RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Monday, June 04, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Dennis Lyons, Stan Runge, Ed Wright, Daemon Nightshade, Marc Sarrasin, Judy Anderson, Mike Karakas, Scott Young, Michelle Boyce, Mark Irvine, Kamala Kodi,

REGRETS: Russell Brown, Bryan Stach,

1. Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement — Dennis
2. Welcome and Introductions — All
   - Mark sent notice that he will not be attending. (Mark later attended.)
3. Adoption of Agenda — Dennis
   - *On the Move* added to the agenda.
4. Adoption of previous minutes — Ed

MOTION Ed moved, Daemon seconded, Adopted subject to making the one change to correct the name of the *"On the Move"* organization.

5. Financial Report — Mark
   - Mark: Forgot to include the depreciation schedule even though mentioned it.

MOTION Mark moved to accept financials as reported, Judy seconded, approved

6. Committee Work Reports
   a. Policies and Procedures Manual — Dennis
      - Not done anything.
   b. Observatory Committee — Michelle/Ed
      - Left for discussion. Steps to be done with the university.
   c. Member Meeting — Judy
      - *June 16:* Beginner Session, gAIL Wise; What's Up? Bryan Stach; What's New, Michelle Boyce; main presentation, Erik Rosolowsky, Uof Alberta (does research on star formation). Dennis: Can we do clandestine food and coffee? Scott: Not a good idea because trying to formalize relationship with U of M. Dennis: Will let Gail not going to do anything. Judy: Trying to get people for fall. Michelle volunteered in chat to do What's New.
   d. Finance Committee — Mark Irvine
      - (Meetings will start again in late summer or early fall)
   e. Star Parties — Russell/Dennis
      - No update on this. Pending news from Russell. Judy: Planning for an additional event. Dennis: That one died off. The regular one for the park in Aug is set and the SWSP in Sep has been set. Funds all now in the main account.
   f. Explore the Universe — Stan
      - Stan: No updates.
   g. Eclipse 2024
   - Dennis: Ordered the viewers at 1000 @ $0.55 each. Can sell at $2.00 if needed. There are things at National that need to be sorted out. Hopefully the National will get on track with website soon.
7. Appointed Positions Recruitment — Dennis — No change

a. Volunteer Coordinator
b. Mentor Coordinator
c. Meeting Coordinator
d. Youth Outreach

8. Business Arising
   a. National financial situation — Dennis
      - Board met with National Council yesterday. Budget is close to being finalized after a lot of work by E.D., Board, Finance Cmte. Staff told to focus on service to members and cost savings. They acknowledged that membership will reduce. The virtual GA made $3K versus the last in-person GA just barely broke even although not decided formally. The virtual Gas to stick around for a while. Had good attendance. Things in Sky News are moving to the Journal. Some bylaw amendments going through. One is that Treasurer may not be a member of RASC but will be a member of National Board as it's hard to find someone with the right skillset. Scott: Did not receive it. Dennis: Will check whether it's gone out. Dennis: The overall budget down about $179K, more by $15K due to things sold in the US and then the reduced members. Still in the following year to break even. Big thing is the $10K / month rent. Jenna Hinds hired as new ED. Will be total of 4 people in the office. (still recruiting one of those people, tracking finances in day-to-day operations). Member services person is in place. There were a ton of questions answered by the finance committee. The Board is fully engaged now with Jenna to take things forward. She definitely understands severity of the issue and need to work closely with Jenna (ED) to move forward. I signed up for changes in CRA. There was a change that CRA made that will allow people to make a donation and for it to find its way to the intended Centre. Jenna is juggling a lot now.
   b. NCC — Dennis
      - Dennis: Been going back and forth with Tim. There was a paid position working on it. Will need to do the sky
      - Mike: Have been storing Gil Raineault's scope for a while now. Want to return it until we make a decision on this.
   c. Glenlea, cleanup, damage repair — Ed
      - Judy: We received all docs needed for the funding.
      - (See *Glenlea Public use* below)
   d. Spruce Woods gift to casino — $180 plus tax — Dennis
      - Dennis: Reach out to Tim, no response yet.
   e. Website – usability — Marc/Russell
      - Marc: It is working now. Found that one of the plug-ins was causing the conflict so deleted that one. I can now edit pages. I need to update the meeting minutes. Just the login function is not working. Need to look into that. Kamala: I think the RASC website is working. place on the website to capture what outreach we've done and what's coming up. Ed: Input from X-Theme? Marc: Just access to the forums. They just offer access to their forums and website/issues, rather than one-on-one support. Need to give receipt to Mark on that. Mark: Sign the receipt to say paid it, then someone from exec to sign, then send to me. Ed: Should send communications to the membership that the website when up and running. Kamala: Could include info on how many attended each of the events.
      - Kamala: Could have an external tab to record past outreach and show opportunities. Judy: We could suggest dates (Dennis suggests, like a calendar, and tell members that

"these dates may get requests, and would you sign up as a volunteer; e.g., for First Nights). Scott: There's a Fall Astronomy Day (the weekend closest to first-quarter Moon). We could set them as Public Events that a school could bring a bus load of people to it. We could give them their own volunteer for a focused tour. 2023 is the beginning of October, but we could do something in November. Mike suggests optimal dates in April, May and October (mostly weather/darkness related).

- Dennis suggests Kamala might put an email together (draft) for Council, and then we can circulate it to members (put together a calendar). If no-one volunteers, then we can narrow it down. Kamala suggests put it on the shared folder. Stan suggests that during the BBQ, we can talk to people and put together a pool of volunteers who are willing to do the activities. We do a really good event with Solar scopes, and it seems to work just as well, as at Whiteshell and Spruce Woods.

f. Strategic Plan/Bylaws — Dennis
   - Dennis: Parked until the fall.

g. Bulk purchase of cleaning supplies — Scott
   - Scott: About 6 people took advantage. No price break. Will have at the June meeting.

h. Credit Card — Mark
   - Mark: Bank needs signatures from all the executive members. Dennis: Mark called the bank. Mark: Nothing yet from the bank. The porta potty cost us $900 this year so far. Need to decide on the bathroom out there. The porta potty is $250 per month. We should get that fixed, as it's bleeding the observatory funds. Judy: Spoke to Jay. He wants approval to spend the money to put toilet back into position the way it was. We should do something to get rid of the porta-potty expense.

MOTION Judy moved and Scott seconded to fund Jay for this to put toilet back into position to a maximum of $500. Passed.

i. Social media policy and procedures — Scott
   - Dennis: Approved last time. Scott: Just went online to clean up the policy removing comments. Dennis: It was approved at last council meeting. Thank you to Scott for putting that together.

j. Glenlea Public use — Dennis
   - Judy: Was at lecture week ago, met dean of science, he admitted he had never been there. It may be a good idea to invite Dr. Brian Mark, Dean of Science, to the July BBQ, and begin the discussion of a new MOU with UM and new relationship that would allow public and school outreach at Glenlea. We could tour, he wants to support what we do. The lawyer supporting the flood app was really good. It is a good time to start that discussion. Or for another day tour. Dennis: We should have a plan for what we want to do so that we can make a good impression. Need to know what people think on using Glenlea for public.
   - Scott: I think is good idea to make functional for public outreach but better to make it available for the members. The booking system does not work, the training is not there. Need to be available for the members before the public. Dennis: Yes need to get the member side working first. Do we want a meeting at Glenlea to brainstorm. Stan: Valid idea. We did a bit of that at Brenda and Paul's party. They should be written down and described, with some rough estimates. Could ballpark the costs. Discussion on dates. Dennis asks about dates (weekend of 24th) Dennis: Will send out email on dates, and ask for thoughts in an email.

- Member use situation – Dennis: Bryan had a few things going on. We need a routine. Scott: We used to have a rotating person from council to go out to Glenlea to show people the gear. Should have a designated time to get out there. A complaint was people wanting to use the obs but can't. Members want to use this stuff. Need more than one person to do it. Mike: Having an obs day is valuable, great idea. Have the training session during the day, so people can see stairs and controls, and be prepared. Michelle: I am typically available in the afternoon. Dennis: Sounds like qtrly is the time to do it. Will look for a Saturday to do training. Will also look for time for planning. Scott: It is just one hour for training. Could RSVP and stagger it. Mike: How many people here know how to use the dome. He was trained a while ago, but not for a long time. Mark, Scott, Stan (same situation as Mike); Scott suggests those people could prepare and go together to get re-oriented. Should go out a half hour early. There were written instructions for running the scope. Will try to dig something up on that.

k. YMCA event — Russell
   - Dennis: No info from Russell.

l. Members Observing Night – who does what? — Scott
   - Dennis: We have a bit of a plan on that. Would schedule daytime training for 1 hour each. Will announce at the next member meeting.

m. Scope donations and other programs — All
   - Dennis: Were there any other ideas on scope donations? What do we do? Getting more donated. Do we say for T4Ks. Michelle: Like the ideas that can use for prizes. Daemon: Agree for T4Ks, Friends of Spruce Woods. We should not refuse a scope. Dennis: The donor needs to understand it is up to council how used. Scott: Agree we should accept them but they do not determine what they are used for. Fortunately, the Planetarium has a donation policy. This will feed into the Glenlea situation. Michelle: I concur. Maybe have that on the website. Might also be able to sell to members to help the organization. Mark: Similar, didn't think good for just Mike to deal with it. Need a storage facility. The warm room has a bunch jammed in there. Or just ask for volunteers to host a scope. Judy: I agree with Mark and then Mark's comment that could sell to members. One already used might be easier. There is a history of things purchased and then given to someone and then they disappear. For example, could buy cell holders. Dennis: The idea is inventory control. Judy: We talked about lockers in the observatory. Mike: The segue is what are doing with Glenlea. Need to store high and dry. Also, for accepting scopes they need to be in good working order. Example of one scope with a dent in the tube. More involved to fix. Need to make a call on which to accept. Stan: I like your comments. I suggest that the members of the loaner scope program be the ones to do that. Give us time to determine what we need. Michelle: Agree with Stan. Judy: I did not know we had a loaner scope comm. Mike: Some scopes are in custody of other individuals, delegating on my half.
   - Mike: One scope donated to us, he wanted to make available, an 8" LX90 really in great shape. For the PST, a solar scope is soon to be back in action (small order and work from Gerry).
   - Dennis summarizes: Scott to share donation policy. Then we get a document started on shared drive. Ties into bigger ques on what are we using Glenlea for.

n. Whiteshell Observing event — Judy
   - Update on communication from Adam Collicutt at the Whiteshell. Judy: Thanks to everyone for chiming in. Told them right away not dark enough in summer. Did send

him thoughts from Daemon and Mike and offered him Jun 24 because they are already planned. Then he said Thanksgiving weekend. That would be tricky to find volunteers. He said closest camping site is half an hour away. Would be awkward to recruit in the Thanksgiving weekend. If not plan for next May. I am suggesting why don't we try for next May.

- Mike: Council agreed to $100 for an hour, this is the first that we are doing this. Kamala: Is Whiteshell just looking for summertime. Judy: He was looking for the nighttime. He wanted Thanksgiving. He asked about July 15. Michelle: There are options for daytime solar observing. That might be practical. Dennis: Do we think can get volunteers for Thanksgiving? Likely not. Should put on the calendar for next year in May. Dennis: We would charge the $200 plus the gas. Say that Thanksgiving is not possible for us to try to get volunteers.

o. On the Move –

- Kamala: July 14 is the date. Moon is available. Also available in the daytime. Operations: 1) presentation indoor, 2) solar scope. 2 – 3 volunteers. I can coordinate. Dennis: I will post to the website. This is afternoon 11:00 to 1:00, Friday July 14.

9. Round table All
    - Stan: How many people on the general groups.io. Ed: Only 39 on the General Forum. Stan: Can we get more people on it? Seems to be radio dead. Dennis: Yes can remind people to subscribe to that. Stan: Really have a low number. Michelle: Perhaps a reason for that is people might be too lazy to determine how to register. Kamala: I am not seeing a way to register. Dennis: Would be important to build this, as it's really our pool of people interested in events.
    - Daemon: Sent another email to Enn Tant stating that since not heard from them assuming not needing us for the summer. Glad to hear easy to donate to center vs national.
    - Judy: I will get on the notion of inviting the dean of science to the BBQ. To Michelle can you bring the observatory keys? Michelle: I have the lockbox code.
    - Michelle: I recently put in proposal for a radioscope at Glenlea, was not accepted. Would like to chair the committee. Dennis: I will get back to you. Ed on there for the insurance comm. Goal is to turn over to the observatory committee. Michelle: I have bandwidth now for this. Could set up through Groups IO.
    - Marc: Nothing
    - Mike: Nothing
    - Scott: Nothing
    - Kamala: Nothing
    - Ed: The Disaster Financial Assistance program. Apologies for being stalled on this. We still need a meeting to put together a response to the EMO people. Now we have documentation. One of the things they requested was a recent property tax bill. Judy and Dennis: Suggest that we just send the explanation that we don't pay the taxes. Ed: Who else? Judy, Michelle, Dennis to be involved.
10. Next Meeting, Monday July 3, 2023, 7 PM
11. Adjourn PM

	Name	Signature	Date
Secretary	Ed Wright		