RASC Winnipeg Centre

COUNCIL MEETING 9 Jan 2025

DRAFT MINUTES

Location: Zoom

Present: Dennis L. (Chair), Judy A., Mark I., Marc S, Stan R., Wing K., gAIL W, Scott Y (recorder).

Regrets: Ed W.

Absent: Bryan S.

1. Call to Order & Land acknowledgement - Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm, a quorum being present, and read the Land Acknowledgement.

2. Welcome and Introductions - Dennis welcomed all members.

3. Adoption of Agenda - The agenda was adopted as circulated by consensus.

4. Adoption of previous minutes

MOTION 202501-01 - Moved by Scott Y.. & seconded by Judy A. that the meeting minutes of 7 Nov 2024 and 5 Dec 2024 be approved as presented.

The motion was CARRIED.

5. Financial Report - Report and current financials were circulated in advance of the meeting.

Got GST return completed; got refund of $68 for 2023. 2024 will be done after the 2024 financials are finalized. Position has been documented well enough that it can be handed to a “new” treasurer as needed, since we have now completed a full fiscal year as an incorporated organization. We have an $8,000 surplus on the year’s results (largely due to eclipse glasses sales).

MOTION 202501-02 - Moved by Mark I. & seconded by Judy A. that the Financial Report be approved as presented.

The motion was CARRIED.

6. Committee Work Reports

a. Policies and Procedures Manual (Dennis) - no report

b. Observatory Committee (Dennis)

MOTION 202501-03 Moved by Scott Y., Seconded by Judy A., that the Observatory Committee Terms of Reference be amended as follows: * Change all instances of "Glenlea" used as the site name to "Glenlea Astronomical Observatory".

* Change Article 2.2 to "*Maintain the Centre's buildings and equipment at the Glenlea Astronomical Observatory in operating condition, including regular and preventative maintenance and reasonable security of astronomical equipment and buildings."*

* Change Article 2.3 to: *"Develop policies and training materials for facilities and equipment at Glenlea Astronomical Observatory, including:*

a. user manual for dome and installed telescope (Meade 12" LX200);

b. rules of site access, lighting usage policy, safety, and use of shared member facilities;

c. training materials and/or events to communicate these policies to all interested members."

* Remove Article 3.4 (Operations Manager)

Wing: Does U of M use "GAO" as their name? Scott: They use individually-named telescopes now.

The motion was CARRIED.

ACTION ITEM: Scott to update document and circulate.

MOTION 202501-04: Moved by Dennis, seconded by Daemon, that the Observatory Committee be comprised of Mark Irvine (Chair), Stan Runge, Ed Wright, Jay Anderson, and Mike Karakas. The term of the Committee will be until the next AGM (currently scheduled for March 2025).

The motion was CARRIED.

Discussion: Should the Observatory Committee be made a Standing Committee? General agreement.

ACTION ITEM: Judy to write the bylaw revision to add ObsComm to the Bylaws.

c. Member Meetings Update (Judy) - January: gAIL doing Beginner's, Bryan is doing What's Up, Jay is doing What's New, main speaker is Dr. Jayanne English. February: Member photos from their electronic telescopes. Need to promote to get submissions.
ACTION ITEM: Dennis: will put in slide deck for meeting.

Ed will not be at meeting so we need a second laptop; Scott will supply. gAIL has already uploaded her presentation to the Google drive.

ACTION ITEM: Scott to bring second laptop, download gAIL's presentation.

d. Explore the Universe (Stan) - no report

e. Fundraising (Dennis) - need terms of reference needed.

ACTION ITEM: Wing will create a draft of Terms of Reference.

MOTION 202501-05: Moved by Scott, seconded by ???, that Wing Kwong be appointed to handle this year's Telescopes for Kids and Holiday Potluck fundraising events.

The motion was CARRIED.

f. Nominating Committee (Dennis) - Need a third member to fill this committee. It was pointed out that if no nominees are found and Scott has to fill another position, he can't be/ have been on the committee. Some discussion about the urgent need for experienced volunteers to let their name stand for senior leadership positions. Workload can be split. In the end, the only nomination we were able to fill was to replace Scott on the Nominating Committee so he can fill in for a fourth term as Centre President if needed.

MOTION 202501-06: Moved by Dennis, seconded by Mark I., that the Nominating Committee be comprised of Dennis Lyons (Chair), Judy Anderson, and Stan Runge.

The motion was CARRIED.

g. Spruce Woods Star Party committee (Daemon)

MOTION 202501-07: Moved by gAIL W., seconded by Wing K., that Daemon Nightshade be appointed Chair of the 2025 Spruce Woods Star Party.

The motion was CARRIED.

ACTION ITEM: Daemon will develop draft terms of reference for the committee and circulate to Council.

7. Business Arising

a. Telescopes for Kids (Wing) - Jan 18 is fundraising event for scopes for kids, no dates set yet for entries or awards for 2025.

ACTION ITEM: Wing K. will call for donations for the silent auction ASAP.

b. Volunteer recruitment and retention (All) - Dennis suggested we should all try to recruit volunteers from the membership.

c. NCC Dark Sky Preserve (Dennis) - the application for a new dark sky preserve moving forward. local business development will put in application, formally defining the border of the dark sky preserve, now going to local property owners to see if they will

approve being part of the preserve. Society recruiting more volunteers to LPA committee to help speed up processing.

d. Glenlea, damage repair (All) - still on agenda even though we parked it at last meeting. Stan: Jay and Stan talked to Milton about electrical issue. Marc S: possibility of frayed wire on outside feed (similar to church experience - get details).

ACTION ITEM: New Observatory Committee to check out electrical issues.

e. Strategic Plan/Bylaws (Dennis) - no report

f. Workshops (Stan) - no progress on new workshop, James Fast and Scott are doing two workshops on Stellarium this month.

g. Website (Marc S.) - Marc S. hasn't had time to connect Scott to being the second person. Did clean-up of databases over holiday from groups.io, but not website. Mark I.: does the second person need to be a council member? Scott: due to private information the person should be on Council.

h. Holiday Potluck (Wing) - venue secured, $100 fee. Liquor license not approved yet. Clarification that BYOB is not allowed under liquor license.

k. U of M meeting for MoA (Memorandum of Agreement) (Judy) - draft comments sent back, no response yet.

l. Banner (Judy) - Judy pointed out we need a designer for these. Wing: ask for volunteer graphic designer? Scott: maybe something available through national? Can ask at meeting.

MOTION 202501-07: Moved by Judy A.., seconded by ???., that up to $400 be allocated to produce 2 free-standing banners for the Centre.

The motion was CARRIED.

m. establishing a "sinking fund" for observatory or telescopes - the idea was discussed, but the majority felt that it was not needed at this time to designate funds.

N. Annual report contribution - Scott will compile. Judy A.: ours was very cursory last year compared to other Centres, was embarrassed about how little our report said.

ACTION ITEM: Dennis will send email with details to Scott

ACTION ITEM: Scott will compile Annual Report.

ACTION ITEM: All will send Scott content on events and activities for 2024 to Scott.

8. Round table

Wing: 2026 is 50th anniversary of Glenlea - should we have a PR/fundraising event?

ACTION ITEM: Dennis will add to future agenda for discussion.

Mark I: is the memorandum with St HubertusGun Club dead?

ACTION ITEM: Dennis: will sign and send to St. Hubertus for signature.

Dennis: happy new year, thank you for time. Next meeting is Feb 13, 2025.

Dennis adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.