

RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 7:15 p.m.



PRESENT: Dennis, Mike Karakas, Gord, Bryan, Ed, Mike Stephens, Abdul (late arrival)

REGRETS: Judy, Terra Andrew,

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| 1. Call to order | 7 PM | President |
| 2. Indigenous acknowledgement | | |
| 3. Welcome and Opening Remarks | President | |
| 4. Additions to Agenda | President | 2 Minutes |
| 5. Adoption of previous minutes | President | 2 Minutes |

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| MOTION: Gord moved, MikeS seconded, PASSED |
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| 6. Financial report | Treasurer | 2 Minutes |
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- Abdul (later in meeting): No change from last month. Balance in bank +/- \$300 from last time. Just processes the insurance. That was close to \$600. Maybe \$300 to \$400 from the membership. Gord: Will send invoices for the website. Also, Scopes for kids voted \$200 for the T4Ks. Would like cheque for that. Abdul: Yes, will do that. Gord: There is a spreadsheet in the T4K folder for that.
7. OLD BUSINESS
- Bylaws, Discussion for Friday meeting Dennis 5 Minutes
 - Dennis: Person gets to speak to the motion once. Gord: People should have reviewed prior to the meeting. Dennis: Have not heard boo from anyone on these. Yes, show of hands for contingency. Needs the membership list up, member in good standing. Gord to do that. We will accept people in the 60-day grace period. Limit of 2 mins for first and 1 minute for second time. If there is a tie, Ed can vote because he cannot vote in the poll. Suspect we will not see a lot of discussion. Will limit people to two periods of discussion. Two minutes the first time and one minute the second time.
 - Incorporation Gord Tabled
 - Next RASC Zoom Meeting Judy 2 Minutes
 - Dennis: Draft set of slides are ready to go. Good with the timeline for the membership meeting. (We tested the polling function which worked correctly.)
 - Strategic Plan Ed 2 Minutes
 - Ed: Little to add on the plan at this point. Gord: Can table this. It is done and published. Volunteer and meeting coordinator. No responses for those. Should talk about volunteers later.
 - Operations Manual Mikes 5 Minutes
 - MikeS: Progress is slow. Talked last night. Taking longer than expected.
 - Social Events Post Covid All Tabled
 - Budget 2022 Abdul/Fin Com 10 Minutes
 - Dennis: Abdul was supposed to send. Ed: Was Abdul getting cooperation?
Gord: Abdul might be having difficulty getting people to go in the right direction. Dennis or I could talk to Mark Irvine. ACTION Gord to reach out to Mark Irvine.

- Contact Reports Gord 2 Minutes
 - Gord: Tabled pending volunteer coordinator as that is the person who should be dealing with this.
- Council Banking Issues Abdul/Fin Com 5 Minutes
 - No update.
- Volunteer and Meeting Coordinator All 2 minutes
 - Dennis: Now just volunteers. Gord: Should take the Silvia approach people. Who do we want to approach? Dennis: Will leave to the new council.

8. CENTRE EVENTS

- St. Malo Spring Event 2022 Gord 5 Minutes
 - Gord: Got lots of volunteers, 8 or 9 people. Will have a Zoom meeting. Divvied it up to spread out the work. Al Macklin for site stuff. Have lots of hands. It's a go. Silvia is doing something different. She is doing SWSP her way. MikeK: Fantastic work getting volunteers. Some people interested in participating a bit more. Nice to see the reciprocal interest. MikeS: To Gord will be more available once mom and dad issues resolved. Dennis: His intention this year is to monitor SWSP more closely to ensure they have sufficient volunteers. We want to bring more stability to it next year. Dennis: Really impressed at the organization of this. There appears to be a huge pool of people willing to help. There was a big thing at National council regarding insurance because a lot of people not following the protocol to be covered.
- Geology Field Trip Dennis Tabled to Spring
- CN Railroaders Gord 2 Minutes
 - Gord: Russell has possibility of getting grant from CN for his volunteerism, but we are not yet incorporated. CN is asking for a business number, and we need to be incorporated for that. MikeK: Russell is an enthusiastic young intelligent guy.

9. OUTREACH

- Scouts Canada Gord 2 Minutes
 - Gord: Put them off until the spring. There are 65 kids at Amisk. Not enough people to work with them. Told them we will let them know when starting in the spring. Age 5 to 14.
- Telescopes for Kids All 2 Minutes
 - Gord: We have 20 entries. Most last minute. Many were low effort entries. However, last ones were better. One teacher from a school division entered for her school in economically depressed area, more like a scope for libraries situation. They would keep logs and see if it is getting used. Could be a Starblast 4.5 tabletop model. Did purchase 8-24 zoom lenses for it. Following that model for two of the scopes that we have. Could pilot this. However, if more decent entries from kids, then might wait until new year. Would be < \$500 for the pilot of this. I will send press releases out. Will wrap them. Press coverage should be good. All 5 video segments on CTV were good. Got the opportunity to promote on Global. Dennis: Sadler from National donating \$200. Gord: Some stuff sold quickly. We funded two telescopes and 4 eyepieces from that.

- Fischer River Cree Nation Gord 5 Minutes
 - Gord: Gentleman from there, north of Teulon by 1.5 hours, does winter survival courses. He wants an astronomy component. Could get Jerry to do GLP tours. It will be in the dead of winter. Might be an opportunity for us to get out to a few first nations.
- U of M Outreach Gord 5 Minutes
 - Dennis: No time to reach out to Danielle. Gord: Wait until after Xmas.
- 10. Break at halfway point Dennis 10 Minutes
- 11. Free Press article Ed 2 Minutes
 - Ed: This is in progress.
- 12. Fundraising Committee Ed 2 Minutes
 - Ed: Gave a background on this role. Came out of the strategic plan. Believe it is an important financial component. Other organizations have this. It is overarching. This is role is of value for initiatives that are longer term, e.g., philanthropic organizations and government. Also helps with consistent messaging, developing a list of contacts. That said we have learned about the volunteers that are out there. Might not be as easy as we like to get someone into a role like this. We need to operationalize the strategic plan including the positions. MikeK: Wing Kwong might be up his alley. If targeting someone to have discussion with, he might be that person. Dennis: Yes, shown in last 3 months not a lot of volunteers. Maybe leave for now but when reviewed by new council. Gord: The dissenting view in the strategic planning process. Was easier for raising funds for a project when you have something to raise funds for and for T4K we were successful at that. That was more like what we were thinking. Judy and I thought each project to be responsible. We don't have anything to fund raise for now. Ed: The upgrades to the observatory? Gord: Don't know if doing that yet. Just the pad for now. Bryan: Agree with Gord. Dennis: The concept of fundraising is not lost on people.
- 13. Updates
 - Light Abatement Terra 5 Minutes
 - Youth Outreach Andrew 5 Minutes
 - Observatory Committee Gord 5 Minutes
 - Gord: Nothing done on this yet. Ran into winter. Likely will take a couple of months. Do need to return to Glenlea to return ETX and the 4.5 which Jerry repaired. Once weather clears may want to focus on having members observing night. We have a lot of demand. A lot of new members. Weather has been the problem. Might not get a clear warm night until March.
 - Work with like minded organizations Dennis 5 Minutes
 - Dennis: No time on this so far.
 - Nominating Committee Gord 2 Minutes
 - Bryan: No nominations for the two positions – two council positions. Might post on the RASC email list. Would wait until after the bylaws. Gord: Should use the three channels – email, website, and Facebook. Taking this opportunity to nominate Mike and Mike.
 - Membership Abdul 2 Minutes
 - Dennis: No update. Gord: We have someone purchasing a gift membership for an American. There is no address information in there. Dennis: Contact National to make sure does not get lost. Send a message to Phil for the member services person.

- Mentor Program Judy 2 Minutes

14. NEW Business

- Interest Groups All 5 Minutes
 - Dennis: Have the one group – binos – Darren is posting. He has three members.
- Speaker gifts All 2 Minutes
 - Dennis: We bought some meteorites, Gord: Was supposed to be volunteer coordinator. We need to decide who to approach for that position.
- National Council report Dennis 2 Minutes
 - Dennis: Was at the Nation council meeting. They are moving to a new office, better place with more room.
 - There is a slide show for insurance. This is a liability insurance and an accident insurance. They are two separate things. The liability insurance is if a scope gets broken. For SWSP the Parks want to be named on the liability insurance. Critical component is it must be a RASC event. So, the council needs to know about the event. There is also an accident insurance policy in case someone gets injured which is slightly different. We also want to be reporting outreach events to help them in applying for funding.
 - Dennis: When we incorporate, we must get the directors and operators liability. We discussed what is covered and what is not. Meant to protect the decision-making body with a level of protection so they cannot go after your personal property. Ed: One of the reasons to incorporate is to provide some liability protection. Gord: The liability for directors of a corp is around employees. Been told by a judge you cannot sue the directors. Dennis: Been through there, you can protect yourself, but you need to hire a lawyer. The director and officer legal fees would be covered by this insurance.
 - Dennis: National has a small surplus. Robotic telescope \$12K from being self sufficient. There is a *Legacy Fund* to support observatories. We can apply to it. Gord: Yes, the one in Alberta. Any talk of expanding scope of use of the robotic scope? Dennis: No not brought up. Gord: Concern on availability of the robotic scope for others. Need to keep pushing. Dennis: I will put something out to them. (Abdul joined)
- Donation to OHMIC (Oak Hammock Marsh) and MB Museum Dennis 5 Minutes
 - We bought memberships at these organizations.

MOTION: Gord moved to buy memberships, MikeS seconded. One corp membership for each. Dennis: We gave these away last year. We contact them and get 'x' number of memberships. Could do a random draw from the membership. PASSED.

- Bill Macdonald Dennis 2 Minutes
 - Dennis: Gord gathered info about Bill. He made a significant donation to the RASC. Did not come to us because we are not incorporated. Something like \$***. Lisa Di Veto is dealing with this. She wants to make sure he is recognized. Dennis: We need to share the writeup with Lisa to ensure that he gets recognized. MikeK: He had a subdued presence. Dennis: Was important that people did reach out to him. You never know what that means to that person. Ed: Concern about legacy giving. Gord: We are not a charity. National is a charity and estates want that.

- Binocular Mount Dennis 5 Minutes
 - Dennis: Parallelogram mount for binos. Gord: Darren brought this forward. We have a loaner pair on a tripod. Tripod is brutal for anything close to zenith. I have an Orion parallelogram mount. They are good, sturdy. Think we should gete the parallelogram mount and get rid of the tripod mount. MikeK: I support that. Dennis: Price? Gord: Is under \$500.

MOTION: Gord moved, MikeK seconded. PASSED

- Awards
 - Bryan: Thought that Jay should receive some sort of award. Gord: Maybe a lifetime award. Bryan: Will make a list of candidates for that. Gord: Should we think of a life achievement award? Who else on the awards committee? Ed: Volunteered.
- Website
 - Gord: Obvious National not providing a mailing list that will be worth anything. Running out of our hosting arrangement Dec 2022. Microsoft has Azure and Amazon has AWS. He has signed up for Azure. One of the apps is Mailman (free, standard app for this) for this functionality. The Microsoft svc is quite reliable. Can set up a public facing list as well so public can join the list. Need someone to work on the content side. Would move WordPress to Azure. All HTML and database, easy to do. Would be transparent to the users. Dennis: Cost? Free for a year. Tiered based on utilization. Might be \$5 to \$6 per month which is less than what we are paying. It is a virt svr with gigs of RAM and gigs of storage. It will be less expensive than what we do now. It is Unix command line stuff. There are no training wheels. Dennis: No one opposed. You have the blessing. Abdul: Does it have notification features, e.g., for an event or star party? Gord: That is the whole point. Mailman s/w has a graphical interface. Gord: Might be able to automate the function of joining to the national membership list.

15. Next Meeting – Fixed dates first Tuesday of the month Dennis

- Ed to book the 2022 series. Use the club Zoom acct.

16. Round Table All 5 Minutes

- MikeK: Have one member in the NCC willing to donate an 11” Celestron SC scope with a CPC mount (nice alt az mount) for a charitable donation.

17. Adjourn 9:12 PM

| | Name | Signature | Date |
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| Secretary | Ed Wright | | |