanksgiving (Oct 11). Any later it's too cold, any earlier, it gets too busy with start of school. Gord: It is not our choice. MikeS: Sep 25 is waxing gibbous rising at 9:28pm, and there will also be planets out. | | |
| k. | Mission, Vision, Values – Feedback | Dennis | 5 Minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was posted in the forums. Ed to track it down. Gord: It was posted to RASC Winnipeg Mail forum. He put in the General forum and pinned it to the top. | | |

8. Job Descriptions
- a. Beginner Session Coordinator Judy Tabled
 - Scott will do September (need to reconfirm – possibly Gord to replace him with assembling your German equatorial mount), Gerry will do October; Jay will do November meeting. Two other speaker suggestions (one from Gord and one from Gerry in person talking on Mars). Gord: Also Alan Maklem volunteered too.
 - b. Newsletter editor Gord Tabled
 - c. Membership Coordinator Gord Tabled
 - d. Webmaster Gord Tabled
 - e. Loaner Scope Coordinator Abdul Tabled
9. Break at halfway point Dennis 10 Minutes
10. Updates
- a. Light Abatement Terra 5 Minutes
 - Dennis: Terra sent an update via email. Terra (via email) : *Briefly, I'll mention that I have still been in touch with National about SWPP DSP, and it seems like there was some lack of communication, so I'm acting as a sort of go-between at the moment. Also, the intern who was working on overhauling the DSP application process and acting as my contact with the LPA council has finished his term, so there will be changes in communication, but I'm going to keep passing information to the appropriate members (my computer went caput recently, so I'm a bit behind on emails).*
 - b. Youth Outreach Andrew 5 Minutes
 - Andrew: some young people can come by. Andrew can help with Scouts, Dennis: Should we organize a youth event? Andrew: He can jot down ideas with dates and locations.
 - c. Work with like minded organizations Dennis
 - Dennis: Next week to call Oak Hammock Marsh and the Nature Conservancy for a public event. All favoured continuing with Oak Hammock. Gord: There was a question from Robin Clarke about a formalized relationship with Grand Beach. The ranger was shining lights on telescopes as it was thought to be a party at first and the marsh is the primary viewing area with bugs. BHP might need to have a council member talking to them. Gord to talk to Grand Beach. Dennis: The BHP contact should come from council. Gord: I will talk to BHP as well. Dennis: Come up with a generic date and arrange insurance (park BHP for the moment). Many Prov Parks refer us back to Spruce Woods for the organizational logistics.
11. Budget 2021 – develop based on strategic plan Dennis/Abdul. 5 Minutes
- Dennis: Parking this because moving to a finance committee. Ed: Dates for this? Dennis: Need a committee by October and making a mini-model and put together a basic budget (from part of the strategic plan). Would be the calendar year. Gord: Definitely need budget for approval at AGM in January with the new council.
12. SWSP Dark Sky Preserve recognition 7 August Dennis 2 Minutes
- Dennis: This is No longer a recognition event, but just a public event. About 10 volunteers so far, so this will be happening.
13. Merchandise store Gord 2 Minutes
- Gord: Waiting on my order. Ordered T-shirt, hat, and stickers. We now have an active store. It is our logo on a variety of items. Council should look at the store. We realize

revenue on everything sold. We won't need to worry about having inventory or printing, as it's print-on-demand. The prices are not that bad, about \$35 for a premium T-shirt. It allows the customer to customize the T-Shirt. MikeK: Are there any pins e.g., for SWSP? Gord: No would be a promo marketing company for that. A Headingley indigenous company can do it, but they are currently snowed under. Gord: We should make this a production for next year's SWSP. This has been in the strategic plan.

14. WAVE Accounting

Gord

5 Minutes

- Gord: The free accounting package is what the financial committee should look into. It is double entry, easy to use, like quick books, they make money with payroll which we won't have. The outfit is large and successful enough to persist for a while, and the finance committee should start using it as of Jan 1, 2022, and then Council can use read-only access to the current state of the accounts. This will be better than having everything reside with one person. This will put the paperwork online. Ed: When can we get volunteers for the Finance Committee? Gord: Could solicit in Sept for people. Dennis: We should brainstorm to come up with names for these comms because know the people have the skillsets. Council to think about who to be on the committee. MikeK: Mark Irvine volunteered. Gord: Maybe a presentation at the Sept meeting, do a PPT deck, and do the PPT at the Sep meeting, could solicit some immediate feedback. Would send the PPT out via email after soliciting for volunteers.

15. Contact reports

Gord

5 Minutes

- Gord: One of the positions is the volunteer coordinator, they would run with this. Could table until we have this coordinator. Dennis: You can input info on the new National site for any events. This is a public outreach report.

16. Insurance if time available

Dennis

5 Minutes

- Dennis: Must remember if doing in a Provincial Park, must have insurance. Anytime doing an event should be asking whether we need this. Gord: There are two topics: event and coverage for the centre comes due in October (seem to be paying twice what we should be). Coverage for the Centre needs to be renewed in October – finance committee should tackle that... We should talk about this at next meeting.

17. NEW Business

- Council Banking issues

Abdul

10 minutes

- i. Abdul: Spoke with bank rep last week. For the GIC getting 1 to 1.5% / year. Next option is mutual funds (low, med 4 to 6%, high risk up to 9%). Gord: That will be too high risk. And it also has to be fluid as we're anticipating spending money. Abdul: Could recommend low risk. Ed: Could try a high interest daily savings online bank. They have higher rates.
- ii. Abdul: For online access, one person has, just one card at a time, one username and pw at a time, would work for the Zoom acct. One risk is that one person would authorize a payment. It would be a debit card. We would not be allowed to apply for a credit card. Gord: It would typically be limited to the person making deposits. Likely would be the Treasurer. Dennis: For recurring bills would be pre-approved by council. Any onetime would be pre-approved by council. Abdul: They asked for another meeting to sign the paperwork. Gord: Once the finance committee is constituted can proceed. Abdul: Believes that the risk of using this card should be very low. Dennis: So, will hold off until Finance Committee.

- Judy: Nothing more to add. Getting a good reception on the initial matches for the mentorship program.
- Dennis: All our handouts will be used up this weekend. Move up to \$200 to purchase promotional materials from National for future use. Abdul: \$300-\$400 was a previous cost for this. Gord: Suggest we review what is available, and maybe consider something Centre-specific. But yes, supports an immediate order for general material. Dennis: Will hold off until after SW public event before ordering to see what materials are left.

20. Adjourn 9 PM

- a. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

	Name	Signature	Date
Secretary	Ed Wright		