RASC Winnipeg Centre

COUNCIL MEETING 4 July 2024

DRAFT MINUTES

Location: Zoom

Present: Dennis L. (Chair), Scott Y. (recorder), Marc S., gAIL W., Daemon N., Michelle B., Judy A., Wing K., Kamala K. , Mark I.

Regrets: Stan R., Ed W.

Absent: Bryan S.

1. Dennis called the meeting to order and read the Land Acknowledgement.

2. Dennis welcomed all members.

3. Adoption of Agenda - the Agenda was adopted by consensus.

4. Adoption of previous minutes - Scott

> **MOTION 202407-01** - Moved by Scott Y. & seconded by gAIL W. that the meeting minutes of 5 Jun 2024 be approved as presented.

The motion was CARRIED.

5. Financial Report - Mark I.

Report circulated via email. No statutory payments, Mark needs access to tax assessment. Zero balance. GST payment on books less than $5, will submit return once it is $100. Meeting with bank - 2 GICs are coming due, one secures the Centre's credit card and one is savings. Proposing to renew cashable GIC. Next FinCom meeting will discuss longer-term investment options based on interest rates. Should be up about $1,000 in interest revenue this year.

Mark can do training with FinCom on tax return once he has access.

Was talking with Stan about calendar purchases for this year. Suggesting 25 purchased at 12.95, sell them for $15 and try to blow them out. Got negative feedback on not having them last time - but can discuss next time. We are flush with cash, having too much money isn't a good thing, will get a warning from CRA if we don't do something (may have 5 years before warning). May get membership queries on what we are doing with money before CRA does.

Kamala - how can we donate to Centre through work fund? Mark I - only donation is to national, let Jenna know at national office, and they will deal with it to redirect it to the Centre. May take some time.

> **MOTION 202407-02** - Moved by Mark I. & seconded by Daemon N. that the Financial report be approved as presented.

The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 202407-03 - Moved by Mark I. & seconded by Marc S. to purchase 25 Observer's Calendars for 2025 and sell them to members at $15.

Discussion:

- Scott - given we have taken a loss on every previous effort to sell Calendars, is there a different price point to mitigate risk? Mark - reduced numbers (25 versus 70) should mitigate that, will address some concerns.

The motion was CARRIED.

6. Committee Work Reports

a. Policies and Procedures Manual. Dennis - circulated the national Operations Manual, and asked if this covered everything we need in a Policy and Procedures Manual as referred to in our Bylaws. Scott - some things missing, but good base. Dennis - everyone look at for next meeting, identify gaps.

b. Observatory Committee Michelle was not on call, having audio issue . Observatory repairs were discussed, we need to get on it before winter. Discussion on whether the committee should do it, or should we direct a member or Council to oversee it instead of that. Mark I - we shouldn't go around ObsComm; Scott - ObsComm is not very active and may delay critical repairs if a further meeting is required as described by the motion.

At this point Michelle B., Wing K., and Judy A. joined via Zoom. Dennis provided a discussion recap for the newcomers.

To avoid having to wait for another Observatory Committee meeting, the following motion was moved:

MOTION 202407-04 - Moved by Mark I. & seconded by Scott Y. to Amend Motion 202406-04 to replace "Observatory Committee" with "Jay Anderson and Mike Karakas".

The Motion was CARRIED.

The amended text of Motion 202406-04 now reads:

MOTION 202406-04B - Moved by Judy & seconded by Ed that Jay Anderson and Mike Karakas be allocated up to $1,000 for material costs to replace the observatory baseplate and sheathing, in addition to the remainder of the $2,000 funding from Emergency Management. If the costs exceed this amount, the issue will come back to Council before proceeding.

Michelle reported that the Observatory Committee were working on Terms of Reference for the Committee in April, mostly done, should finish at next meeting this month. Judy mentioned that the new door handle came off Observatory Door, Scott to repair.. Also, grass will need mowing before BBQ. Wing will mow, if someone brings a mower. Scott will work with Wing to get grass mowed.

ACTION ITEMS: Scott to repair door handle; Scott, Wing to get grass mowed before BBQ.

c. Member Meeting Planning - Judy - July is the annual BBQ, Daemon can bring bbq as well. Dennis has watermelon.

d. Finance Committee Mark Irvine - no meeting so no report

e. SWSP Planning Committee Daemon - committee met yesterday (2 volunteers showed up) Stan has about 12 registrations to date. Waiting for griddle (approved for purchase at June Council meeting) to come back in stock (beginning of July), pins have come in and look great; waiting on permit from park district manager. Draft schedule is out to committee for approval, can update website soon after. Presenter and public event lined up, Gerry will do sky tour, Silvia will do sketching presentation etc. Close to 10 volunteers.

Michelle - suggest having a solar viewing circle at public event. Scott - Facebook event is generating interest, where should people be referred? Wing offers to handle. Daemon - will add registration form to website so people can mail cheques to Stan. Wing - what time does public event start and what is agenda? Daemon - usually 12-2pm, waiting on info from Park, and then do evening event at auditorium. Solar viewing is for public event. Mark I - first e-deposit came in for SWSP; need to reconcile manually with Stan monthly. Public events are 16-17 August. Spruce Woods Public Event: August 16; Criddle-Vane: August 17; SWSP: Aug 30-Sept 02

f. Explore the Universe Stan - no report

g. Fundraising Wing - nothing to report, will bring postcards to BBQ for sales

H. Website: Marc S - need a second person to be “in” on the passwords, some extra work to be done as there are things that are visible to non-members that shouldn’t be. Marc doesn’t have knowledge to create that. Can we have another person to work on website? Wing is helping on content/events. Mark I - need a password keeper, MIchelle - what are the technical problems? Marc - members and non-members see different members, but there is no protection if someone has the link. Wing - knows people who can deal with tech, but not a designer. Possible opportunity for sponsors to provide maintenance and Word Press template design for in-kind or sponsorship.

ACTION ITEMS: Dennis - will put call out for volunteers; Wing can follow up with his contact to see what they want. Mark S - 11 new members in last 2 weeks, up to 266.

At 8:05 p.m, the meeting recessed for a short break and reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

7. Business Arising -

a. Public meeting program changes

Some suggestions on the regular meeting agenda -

- Judy - not only PhD’s, topical speakers - can solicit more members to get talks, don’t have many “main” presenters in membership, need concrete suggestions of what to change to. Can vary presenters.
- Michelle - in Ottawa they had “Show and Tell” nights, always need “what’s up” (sans weather), enjoys beginner stuff like gAIL’s talks. Good variety of guest speakers.
- Mark i - comfort in familiarity, Judy is doing great job, thank you.

- Wing - support idea of removing what's up weather forecast; useful to make some time for socialization, maybe have static display of gear during break; potentially another location to have meetings at University if we want to do larger or public events
- Scott - more member presentations
- Kamala - What's Up is necessary; maybe some regular topics can alternate months?
- Mark I - new member "sponsor/mentor" that helps introduce and integrate new members into the group
- Wing - having designated members to onboard new members is a great idea, Wing volunteers to be a part of that team. Presenters could be grad students as well.
- Judy - grad students almost never come - Phil Ferguson is the only one who brought them. Would like to involve more grad students to get involved, even as members. Need more PR with university departments.
- Michelle - modern astronomers aren't often observers so maybe not able to attract them. But lots of engineers.
- Dennis wrap up - encourage members to present as one-offs or irregular series; plan to do coffee and goodies for August?
- Dennis - half-hour break in August to see what happen

b. Report on the Society's AGM - Dennis

Fee increase of ~$10 is coming; Society is not out of the financial woods yet; 10-year lease is biggest expense (partly due to Dormer telescope museum), financial accountability is front and centre, better communication from Board to NC and membership. Judy - they will still have to decide to cut further; printed publications will need to be looked at; not factoring in shipping. Dennis - OH still makes $50-70K profit, looking at ways of improving income. Other pubs are being looked at very closely.

c. NCC/Movie Dennis reported that this project is moving forward, next week will be going to Reeves meeting, still support for it, documentary filmmaker will be at SWSP public event,

ACTION ITEM: Dennis will report by email after he connects with filmmaker.

d. Glenlea, damage repair Discussion was covered under the Observatory Committee above.

e. Strategic Plan/Bylaws- no report Dennis

f. Quilak award Wilfred Buck Dennis cannot connect with him, so no action.

g. Workshops Stan - no reports

h. On the Move outreach event Kamala/Mark - Kamala will be away, Mark needs volunteers, for daycare on Corydon, age 4-8 , needs volunteers, July 19 9am to noon-ish. Last year 80-100 kids attended.

ACTION ITEM: Scott will put out a call for volunteers on all-hands.

i. U of M meetings Ongoing discussion for long-term planning with University.

j. Appointment of nominating committee Dennis can chair, Scott will volunteer.

MOTION 202407-05 - Moved by Daemon N. & seconded by gAIL W. to appoint the Nominating Committee as follows: Dennis Lyons (chair), Scott Young.

The Motion was CARRIED.

k. Southwood Circle Public Outreach (U Of M) Wing - real estate development at Southwood Golf Course, UM Properties GP Inc, developers, asked for outreach event. But now they are asking about urban outreach observatory to put into their plans. Judy - long-term exploratory discussions only.

9. Next Meeting, 1 Aug 2024, 7 PM

MOTION 202407-06 - Moved by Scott Y. that the meeting be Adjourned.

The Motion was CARRIED.