RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Monday, July 3, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Judy Anderson, Dennis Lyons, Mark Irvine, Stan Runge, Marc Sarrasin, Bryan Stach, Ed Wright, Daemon Nightshade, Scott Young, Michelle Boyce,

REGRETS: Mike Karakas, Kamala Kodi, Russell Brown,

1. Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement — Dennis
2. Welcome and Introductions — All
3. Adoption of Agenda — Dennis
    - Donation from Wing and AllStar Camera
    - File access
    - Scope donation policy
4. Adoption of previous minutes — Ed

Ed moved and Marc seconded that the previous minutes be adopted PASSED

5. Financial Report — Mark
    - Mark: Spoke to Russell who has yet to submit invoices for May & June for porta potty. Could we save a month's rental if Jay's going to finish the toilet in the dome building. Few differences, Observatory expense climbing, not received the invoices from Russell but he is busy and has not sent the invoices for May and June. Not sure what clauses are in the contract. He has accrued for the expenses so unfavourable variance. Also, the purchases from National for the promo material. The bank balances are all in strong position. Also did some work to acquire a credit card, but they need security to offset the limit, so we need a locked in GIC that we retain ownership. That is RBC's standard practice with NPOs. It is $2,000 for a $2,000 credit limit. Will support our accounting, and will have appropriate authority for sign off. Hopefully this means that people can avoid using their own credit cards for purchases on behalf of RASC. RBC also has a community account with lower fees and no fees for electronic fees. Should reduce from $8-$10 down to $4. Also asked for about $9,000 to go into cashable GICs at 4.5% to maximize interest on our resources (currently the operating account doesn't pay any interest. Only downside is if take out before 1st month, no interest. It is the best approach to not lose interest on our deposits. Still be regular … other authorities need to signoff. They just need the signed minutes and the … The exec just needs to pass through the bank and then will get a credit card. It can be used for the webservice that we pay. This avoids use of own payment methods. Sometimes might be out of pocket still but less. Also, managed to get an invoice out of Wave, a bit clunky, nice part is that if upgrade to other software can do a trial balance. We avoid using Wave's function to use credit card because would be high fee for that.

Mark moved to accept the report, Stan seconded. CARRIED

6. Committee Work Reports
    b. Policies and Procedures Manual — Dennis
        - Nothing
    c. Observatory Committee — Michelle

- Michelle: Not started yet, will send out a Doodle poll to the list of people. I will play the role of delegating and organizing meetings. Bryan: Am I on the committee? Dennis: Bryan sent an email asking to be on the committee. Michelle: Please send the email with the names on the observatory committee. Ideal times for me … Michelle: Forgot how to set up Zoom. Scott: I can help. Mark: Just get 40 minutes.

d. Member Meeting — Judy
   - Judy: Sent out the dates for the mtgs for upcoming year. One meeting not in that room. No meeting in July due to BBQ. Aug 11 gAIL is doing beginners session, Bryan for What's Up, What's New no one yet, Mark doing the main pres. Michelle: I can do the What's New presentation, send me an email. Dennis: I might not be there for Jul 14.

e. Finance Committee — Mark Irvine
   - Dennis: Need the committee volunteers. Should you recruit? Mark: Was Ed, Judy, Abdul and Mark (chair). Not sure if I have access to the main list or not. Ed: Send the msg to me.

f. Star Parties — Russell/Dennis
   - Dennis: I have tried a lot to reach Russell, stone cold dead, couple of meetings since at Council meeting. I don't know if anything has been done. Feelings of the Council? Scott: Cliff still involved? Judy: We really need to have SWSP. I could contact SW and see what has been done. Silvia has the contact info. I can do registration. I could do e-transfer to the RASC account. Mark: Don't do it until the account is converted. Dennis: In the weeds. Need Council to say taking this over. Scott: Can we talk to Silvia. Dennis: I will talk to Silvia. Daemon: I have a fair bit of experience, can assist in any way necessary, ran a couple of nightclubs. Scott: Need to tell Russell that this is happening. Dennis: I will notify Russell. Will talk to Silvia. It is **Sep 14-17**. Michelle: We should keep of a guide for contacts. Stan: Talked to Silvia. He said that the first part is already set up. The public night is already coordinated. She will try to contact him.

MOTION Michelle moved and Scott seconded that Council take over the running of the SWSP this year from Russell. PASSED

g. SWSP (see above)

h. Explore the Universe — Stan
   - Stan: It is the off-season as there's no astronomical darkness. Beginners are not as enthusiastic.

i. Eclipse 2024
   - Dennis: No one assigned there. Glasses have all been ordered. Doing anything in Oct? Scott: Our glasses are in stock, 10K in stock, negotiate with Assiniboine Park Conservancy for the Oct 14 event. Would like RASC to participate as well. Have to use APC due to maybe 1,000 people coming. Dennis: Need note out to say working with Manitoba Museum in APC. Thank you, Scott. October 2023 event is for annular eclipse.

7. Appointed Positions Recruitment — Dennis — Nothing new
   a. Volunteer Coordinator
   b. Mentor Coordinator
   c. Meeting Coordinator
   d. Youth Outreach
8. Business Arising
   a. National financial situation — Dennis
      - Dennis: At the AGM, still in dire straits,, trying to stop the "bleeding", facilities is a big expense, staffing figured out, trying to get out of the lease, issue with the Dornier

Telescope Museum, looks like they have a buyer for the remote scope, no word on the buyer, fluid until end of the year. Still more than $100,000 short in this fiscal year, and will be cutting into the reserves. I was sent a link to the actuals to the end of April. This was a good AGM, and had an actual election. One thing was a bylaw change where they will recruit someone who is qualified to be a treasurer of the organization rather than hoping that someone in the elected group would have that financial expertise. There is a finance committee with people with financial backgrounds from the centres. Overall is slowly getting better. Jenna is a breath of fresh air. She had answers for everything.

b. NCC — Dennis/Silvia
   - Dennis: Silvia is taking over this portfolio. Silvia is reaching out to them. Work is busy. Waiting for the skies to get better. There was a paid staff member at the RASC National, committee was relying on that person. Also the office implosion as affected the Light Abatement committee at National.

c. Glenlea, cleanup, damage repair — Ed
   - Ed: Tried to set up a meeting with a group, but hasn't yet met. No time worked for everyone. Will book a meeting on this. Judy: Did ask twice for the tax statement for Glenlea, lawyer not able to get ahold of this. UofM needs to split out the taxes. Dennis: Decide what to do when have our meeting. (Ed, Dennis, Judy, Mark, Michelle)

d. Spruce Woods gift to casino — $180 plus tax — Dennis
   - Dennis: Nobody has contacts with the casino. Tim does not have the contacts. Still proceed with that? Michelle: Still the right thing to do. Dennis: They do not have records of who worked with them. Michelle: Is a good reminder to them for the future that they should continue with the lighting. They are on the periphery of a dark sky preserve.

e. Website – usability — Marc/Russell
   - Marc: Going pretty well. Just the menu. When access as a non-member, the Member button should be there. Updating the minutes, Winnicentrics, Council List, if taking over the SWSP planning give me an agenda. Marc: I do have an item in there for SWSP, but has no details as yet.

f. Strategic Plan/Bylaws — Dennis
   - Dennis: Parked for the fall. Might talk about fundraising later, should have that first.

g. Credit Card — Mark

h. Glenlea Public use — Dennis
   - Dennis: Anything else, needed discussions held with UofM. Mark: Needed the repairs to the toilet done out there. Scott: Observatory Committee will want to weigh in.

i. Members Observing Night – who does what? — Scott
   - Scott: Did a training night on June 28. It took on a life of its own. Suddenly had 20 people sign up and 17 attended to take the training. Stan was there for perspective. It was good with a bunch of people. Derived process as we went. Bryan talked about wiring up the warm room. Are a few works in progress. Was interest in the 14" Dobsonian. Lots of new faces.
   - Dennis: Should the observatory committee run the members observing night? Scott: It is important that we have the member observing nights on a regular basis whether clear or not. Having people go down the road is a benefit to find the place. A cloudy night could turn into a work night such as mowing the lawn. It is important to have the members' night rain or shine; gets people together, for discussion, training, work party (lawn mowing, etc.). Dennis: Okay will leave for Michelle to coordinate the members

night. What is the thought of a campfire night? Judy: Idea of rain or shine would serve to get people together. Could have discussion on new telescope. The gathering part like a club house is important. Scott: Also, there are 12 observing sessions. Used to be we had assigned nights. At least would know would have someone there. The observatory committee would be busy.

- Daemon: I cut a bunch of keys. I will not be at the July BBQ. Would be good if someone cut keys. Also, what about observatory bookings? Currently is Russell. Michelle: I will need to put together an agenda. Dennis: Let's talk about the keys later. Michelle: Is there an observatory committee in groups.io? Marc: Yes I can do that. Send me an email. Michelle: So far me, Scott, Bryan, and MK, and Stan and Jay and maybe Mark. Scott: No terms of ref so no maximum. Try to keep the list fairly small so it works. Michelle will get something going in the next week.

j. Scope donations and other programs All

- Dennis: Policy for scope donations. Scott: I wrote a very brief policy and several added great ideas, it answers the questions on the donation offer from Wing. Specifies no conditions which speaks to Wing's offer. Ed suggested that we don't want to take an offer and refuse it; rather it is better to say that the Observatory committee will look at something as a group. … The observatory committee will look at internet, if the internet and other conditions already exist then no conditions. The policy is still on the Google drive.

k. Whiteshell Observing event Judy

- Judy: I took the input from last meeting to heart and got back to the fellow, he suggested the months that would be good. This is off for now. Had an additional request for another outreach. Had the same request again from the Peace Gardens, somebody who is more on the ball, they will get back to me. The weekend in the middle of Sept is out.

l. On The Move inc. Kamala

- Dennis: Kamala said she has the volunteers, would like a few more, July 14, from 11 to 1pm. We are invoicing them.

m. Fundraising Committee Kamala

- Dennis: A lot of people in the discussion. Seemed to be support. Do we set up the committee now or define first their scope. Was underlining current about what are we fundraising for. National forgot what they were fundraising for. Don't think we have that issue here today. Will be some timing for this. Ed made suggestions on this. What are we fundraising for. Mark: I already mentioned in my emails. Once we know the funds are for, then can kickoff on the fundraising. The fundraising can be a separate activity. In the past has been for a property expansion. Part of the marketing was imagine if we had this. If we don't have the what we would use it for, it is hard to proceed. Need to know the promo activities and at the same time the project list and dove tail the two. Nothing like building something and you cannot support it. I have seen that to be successful in my past. Scott: I said my peace but diff between grant solicitating. Operations funding is extremely hard to get. Donations want to go to separate project. For Glenlea we need to imagine a place first. I don't think that we are not there yet. Strat plan. Never occurred to me the fundraising committee could start now because they need that experience. Having a clear vision of what we wou;d do would be a first start but might be weeks or months. Daemon: I don't have an issue if funding not tied to a specific project. Problem is if allocated to operations costs. General fund raising like t-shirts would offload the costs for projects later. Judy: I don't

have much but glad to see the discussion. But if reviewing the strat plan and if there are things in observatory, should start raising funds now. Also, Wing suggested to Kamala doing a dinner, discussed that a year ago, a fundraising committee could consider that. Mark: Yes Judy eloquent at that, knowing why raising the funds, but knowing the sequence things need to proceed in. Could start with a kickoff dinner, which introduces the scope of what is to be done. That is the work of the committee, then prioritize later, get exposure to it later, take something small, then bigger later, strategy for the committee to come up with. Once process ironed out , that is useful work that the committee can do in parallel with str … Ed: … Dennis: Council should still be driving this. Observatory committee can work on their thing. One thing that comes up is the T4K. Anything we are to fundraise for is not for operations use. Everybody can get behind T4Ks. Earlier we talked about do we move Glenlea. The idea of recruiting the committee so we start on the policies and procedures. Scott That is a great idea. We pulled that off last year by skin of our teeth. Another thing in the past is we raffled off a scope. There have been a …could be a few things to start up the committee on small things. I would be happy to pass on anything from T4Ks. Dennis: I think we have gen consensus to start on T4K and doc policies and procedures going forward. We have the strat plan to look at what we want to focus on. So trying to link up everything. Scott: Because committees are a tool of council, we need some type of framework. Dennis: We could constitute the committee today but not start until marching orders. Scott: You cannot have a motion to create a committee without the goals. Judy: Vote in principle to form a committee and draft

MOTION Mark / Judy second to form the committee in principle and recruit a chair now and draft the goals later. PASSED

n. Glenlea Keys All
   - Dennis: Number of people have keys. Scott: There used to be two keys, warm-room and toilet, and second for the LX200. Now people can reach in after flooding to unlock the door. Do we still need that separation now. Dennis: Give that to Michelle for her committee to discuss. Michelle: Two things 1) any theft? Scott: Not recently. 2) when rekeyed? Dennis: At least 12 years ago. Scott: Bryan brought all of the keys that he had. Daemon: I had 9 made, gave out 7. Dennis: We will find out from Bryan how many keys he has.

o. Assiniboine Park winter activities Mike
   - Dennis: No info from Mike on this.

p. Wing's donation of a camera
   - Dennis: Talked about that and finance committee should … Mark: I could draft it but somebody to review. Scott: Judy: Brief is the way to go. This can come with a nod from the observatory committee. Don't want to encumber future Councils. Anything that is proposed as a donation, should not be accepted with any conditions. Since Wing is on the observatory committee, people should recuse themselves. Ed: Background on Wing's proposal. Dennis: Part of the earlier discussion was if someone brings to table and exists no problem, then we would be on the hook to bring in the HSI. It would be $300 / month. Your point of working with the U of M is valid but would tie Council up. Ed: Treat him as a friend. Dennis: For now the response should be to one thing, the scope donation. Yes, understood treat him as a friend. But we are looking at a fundraising committee. Build the processes as a council.

q. File Access

- Dennis: Marc already dealt with that.

9. Round table All
    - Judy: Always looking for people, person moved from Johns Hopkins to NASA, always trying to fill. Scott had information on the dome that needs to get updated.
    - Scott: Nothing
    - Ed: Announcement for BBQ, Jul 14, start 5:30, request bring BBQs, let us know (Judy), Judy to pick up watermelon for Dennis, stay tuned on SWSP, in Winnicentrics, 14-17.
    - Marc: Looking for the new membership in groups.io. Seeing who asked for them. So far 219 members, 15 who have not paid past date but not paid, Mark: Good info for financial forecasting.
    - Judy adds that new instructions for use of Glenlea or dome can go to Jay for distribution to new members.
    - Mark: Nothing
    - Michelle: Nothing
    - Dennis: Will leave with you to think about, chair for fundraising. Will be late for the BBQ. Base in Abbottsford taking off sooner than expected. Will try to reach Silvia tonight. Need more info on SWSP
10. Next Meeting, Monday August 7, 2023, 7 PM
11. Adjourn PM

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