RASC Winnipeg Centre

COUNCIL MEETING 6 June 2024

FINAL APPROVED MINUTES

Location: Zoom

Present: Dennis L. (Chair), Judy A., Ed W., Bryan S., Daemon N., Wing K., Kamala K. , Mark S., gAIL W.

Absent: Scott Y., Mark I., Stan R., Michelle B.

NOTE: The original Zoom meeting wasn't able to be started because Scott was not in attendance. Someone on the Executive should have been able to log in using the Centre's Zoom account and would then have had hosting permission. Ed wound up creating a new Zoom meeting and sending it out to everyone.

NOTE: These minutes rely on Judy's excellent notes, as well as a partial recording of the meeting made by Ed which begins just after the Financial report.

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1. Dennis called the meeting to order and read the Land Acknowledgement.
2. Dennis welcomed members.
3. The Agenda was adopted by consensus.
4. Adoption of previous minutes.

   MOTION 202406-01 - Moved by Judy A. & seconded by Daemon N. that the meeting minutes of 2 May 20254 be approved as presented. The motion was CARRIED.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** The financial reports and monthly Profit & Loss statements were circulated in advance by Treasurer Mark I.

   MOTION 202406-02 - Moved by Judy A, & seconded by Mark S. that the Finance report be accepted as circulated. The motion was CARRIED.

6. **Committee & Work Reports.**

   a. **Policies and Procedures Manual** - Dennis had nothing to report.

   b. **Observatory Committee** - there was no report.

   c. **Speaker Coordinator** - Judy reported that the June meeting's speakers were scheduled, with the featured speaker being astrophotographer Ron Brecher. gAIL

will do the Beginner's session, Bryan will do What's Up, and Jay will do What's New. Judy will Chair the meeting as Dennis will be away.

There was discussion about the format of the meetings. Judy: a general discussion of SWSP and astrophotography would be useful. Bryan: if we are short of speakers we can ask members to give talks. Dennis: we can let the members know that they can present about their passions/interests.

d. **Finance Committee** - Mark I. reports the committee had not met recently and so there was nothing to report beyond the Treasurer's Report given above.

e. **Spruce Woods Star Party** - Daemon reports that the committee has settled on a price of $40 per person (12 and under free) which includes a pancake breakfast on the final day. Goal is to begin registration at regular meeting next week. Committee is looking at a software package to handle registrations. The Park is to get back to us on the booking; we have asked for an extra porta-potty to be available. Insurance is in place. A group of volunteers has been gathered. The next meting will be held by Zoom. The current committee is comprised of Daemon Nightshade (Chair), Jay and Judy Anderson, Wing Kwong, and Bradley Kulbaba. Our next Committee meeting is scheduled for June 5th.

NOTE: On 22 May 2024, Council approved via email the following:

MOTION 202406-03 - Moved by the SWSP Committee that the Centre purchase a 4-burner griddle currently on sale for $250, to be used for the SWSP pancake breakfast and other centre events. The motion was CARRIED via email.

Marc S: will there be a banquet at this year's event. Daemon: not this year, will potentially look at it for next year.

f. **Explore the Universe Certificate** - there was no report.

g. **Eclipse 2024** - brief discussion of eclipse event results

h. **Fundraising Committee** - Wing K. reported that it had been quiet over the last month.

7. Business Arising

a. **Public meeting program changes** - this was discussed in conjunction with the Meeting Coordinator's report.

b. **RASC Annual General Meeting** - Dennis reminded Council that the Society's AGM is coming up, and requested members please attend this strictly-business meeting, to keep informed on the financial status of the national Society. Things seem to be improving slowly, but there are a number of obstacles such as a ten-year lease that was signed under the previous Executive Director which is very hard to get out of.

c. **Nature Conservancy of Canada dark-sky preserve** - Dennis reported that this is moving forward, Silvia visited. Potential for a movie, and Dennis is meeting with the producer/director next week. Funded by CBC. Dennis cautious about a documentary from his own experience but things can change tacks during the creative process. Supposed to be documentary about NCC and the Dark Sky, but people like things that

are exciting. On an aerobatic documentary they purposely induced ‘drama’ which was not conducive to the need for calm during such flying. It would be the Westin Family Centre of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The first application got lost at National, and this is attempt #2 with updated numbers and photos. They may have it as a Nocturnal Preserve rather than a Dark Sky Preserve (may be slightly easier to get approved but wouldn’t require the same outreach program to be served by RASC). There was disagreement with the dark sky committee, about whether the single light could be controllable or would have to be removed. The application will be successful but the process is lengthy. The International Dark Sky association has a less onerous process.

d. **Glenlea damage repair** - Part of this topic was due to the fact we have cash in the bank and it could be used for this project. If we wait another month, Dennis is concerned that we will lose the season for repairs. Judy reports that Jay and Stan went out and surveyed the job requirements and challenges and are planning to try and remove sheathing along one wall and try to jack it up enough to replace the baseplate. That is the main task, but getting to it will be the question, particularly using volunteer labour.

MOTION 202406-04 - Moved by Judy & seconded by Ed that the Observatory Committee 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.

The Motion was CARRIED.

e. **Strategic Plan/Bylaws** - deferred to next meeting.

f. **Quilak award for Wilfred Buc**k - Dennis reports that Wilfred has not responded to emails, and he will try to discuss this with him at his movie premiere at ArtSpace on June 21.

g. **Workshops** - there was no report.

h. **On the Move event** - Kamala received a request for a date in July, but the date doesn’t have a daytime Moon so it is not optimal. Mark I. is away but has latest update.

i. **Whiteshell outreach** - Judy thanked Daemon, Bradley Kulbaba, and Jay for attending despite a forecast of rain until 9:30 pm. It cleared but the only audience was the park interpreter, who stayed for views of the Moon and a few other objects.

j. **U of M Properties meetings** - Wing, Judy, and Dennis are exploring what the U of M would like for homecoming outreach or urban observatory on one of the tracts of land that UM Properties is developing. Properties has a very close connection to UManitoba (board includes UM President). Homecoming outreach event – possibilities, and we have a lot of questions. No commitment on either topic as yet, especially as there isn’t a lot astronomically going on at the date they proposed. Judy adds that it would be a good time to open topic of Glenlea MOU at the[Teams call with UM properties – about homecoming]. Nothing official at this time but for information of Council.

k. **Appointment of Nominating Committee** - Dennis reported that Council needs to appoint a chair at least, and they can help appoint the committee. Several key positions including President and Vice-President will be open at the next AGM.

MOTION 202406-05 - Moved by Judy and seconded by gAIL that Stan Runge be appointed Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Ed: since Stan is not present, what happens if he declines?

The Motion was CARRIED.

l. **Southwood Circle Public Outreach (U of M)** - Wing reported that the U of M is actively developing phase 1 (now doing landscape work on location of old golf course).

8. New Business/Round Table Discussions.

- **Kamala** - we are doing so much outreach, but we are still not publicizing or promoting it. Can we put this on our own website, since National is not really helping as they don't have the staff to do such tracking.

  Discussion:

  Dennis: we can do it by getting information to Marc S.

  Kamala: we should keep a record.

  Judy: We can put on website and then at least it will be archived.

  Wing: has been updating the website event section, but so far just copying what Scott posts on FaceBook. So far the updates are monthly meetings, Member's observing nights, and workshops, astronomy day. Missing an archival page with pictures, etc. we need someone to create the pages and review the content. The good news is that there is some young blood who might want to do that stuff.

  Dennis: is the archive function is fairly easy to activate on our website, and if we do have a new member who will do this, then we have the person, and future prospects for fundraising can have access to details that show we are an active Centre at Outreach.

  Bryan: there is no group for posting events on the website (General Forum in groups.io).

  Wing: Marc and he could do some research on widget plugins that would allow people to put the photos on it. Marc says there are some bad plugins and one that crashed the website last year. Wing suggested it could be on the events page, and a rudimentary gallery of photos could be uploaded.

- **Wing** – suggests adding a new piece of loaner scope into inventory. Lately, there's a lot of talk about Electronic Assisted Scopes, how cool they are and how easy to use. We could add a SeaStar to the inventory (easy to use and fairly capable); it's physically robust and comes in a good case for portability and ruggedness as a loaner scope. We should ask Mike Karakas (loaner scope coordinator) to think about it. Needs storage, and many times the loaner scopes are not borrowed. It is ~$700, and linkable for a number of users at (for instance) a public event).

  Discussion:

    - Judy: we need to be cautious about a small portable attractive scope that may “walk” unless the coordinator is really tracking who borrows which instrument. We may want to consider an outreach scope rather than a loaner scope.
    - Ed: an equipment management (capital management) program to involve the finance committee to determine whether to expend such an amount on this type of project (in view of strategic plan).
    - Dennis: it does not take long to spend the money we have currently; today we have the funds, but even getting permits would be fairly costly. One problem/project can use up that money, and we would be into a fundraising project, guided by the finance committee. All these ideas will factor into the strategic plan.

- **Ed** – start with a commendation; when we were going over the monthly meeting minutes, it was after Judy took excellent notes of each meeting – a big help. Ed also expressed that he really appreciates Judy’s work, months ahead, to find speakers for all the regular meetings over the past number of years. This has greatly reduced the stress levels about organizing the meetings. Ed will still be making the invitation announcements to members about the upcoming meetings. Judy will resend info from Ron Brecher and gAIL’s topic. Dennis concurs with advance planning.

8. **Next Council Meeting** is July 4, 2024, 7pm on Zoom.

9. Next Centre Meeting is the annual BBQ on July 12, 2024 at 6pm at the Glenlea Observatory.

10. The meeting adjourned.