

## RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Monday, Jun 06, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:, Dennis Lyons, Ed Wright, Scott Young, Judy Anderson, Marc Sarrasin, Mark Irvine, Russell Brown, Michelle Boyce, Abdul al Manni

REGRETS: Mike Karakas, Kevin Galka, Bryan Stach



1. Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement Dennis
2. Welcome and Introductions All
3. Adoption of Agenda Dennis
  - Dennis: Any additions? Judy: No time. Dennis: Focus is bylaws, IO groups, privacy
4. Adoption of previous minutes Dennis
  - Dennis: Scott did minor change.

Judy / Russell moved. Dennis: Approved as amended. ADOPTED

5. Financial Report Abdul
  - Come back when Abdul arrives
  - Abdul: \$18,248.65. Two deposits of the memberships. Sold 24 calendars. Still have 15 calendars left. Judy: Jay was previously Treasurer, he gets copied on notices for payment for SkyNews, some seem to be late getting paid. Abdul: I send the payment as early as possible, just prepared the cheque with Ed yesterday. I used to receive the invoices for them, not sure what happened with National. Dennis: Maybe need to reach out to National to remind them. Abdul: Also, just received the promo flyers, not sure who to take care of them. Judy: They are for RASC events. Need them for the first Fridays. Time to think about ordering the eclipse glasses for the upcoming eclipse and plan the public event. Ed: \$1,000 from Canada Life. Not received yet. Reached out to National on that. Russell: Had a lot of people asking about the society at First Fridays. Do we have bus cards? Out of 40 people 5 asked how to join. Dennis: We have those. Scott: We get 10 - 15 calls per month asking for contact information to the astronomy club. Have fallen off recently. Russell: I now monitor the public enquiries daily. Scott: That is good. Whatever can send to people would be useful.
6. Committee Work Reports
  - a. Bylaws Judy
    - Judy: Sent a clean version where can get rid of edits. Will highlight the contentious topics. Will bring to attention similar to what would bring to membership meeting. The committee worked very carefully. Scott made many comments. Considered every comment. Believe most of the issues are resolved.
      - i. New articles on quorums
      - ii. New section on duties of at large directors councilors
      - iii. Adhoc committees
      - iv. New definitions some that bring forward the issues missing from the full doc.
    - Presidential Voting Rights – At last meeting Dennis and Scott said many centres moving toward the president having a second vote. People complained about that at the AGM.

Now made changes. Do accept Dennis's comment where he did not want to be part of an org where he has no vote. I can put this in a summary to Ed. Dennis: Other option is for president if has voted and is a tie, then the motion dies. That takes the pressure off the president. If that close on a motion it should probably die or be revised. Russell: Don't think a motion should die if it is 2-2. Judy: The way written the president can vote on all committees for consistency. If at council it dies then we are not doing anything. If at an AGM if it is contentious, it says the president may cast a 2<sup>nd</sup> vote, not will. Scott: Think should be same system in every place because different rules will cause confusion. If it is 2-2 in a committee, it is not a majority. At National, giving a tie breaking vote to someone learning about the issues is not a great option either. Often ex-officio is not a voting member. Mark: Can we determine if president is ex-officio on all committees. Michelle: I think we had started doing it the previous way because at AGM it is better to have someone else be chair, not have the president chair and vote at the AGM, had concerns about that earlier because it reduces bias. For committees not sure the chair should break the vote. Judy: In the document the president is ex-officio for all committees, but put in voting ex-officio rights, the president can show up or not or leave. Mark Irvine: So something controversial in the committee would be the reason he would come. There may be a reason for the president to come to the committee. That is what would draw him in. We are saying that he should vote. Russell: Could we make the president be on the committee he can vote or then the chair votes as tie breaker. Mark Irvine: The chair of the committee already has a lot of power. That is when controversial, the chair could have a lot of influence over the committee. Would be concerned about one person driving the committee, but it does have to be approved by council. The chair would have a lot of influence. Russell: Could it be sent to council for review? Scott: Generally the chair would have the tie breaking model and the president voting ex-officio to break a tie would not be appropriate. If something controversial at committee, it is fine if the chair has the vote because all committees do is recommend to council. Would be considered by council as a whole. Judy: Okay so will revise that the president breaks tie at council and the AGM, but the committee chair breaks tie at committees. The president votes on committees, council, and membership.

- Quorum – Judy: Suggesting on council this is 50% of elected positions. We could appoint our friends to outweigh the elected people, would not be appropriate. Elected people don't always attend council, so we want the committee to be a working committee. We would want quorum to be council this is 50% of elected positions. Dennis: For us that would be 6 and that would be reasonable. Judy: For AGM is 25 members or 15% of membership. Scott: It should be whichever is larger. Judy: If cannot get 15% would be a ton of apathy. **50% of elected positions + 1 for council.** Scott: The Museum keeps staff that are members on to call people in. Judy: For special meeting must be moved by people to have, larger of 25 or 15%, to call a special meeting. Then the quorum of special meeting is 30 or 15%. If special meeting called by members, needs to be enough of them to bother having a special meeting. So for quorum need more people there. Scott: The use of a special meeting is if the council not doing its job (not operating) but at same time hard to justify to have more stringent set of rules than the regular set of rules. Mark Irvine: The issue for me is the notice. If doing that need enough notice for a special meeting to get appropriate representation. Judy: It is in the document. Dennis: It is 30 days notice. MI: The 30 days notice is after what period? Scott: Within 50 days the president must call the special meeting with 15 days notice of the meeting date. MI: So no requirement for issue to be circulated? Scott: Basically, the special meeting is an AGM with only one thing on the

- agenda. If someone wanted to change the bylaws, they would have to follow the bylaws rules. They could not do it here. Bylaw vote with just 15 days notice would be out of order. Could use same rules as for the AGM. Mark Irvine: You don't want a small, disgruntled group to drive an issue. If communicate like that it mitigates that issue. Could maintain the same quorum across the board. Marc: for the notice period, I am on a condo board, there are rules that have to be followed. Does National have rules? Dennis: Every council decides how they run their meetings. Ed: In the bylaws that were passed, quorum was 50% + 1 of elected. What about the + 1 in the council? Judy: **Let's put the quorum at 50% + 1**. Scott: That will always be an odd number. Judy: What is consensus on the quorum? People who can move a special meeting are 25 or 15%, the larger of, and the quorum is 25 or 15%. Scott: the quorum should be the same for each meeting. We could make it 50 people to request a special meeting. Dennis: I think 50 is good. Then to sign off. ... Mark Irvine: Some kind of rift. Judy: I will make the changes and ship a document out tomorrow.
- Scott: Not thinking we can tell someone they cannot run for an open position if they have to step away. Thinking that is not fair. Dennis: The way that I read it is if someone has to step away during two year term, they cannot come back during the term. Do we interpret it the same. You sit out your term. Scott: What happens is elections are staggered. I stepped down for personal reasons. I reconsidered my priorities, there was an open spot on council, I got nominated, and I accepted it. This rule would have prevented me from being on council for the next year. Judy: If there are contentious things that stimulate resignations they resign, don't want those people re-applying because the tensions will persist. Russell: As long as the member is in good standing. Is the term good standing in the doc? Then the membership should be able to vote them in. It is up to the membership to decide. Maybe make the rule that they cannot run for same position. Judy: Want people to have enough time to overcome the personal reason or issues. Scott: We don't have by-elections though. Dennis: The new bylaws state that for a president or VP you will have a by-election. Judy: You want people to know that it is a commitment to a two-year term. If there is an inter-personal reason you want people to have to overcome the challenge. Resignations are disruptive. Mark Irvine: Your point is well taken Judy. If everybody on council did that, what is going to happen. Judy: I have been on an executive where one-half resigned due to a decision that was going to be made. I was the only left to vote against the decision so I was the one left holding the bag. Then those people ran again. That is why this there. Ed: In favour of what Judy is saying. Scott: Heard back from Michelle. She is not rejoining the meeting. Scott: Thinking resignations occur because of processes failing. Having a hard time understanding why somebody from a democratic election where duly nominated and voted on at an AGM. Perfectly valid. I think if there are issues people can vote on those issues. I think if you have to disclose why you left council, that was in the first version. I would have been happy to have been questioned on that at the election. Understood if there is a schism of some kind and someone leaves because it is the better thing. Judy: In the strat plan proposed that when someone is running for a position, suggested they need to put together sentences on why want to be on council. I know that some times the nominating committee needs to twist arms and it is harder if people have resigned. Mark: Could the nominating committee vet the person for council? Then could the nominating committee chat with the person who resigned and wants to come back about what the reason was. Then put forward the name if appropriate. Scott: We do accept nominations from the floor though. Mark Irvine: Still have allow that. Russell: You could not be nominated from the floor. Mark: But the channel of the nominating committee to allow for that, there would be a sense that is going to happen, the vote have to be allowed to

happen. Judy: The nominating committee needs to identify nominees who previously resigned in the last two years prior to the election. Mark: That is fair. Russell: I agree with that because a lot of members will not know. If I write that in and strike this clause. Mark: That is good for me. Dennis: Observation now that there is definite trend now that nominating committee make a recommendation. They nominating committee will recommend the top 6 for the positions. The 6 of the 12 most qualified for the position. The changes the dynamics of the nominating committee. They look at the skill sets needed. Every time we work through we get stronger because we are recruiting. Now the nominating committee works with council to look at gaps and what needs to be filled. Not saying have to do that, but it is a big shift. The nominating committee is more than just phoning a bunch of people. It is the nominating committee working with council to identify gaps. Who is leaving, what are the holes. Scott: There was a desire for more oversight of the membership, not less. Short listing people who get voted onto council next, can work in certain situations, difficult to do something like that. Most importantly, if letting people vote for their leaders, it needs to be endorsed, it can turn very political. The nominating committee absolutely should go after people with certain skillsets. By being nominated by the nominating committee there is already an implicit approval. But to say at the meeting that Bill is better than Suzy, I don't think ready for that. Mark Irvine: If they have two candidates for the same position, they have done good work. Hesitant like Scott to suggest one over the other. That is where you want the profile of the person. Judy: Will add to bylaws that Nominating committee is identifying nominees that they to notify membership when someone has previously resigned in the last two years. Mark: Yes along with the profile.

- Attendance – Judy: Last point was on something Michelle brought up from Cliff on attendance. People who skip all the time. Should the president be chatting with the person? That has been revised. Also, there have been people who have resigned, so there is breathing time they should have to wait out the term they would have had to allow the issues to simmer down. It is in other bylaws. This has been in other bylaws. I recommend that at every meeting we post who is on council as current members. When looking at minutes you don't know who is there. I don't know if Mike Stephens is on council. Dennis: It is in the last minutes that Mike Stephens resigned and Mike Karakas said in an email he will not be at this meeting. Those are the main things changed. Thanks to everyone who weighed in.
- Judy: How to get vote? Dennis: Give everyone a week to review and get everyone's response. Then will do a check via email about any issues. Then would send out a notice for August for the Aug meeting. Were a lot of changes that made sense. Russell: Vacancy of office, any wording for councillors able to run for executive position. Are councillors allowed to run for exec position? Dennis: They would have to resign from councillor position. If they don't get in, then they go off council. Dennis: If I were that person I would not resign because of continuity. Scott: If your term is up you can run. Judy: Everything is all jumbled, if one is vacant they could be appointed for 6 months, that person could run in the next AGM, but if someone has held for two terms for same position then they can't, but for example if no one wants to secretary to treasurer to VP to president, they could do all of those for two terms. But if they want to run again, we recommend that they should not unless no one else wants to be the president they could run again. Russell: That wouldn't trigger the resignation clause? Dennis: Not normally. Your term as councillor is up. Scott: We want to encourage people to work their way up rather than parachuting someone in as their first council position. Russell: The terms for exec are up in 2023 and councillors are

2024. Judy: It is not even like that. That is just circumstance. Ed: That is right. Scott: But the circumstance is still an impediment to someone trying to do that process. Do you have to resign if running or only if winning? Dennis: That's a good point. Only if winning. Scott: You could be at risk of holding two positions and could resign from one to resolve it. Dennis: In my mind that could be determined by whoever has next most votes would take over your position. Russell: Unless it is a different position. Say I am councillor and I run for president. That runner up for pres, that would trigger a vacant position. Dennis: Typically, whoever has the next most votes would take the position. We usually do the exec first and then we do the rest of the positions. You would automatically have to resign your councillor position if you won. That would mean we would have an extra councillor position to fill. And if we have two names for a position, that would not be a problem. Scott: The two names issue, we have avoided that because it means that half the group loses. It can be demoralizing to lose. Can be eloquent speaker who gets the role, or not as many friends and can be demoralizing for others. In the past have had token candidates. Like the idea of having everyone, even if everyone acclaimed, say this is what they are going to do. It is an election. Dennis: In that case the nominating committee should know in advance, in theory the nominating committee have the slate + 1. The nominating committee should be prepared. They have a lot of responsibility, to talk to the candidates to know what they want, could have a written proposal up on screen or they could speak in front of the membership. Russell: I agree. Ed: The amount of time on the bylaws, hopefully don't get mired on them. Also, other orgs have a promotion path from VP to Pres. A lot of non-profits have that. Last thing, it has been a problem getting people to run. Should not be too restrictive in the bylaws due to hard time to get volunteers. Marc: It is a good idea for people to do speech before the election to avoid favoritism, whether new to centre or not. Would be disappointing to run for President and lose and lose the councillor position. Dennis: Well we talked that through, the person stays in their current position, they would only give up the councillor position if won the exec position. We started with a good document and it is better.

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|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| b. Policies and Procedures Manual  | Dennis            |
| c. Observatory Committee           | Russell           |
| d. Incorporation                   | Tabled            |
| e. Finance Committee               | Abdul/Mark Irvine |
| f. Star Parties                    | Russell           |
| g. Awards Centre nominations       | Bryan             |
| 7. Directors and Councilors        | Tabled            |
| 8. Appointed Positions Recruitment | Dennis            |
| a. Spring Star Party               |                   |
| b. Explore the Universe            |                   |
| c. Webmaster                       |                   |

MOTION Russell moved to adopt the plan as written. Marc seconded. (See discussion below)  
CARRIED

- Groups.io – Russell: Everyone seen it. I move to adopt the plan. Marc: Seconded. Ed: Be aware best-efforts basis. Understand it is a green light plan, subject to change, best efforts. We have proposed dates. There are proposed dates in the plan, and Council needs to be aware that June 17 is a type of open house/workshop. That seemed to work for everyone. Russell: On the Google drive, we have the main page to add everybody to. Turned off the ability to opt out of email messages. All announcements

sent by whoever designated. Dennis or Ed to send to main@winnipeg.rasc.groups.io goes to everyone. Only moderators would be allowed to respond. Member not able to reply. Any comments sent to the general forum. The members will never get spammed. Scott had concerns about spamming. But members will not be able to post to the main group. They will need to join a subgroup to discuss amongst themselves. The member will not need to subscribe to the groups. The member can choose every message to come through or daily summary. To compose and distribute how-to instructions for this. However, groups.io has amazing [manual](#). It does an amazing job. Talks about how to join subgroup. Think should be an intuitive system. Will have same features as U of M list. We have no control over the UofM list. Hoping this will completely take that over. We have the goal of shutting down the UofM list. Same date to roll out on July 22, have same goal to shut down. Dennis: Use the wording *decommissioning*. Will put together a more eloquent speech for this. Mark Irvine: Digest version of communications? Are there automated replies? Have seen cases where people will have an automated reply. Can create tons of email. Russell: If someone has replies on, will turn on the moderation functionality. Can turn off their ability to post if they don't turn off autoreply. Judy: Could the help doc go on the website about how to join under communications with an explanation of the group. Just on the website about how to join a group. Dennis: Could we post the instructions link in the current site as well as the change to groups.io. Russell: Were going to have a townhall to hear and hopefully address concerns and on the same day create the forum on the current website so people can discuss it. Marc: November is the latest due to use forums on WordPress. We can address any concerns. Need it centralized because there are people being left out. Dennis: Will build you guys in to the agenda for Friday. Ed will ensure that you guys are cohosts. Ed: Be aware that this is the plan to get people to change. Used a standard industry methodology. Focus is on the people to be aware, desire, and adopt the new service. It needs a certain amount of sponsorship, so this Friday the ecen and the president endorses the new service. E.g., this brings more capability. We are investigating the UofM service. Need the council to show support for this. The UofM service could be cancelled at any time. Dennis: No problem for me to say decommissioning as the intro for Russell and Marc. Dennis: All in favour.

- Mark Irvine: Is Ian Cameron still moderator? Russell: All of the email addresses are visible in the public archive. That is an issue as well that could drive stopping that service. It says Ian Cameron ... Judy: I can ask Ian directly. Ed: Black box right now, is he the moderator. I would prefer to call it a migration. More investigation now, who is the moderator, the URL goes to moderator@list so could be anyone. Once we have a plan we need the old list to go away. Scott: Stan Runge has been running the list. It might be Stan. Stan replied to me. It may be it is not Ian. We should get moderation transferred to someone on council. Either that or take RASC off the name. The only reason is it has our name on it. If they want to maintain the list then take our name off of it. The only reason that list is an issue is that it has our name on it. We don't police other lists, it is a private discussion group. I am not sure we want to crush it. Ed: Not sure is possible to change the URL. Dennis: Judy could ask who is moderator for the list. For now ... agree "migrating" to new system is definitely the term, council decides communication method, definitely have people that have been missed, good to get communications through one portal.

- d. Volunteer Coordinator
- e. Mentor Coordinator

- f. Meeting Coordinator
- g. Light Abatement Committee
- h. Youth Outreach
- 9. Web Infrastructure and io email list update                      Russell Marc
- 10. Business Arising
  - a. Membership Meeting location                                      Judy
    - Judy: Did fill out the application. We can use a school facility in Wpg #1 that would have a big parking lot, can have coffee machine, the charge is modest (\$25 an hour) for non-profit, we can request a particular room, otherwise they will help us find a particular room. I am almost thinking use St. Johns despite no food or beverages because people know it and want to get together. Can pursue the school thing but need guidance. Ed: Agree St. Johns would be good but need internet on Wi-Fi at a school room. But okay with St. Johns. Mark Irvine: Agree St. Johns would be great to start, familiar to everyone, for the first meeting or two. Foregoing food is okay, but bottle of water is okay. Dennis: Okay will plan for August meeting at St. John's and then find out about Wi-Fi later. June meeting online. Not enough time for Jun to go to St Johns. Judy: Okay will contact person to arrange August meeting or for the fall.
  - b. Meeting format/streaming    Scott/Marc
  - c. Fischer River Cree Nation    Tabled
  - d. Speaker Gifts, purchase more meteorites                              Dennis
  - e. Memberships from OHMIC and MB Museum                              Dennis
  - f. Arthur E Wright School    All
  - g. Artemis Project/Shooting for the moon                                      Dennis
  - h. Astronomy Day update    Marc, Judy, Dennis
  - i. Peace Garden Star Party    Dennis
    - Dennis: Reached out to the lady couple of times, but no response. Will call her. Had put out questions to her. Will try calling her.
  - j. High school group    Judy
  - k. Access to membership lists    Dennis
  - l. Members meeting Friday    Judy
    - This Friday: Scott on beginner's session on public outreach, Michele "What's new", Dennis doing the Green Laser Pointer training.
  - m. Privacy policy    Scott
    - Dennis: National says it is their information, anyone on the council can have access to the information of the members, but not outside of council. Automatically the 4 exec plus membership coordinator get access to the data. But all 12 members on council could have access. We just have to tell National. So that issue has been taken care of. Scott: So just tell them all 12 to access? Dennis: There is a level of trust with council. Names and addresses for non-council business. They don't want a committee chair to get that access. Unless I hear differently, I will talk to Phil Groff. To Scott talk about document he produced.
    - Scott: It codifies the level of trust for the council. Every year at the Museum we sign a conflict of interest and privacy because we access to that information. Anybody on that list should have to sign the form or something similar. The National has privacy policy we should look at, important one is only use the information for the purpose it is intended for. Dennis: The doc is simple and clear. Scott to send out. Then send signed to Dennis. ACTION Scott to make clean copy and then send that out to council members. Then send the signed document to Dennis.

- n. Groups io roll out Russell/ Marc (See *Webmaster 8(c)*)
- o. Commercial enterprises wanting access to FacebookDennis

11. Next Meeting Monday, July 4, 7 PM

12. Round Table

- Dennis: Law Firm in Portage reached out to Tara about a donation. Somebody left money to us.
- Ed: Observatory grounds for July BBQ? Russell: Will check. Committee been silent.
- Dennis: Great meeting. Next meeting July 4. Next thing is for the finance policies. Mark to send out. That is homework for next meeting.

13. Adjourn

8:59 PM

	Name	Signature	Date
Secretary	Ed Wright		