RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Monday, February 29, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Dennis Lyons, Judy Anderson, Marc Sarrasin, Wing Kwong, Bryan Stach, Kamala Nanjundeshaiah, Ed Wright, Michelle Boyce, Daemon Nightshade, Mark Irvine, Mike Karakas, Stan Runge, Scott Young (at 8:10pm)

REGRETS:

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

MOTION Ed moved and Judy seconded to accept the minutes. CARRIED

5. Financial Report — Mark
   - Mark: Quiet month. $12,770 balance, couple of transactions only, cheque cleared. Reminded the bank about a credit card. Contemplating filing the tax return. Can do short T2 form. Will be some work to do. Filled in insurance form for the directors and officers ins. No meetings with the Finance Comm. Only meeting when required. Put off reconsideration of banking until get a credit history.
   - Stan: Does the bank account balance include the GIC's? Mark: No, there are 3 GIC's currently, $9,000.00 earning 4.75%, another securing the credit card for $2,000, and a third that cashed out to a savings account under the old bank structure for about $1,030.00, that needs transferring to our operating account. I have to go in to transfer from the old structure to the new structure. Operating balance is quite high for what we need given current transactions and not earning interest, but could be invested for some additional interest income at least until we have a project on which to spend it. We do not have a capital plan yet, but need to retain a higher balance to exclude fees. The $12K probably ... Ed: Audit results? Mark: That was completed in January (interviews with signatories were the last step). Evaluated the controls. Must send one report with the T2.

MOTION Mark moved and Daemon seconded to pass the report. CARRIED

6. Committee Work Reports
   a. Policies and Procedures Manual — Dennis
   - Dennis: Nothing new

   b. Observatory Committee — Michelle/Scott
   - Michelle: Gave intro at the beginning, Dennis gave some direction from last Council meeting to look at, Glenlea for training, northern observatory, robotic telescope, relation between us and U of M. I gave out homework to read the strategic plan and the minutes from Sept. Haven't read the strat plan. Also discussed flood maintenance, lock replacement, damage to doors, shifting of building into the pier; determined that Jay Anderson is facilities manager so he will look into that. Some discussion of raising the observatory in order to fix the base (not sure how yet). There is talk about raising the whole building. Would be digging to be done.

- There was a question of quorum. So was a discussion rather than decisions. Will review strat plan at later half next month. We will need Terms of Reference for the observatory committee describing roles and functions. Lastly there was some toe stepping because Wing was keen about Assiniboine Park for outreach. The misunderstanding about the outreach event at Assiniboine Park, now cleared up. Scott was unable to attend that meeting. We will put off any major liaising until solar observing is done.
- Michelle: Scott is sorting out distribution of the keys.

c. Member Meeting — Judy

- Beginner Session – Dennis
- AGM @ 7:30pm
- What's Up? - Bryan Stach
- What's New? – Michelle Boyce
- Main speaker – Dr. Marc Buie: "Latest results from the Lucy mission" including the recent Dinkinesh flyby and new occultation results

-- April meeting: Dr. Philip Ferguson from UofM - STARLab at UofM, and CubeSat project
-- May meeting: "Your eclipse experience" from member input
- booked through to August

d. Finance Committee — Mark Irvine

e. SWSP — Daemon

- Daemon: Went over everything from Silvia, contacted park, Aug 17 for the public event. They are wondering about Kernel Ridge. Has paperwork to reserve the field for the star party. Silvia says cannot apply for insurance until April. Only Wing responded on helping out with the party. Judy: Jay and I will help as well. Daemon: Will apply for insurance after the eclipse trip. Stan: Did I not discuss the me doing the registration? Yes I will help. Kamala: And me for the breakfast. Main issue will be booking the speaker.
- Stan: Are you aware is 2 days before the full moon? Daemon: Yes good for pub event.

f. Explore the Universe — Stan - No update

g. Eclipse 2024 — Kamala/Scott

- Dennis: Scott says everything set up for April 8, call for volunteers out, coord at Assiniboine Park. Judy: Eclipse Glasses. Dennis: Yes, I have $85 from sales at last meeting, one other person is buying for $5. I should send out an email saying that we can sell them. we are still selling eclipse glasses (although cheaper at museum, at least right now).

h. Fundraising — Wing

- Wing: In Feb there was sale of $68 from the postcards, e-transferred by Judy to our bank account. Looking for more postcard sales at the March events. Waiting for the Telescopes for Kids program to conclude with awarding of the contest winners, then will take down the current fundraising page and will put up a GoFundMe page awaiting definition of next contest. Mark: Will I be getting invoices for those scopes? Dennis: Ask Scott when he arrives after 8:00. Wing: I would know in the future when I take that program over.

7. Business Arising

a. Telescopes for Kids — Scott

- Scott: Did update last week to Council, not raising a huge chunk money, but lots of scope donations, pretty much have been giving one to everyone who enters. Talked about inviting winners to the workshop. A couple of the donated scopes would benefit from someone seeing how they work. Talked about the Fund-Raising Committee taking over the fundraising in the future, which should be good. I will send names to Council.

There were a couple of people who went and did the judging. They suggested first amongst equals. Can decide who getting best scopes, would like other people to do that. Kamala: I did encourage a couple of people to apply. Good that can give for everyone. We could consider Brandon and other cities. Scott: Last year we had someone from out of town. Judy: Yes we delivered it and ended up in a blizzard. Mike: How much raised? Scott: Was $420 this year but was the same page as last year, which confused people because included the funds from last year. Mark: Will be sending receipts for reimbursement? Scott: Will send receipts for the donations. Mark: There money on the balance sheet, $885, is from the potluck, I have money ready to be spent for the prgm. Scott: Wow, well we can put that for the next iteration. The money in Go Fund Me page has not been spent yet. We will need to buy one scope plus we got 4 donations. Dennis: Will need to talk about free memberships.

- Judy: For 11 or 13 applicants a few years ago, we said if they win they need to arrange for transport. Wing: The new scope to the top entry? Scott: Yes, the $420 could be for one that is an good intermediate scope.
- Dennis: Dennis asks whether we should pay for a student membership ($61 for student member). Scott: Probably around $50 to be submitted to National for us. Michelle: From reading the email probably not necessary to have free memberships. Don't think they go a lot out of the memberships. Kamala: I do think the membership not required as they can already come to the public meetings, we could use for other outreach. Can use that money for another purpose. Scott: Cannot switch to another purpose. Dennis: Okay no support for that. Michelle: Are we obligated to use for that purpose? Mark: Yes, we are obligated. Dennis: So we are obligated but not necessarily this year.

b. NCC — Dennis/Silvia
   - Dennis: They contacted Silvia.

c. Glenlea, cleanup, damage repair (Jay) — Ed
   - Ed: sent email saying want to close the claim off.
   - Judy: Clean up after the mice. Cleaned up, set traps, Jay has a plan for the wall for a lock for going upstairs. That might have to be moved if building is raised.
   - Michelle: Can we get treated lumber?

d. Website – — Marc
   - Marc: Went from Oct 2023 and added quite a few people. Not sure why not registered to the website. Close to up to date. Will keep going from Oct to now. Hardest part is done. In Groups.io I add new members in the month. Have 244 members, 3 new in past month, 213 paid, 9 are due, 22 have lapsed. Judy: What to do with the Groups.io notices. Mark: I get them too. Marc: Must be because you are an admin. Wing: Would it be a good idea to have a Google Sheet with membership numbers, increment count. Dennis: We sit between 200-260 over the past 10 years. Any other information, we would have to treat with very strict confidentiality. Not sure would achieve much. Michelle: The website has scripts to pull from the National DB, could use that to generate stats. Ed: Recall there was a month X month tracking during COVID. Some small spikes after events such as eclipses according to Dennis Judy: The confidentiality issue is important, but Jay tracks, Marc might be tracking as well, agree with Dennis. Wing: Would be good to correlate between that with the Marketing activities. Michelle: Believe that would be good. Dennis: Maybe Marc for the next meeting, well you gave the number.

- This table sent by Marc to the CHAT, as an example of the month X month membership count.

Name	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024
Winnipeg Centre	230 2 12 220	220 4 15 209	209 5 14 200	200 6 8 198

e. Strategic Plan/Bylaws — Dennis
- Dennis: Leaving for now. … Did everyone look at them.
- MVV – Dennis, Judy, Ed, etc. collectively still comfortable with current language.

f. Quilak award Wilfred Buck — Dennis
- Dennis: Could not connect. Was a movie made about Wilfred Buck about what he does for aboriginal people. "Wilfred Buck" is the title of the movie. Michelle sent link to the CHAT: https://filmfreeway.com/WilfredBuck Wing: Might be a good thing to do for a movie night.

g. Officers and Directors Insurance, deductible/amt — Dennis
- Dennis: Mark got the form. Mark indicated $3M coverage, $1000 deductible is the lowest. Mark: I put $5K as deductible. Risk is extremely low, but it is prudent to have this insurance.

h. Centre Awards — Dennis
- Dennis: Judy made up the award certificates, plaques set up. Judy: They will need your signature before the meeting. Sunday would be good to drop by. Stan: Storms coming mid Sunday.

i. Workshops — Stan
- Stan: The workshop still a go for next month. Got request from James to confirm the people participating. Looking for something later, Scott sent message Planetarium might want to return to brand new scope classes and how to use it. Trying to contact Scott about the plans. If that does not go there are 2 other options: Observing ones and one with Richard Conrad on imaging. Scott's would be directed toward open public who want to bring a scope out. The one in March will be higher level while what Scott was talking about is more beginner oriented. Michelle: This is good. When I was teaching someone brought a DOB on a GEM. They didn't know how to use it.

j. AGM — Dennis
- Dennis: Order will be approve the minutes, annual reports (president's and annual financial statements), no special resolution, election happens. To Mark you ready to provide the report for last year. Dennis: You will need a slide for the meeting plus the YE financials. Stan: Do we present what goes to National? Dennis: No is an itemized list the way should be done. Judy: You can do on the computer. Also need a way to collect votes. Dennis: Yes last year Ed had a poll built. Dennis: It is accept minutes, accept financials, and the elections. The quorum is 25 or 15% of 209 or 31 people. He will announce that. Mark: Includes those online. Dennis: Will ask people online that if they vote they are declaring they are a paid-up member in good standing. If two people on an account, they voted as two.

k. Elections/Recruiting — Dennis/Brian/Stan
- Dennis: Of all the nominations, we are still short one position. Reached out to another individual they declined. Sent out another message to the membership. Let Stan myself know. We can ask for nominations at the meeting as well.

l. Solar Eclipse April 8 volunteers? Dennis
   - Kamala has volunteered.

m. RASC Store All
   - (Take off agenda for future meetings)

n. Science Rendezvous Stan
   - Stan: The date is May 08, have half dozen people to happen on that event, similar to the Astronomy Day the month later. Will look for 2 more people to help with the session. Usually have about 4 scopes outside. Usually food available, T-Shirt provided to people who attend. Michelle: Add me as an extra.

o. Sunrise School district Dennis
   - Dennis: No update

p. Committee minutes Dennis

q. Committee size/Quorum Dennis
   - Dennis: This was brought up. We need to define the max size of the committees. Finance Committee defines the size. The bylaws are silent on this. Think about do we want a max size of a comm? Then what is quorum? E.g., the membership is 15%. The minutes, how those are to be circulated. We have not told the committee that minutes should go to Council then to the website. When we start the new year, we should set out what is expected. For the Observatory Comm, Jay might not be in the comm, but is working with them. Scott: During the first round of bylaws there was resistance to specifying. We dd not do that with the Observatory Comm, finding the weakness of that approach. The big issue is that the committees are supposed to do a certain amount of work. Since nothing there the chair could do anything. Need rules for the future work. Need rules for the future committees, need those rules spelled out. If just passing to a person to lead, they have to figure that out. Michelle: I am thinking that the Observatory Committee should be standing. I would like to give to the Observatory Committee what its function is. The people there should have better sense of what quorum should be. Should come back with its function. I only found out last meeting that Jay is the Facility Manager. Dennis: As soon as Observatory Committee is said, everyone thinks Glenlea. Scott: Maybe we can try to figure out the Facility Manager position. Never heard of that. Judy: Was early in COVID. Michelle: I actually by accident called it the Observing Committee. But once determine its function can relook at the name. Dennis: Maybe should be in the bylaws. Judy: The bylaws were written as a "living document" and should change if Council wants it to because we were starting from scratch. They were written as living doc. Some is what must do. You could write Terms of Ref without being standing. Do think about changing.

r. Astronomy Day Dennis/Mike
   - Mike: Brought this up because late start last year. Needed a jump on it. Conflict with the Whiteshell, curious about Assiniboine Park, could drain resources, it is May 18. Judy: Yes is a conflict with the Whiteshell event, Mike: I can volunteer for either the Whiteshell event or the Astronomy Day. Scott: We used to have an Astronomy Day Coord, they would lead it. There is the spring and fall day now. Now that there is more than Astronomy Day for outreach, everybody wants those same dates all the time. Maybe we need a broader Outreach person to look at the dates. Daemon: Also I suggest that if doing Assiniboine Park, maybe just have one location rather than Polo Park and Assiniboine Park like last year. Wing: Is Astronomy Day a full day? Mark: Last year was a day solar obs and then evening at Assiniboine Park. Not simple to

coordinate. Mark: I could coord again this year. Last year Daemon ran the Chapters day session and Mike was in charge of the evening session at Assiniboine Park. We know how to get insurance. Scott: Would be good for just one location this year. Dennis: I will get the announcement out for volunteers. This year Mark is coordinating for a day session at Assiniboine Park by the Leaf on May 18th. Scott: The person you worked with for Assiniboine Park is still listed for that but they are changing jobs, Joy was her name, but her job so big that is being farmed out to other staff. Wing: For the Astronomy Day at the park, need a tent? Scott: Issues with structure, the Park does have some tent facilities especially if in the Community Garden location. Wing: In the open area is covered facilities. Stan: Should we have covered facilities if the outside doesn't go. Dennis: Good ideas here. First need Assiniboine Park to let us in. Mark: Last year just needed the evening.

s. On the move event — Kamala/Mark
   - Kamala: Wrote to them yesterday, she replied, she forgot to reply all. They will be able to support. Said $100 for 3 of us. They are asking for July 19. Kamala asked for July 29. She was asking if moon available. Mark: You and I can discuss and respond.

t. Council onboarding — Dennis/Scott
   - Scott: Michelle said she did not get a manual for what to do. Thought would be good to start off with meeting on how the Council works, the rules of making motions, will help us to formalize this for the Policy and Procedures manual, could discuss as a group, so suggested to have a meeting with the new Council to hash out. Judy: Think is good idea but might get tight before the eclipse events. Would be nice to meet in person. Everyone could come to our house. Michelle: Thinking we will rough a rough manual for the Observatory Comm. Dennis: How about if we say for the May meeting to be in person, there to talk how run the meetings, talk strat plan, what to work on for next year, we will know. Could be for the meeting. April Council is April 4, and may not be even a quorum, given that many are travelling for the eclipse on April 8..

u. Meteorites — Judy
   - After Council indicated support by email for Judy's motion (which CARRIED), Dennis ordered 11 new ones from Ralph ($40 each). Dennis asks for a cheque for $440 for reimbursement and he will pick them up from Ralph. Dennis will email Mark with the details.

v. Whiteshell Outreach — Judy
   - Was in touch with Adam from the Whiteshell Provincial Park a few times. He has told us we can bring trailers into the parking lot at the Goose Sanctuary and park them up behind the bunkhouse at the Sanctuary so they are completely hidden from the main road view. That location is on the way to the Brereton Campground, about 30s from the Goose Sanctuary. There will likely be someone (2 conservation officers and the seasonal staff in the bunkhouses) staying in that bunkhouse as well who will be able to keep an eye out on the trailers if we go walking or into the park. In either case there are multiple locations you could safely store trailers with equipment. He is asking about May 18 or May 19 (Saturday/Sunday of the May long weekend).
   - Michelle may be interested, and would need the campsite. Judy might ask for a group campsite.
   - Mike suggests from his past experience in 2018, that the event wasn't that well attended. Three scopes would be sufficient. The Goose Sanctuary is not overly

convenient to get a big mass of people. Scott used to do the events by himself, and that was usually sufficient. Even two people would be plenty.

- Judy asks whether we should be requesting $200 for holding an 8-hour event. Dennis says yes, ask, but if they say they are giving us a campsite and won't pay, then okay.
- Dennis will ask at the regular meeting for volunteers.

8. Round table All
    - Dennis thanks Mike Karakas for all his service, as this is his last Council meeting. He will still be managing the Loaner Program on behalf of Council, and volunteering.
9. Next Meeting – To be determined in May
    - Dennis: Will leave this as a virtual meeting. The May one will look at a review.
10. Adjourn 9:00 PM

	Name	**Signature**	**Date**
Secretary	Ed Wright		