

RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Tuesday, March 11, 2022, at 7:07 p.m.



PRESENT: Dennis Lyons, Mike Karakas, Ed Wright, Abdul al Manni, Marc Sarrasin, Michael Stephens, Judy Anderson, Gord Tulloch, Bryan Stach, Russell Brown, Scott Young, Michelle Boyce,

REGRETS: Kevin Galka,

1. Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement Dennis
2. Welcome and Introductions All
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3. Adoption of Agenda Dennis
 - Adopted.
4. Adoption of previous minutes Dennis
 - Adopted.
5. Financial Report Abdul
 - Abdul: Been to bank today. Received about \$453 from National, balance is \$18,020.49. (about \$17,300 at start of 2022) Not much expense. Will put scan on the shared drive of statement.
6. Council Work – Committees and Council Meetings Dennis
- .
7. Committee Work Reports
 - a. Policies and Procedures Manual Mike and Mike
 - MikeS: had one more meeting, updated positions, Scott contributing to policy. Continuing to meet. Judy: Things in the bylaws committee that P&P manual needs to have. MikeK: There is a disciplinary article and code of conduct to work on. Scott: Added content from other organizations. Gord: What about the code of conduct. Scott: It is needed in the P&P manual but should be from council. MikeS: Will definitely be discussed with Council before it's included in the Manual. Gord's point is that it wasn't previously assigned and is glad it's being taken in hand. Michelle: Would like to join P&P committee.
 - Ed: Do we need P&P in place for something. Judy: Need it for incorporation. Ed: Need to time box it so it's done in this Council's term. Dennis: Use August for the P&P document because that is what Judy is shooting for.
 - MikeK: Would be nice for the P&P manual to know the priorities. Judy: the disciplinary committee and the code of conduct. Need to get those buttoned down. Michelle: I am on the bylaws committee so you'll get lots of x-talk.
 - b. Bylaws Judy
 - Judy: Been really active discussions, governance, P&P, elections procedures, Scott and Michelle are now on P&P working group. Want council to get late spring / early summer. Some changes are minor. Some is based on better understanding of the input we received plus new ideas, so really should make improvements, learning about sensitivities to language, Catherine stepped aside for personal reasons for time being,

have a copy of the by-laws ratified with comments, going through front to back. Will book next meeting.

- Zoom, Gord: Me, Dennis and Ed have admin. Yes can pass it around. Yes could pass the license back and forth. Scott: In Museum we have a number of presenter accts. Having to change pw's every year not a problem. Russell: Setting as Scott says, would that be an issue? Scott: Just a generic acct. Gord: Might not be acceptable for their terms of use. Ed: For now could flip license back and forth. MikeK: Not really inconvenient. Dennis: Okay let's do that for now.
- c. Observatory Committee Gord, Michelle
- Michelle: Don't know who on it. Gord: Minutes of observatory committee are on Google Drive. Gord: I could book a meeting. Michelle: No bandwidth for this month. Gord: No urgency today. Michelle: Could start in April. Gord: Need to book meeting on Zoom. Judy: Looking at high water levels in April. Need to meet earlier. Russell: Can help out with spring preparedness. Bryan: Will shoot an email. There is a webpage to monitor water level. Gord: Remember comm chair is not doing all the work. Michelle: Will try to get a meeting going. MikeK: Took drive on weekend but drifts too drive. Michelle: Now in tough with guy who plows. How will be back Monday. Can let you know when road is clear. It is plowed regularly. I try to get it plowed weekly. I have to go out there for CCD camera. The guy plows up to where you park.
 - Dennis: Gord has offered to assist, and Bryan has offered advice.
- d. Incorporation Tabled
- e. Finance Committee Abdul/Mark Irvine
- Dennis: Not spoken to Mark Irvine yet. He saw a lot of areas for improvement, banking and insurance. Abdul: No meeting yet.
- f. Star Parties
- Dennis: She has started to recruit. Russell volunteered. To Russell, can you be the council rep? Russell: Yes. Dennis: Silvia asked for help finding one of the speakers. Judy: Marc S suggested Jay for an eclipse update, but Jay is away during SWSP. Marc: Was wondering what you guys thought of the subject. Dennis: Timely topic, easy travel for many centres, here is Wpg will be a partial eclipse, many reasons to cooperate, might have a nice outreach event by 3 cooperating. If there are funds available, could take an extra level up. Silvia said if more money could get better porta potties. Michelle: Had two PP in previous years, but only one last year. Dennis: More people than expected showed up than expected.
 - Judy: Should we motion for more money? Russell: Will let Silvia know. Gord: Could get a quote. Russell: How much funds? Gord: last year they did not accept registrations ahead of time. That caused the surprise. Dennis: That was because of COVID.
8. Directors and Councilors Tabled
9. Appointed Positions Recruitment Dennis
- Dennis: Some of these posns felt were important, but could take off list if necessary.
- a. Spring Star Party
- Gord: We have those volunteers. Russell: Told Silvia I'd be interested in spearheading. Gord: A lot of it has been Silvia.
- b. Explore the Universe
- Dennis: This is reviewing and approving, then forwarding to National.
- c. Webmaster

- Dennis: Need to place this one. Russell: Knowledge? Gord: Just some HTML. Not a huge amount of tech skill. Dennis: Looking for someone who is a member. Russell: Pitch it at membership? Gord: Could do a 5-minute show on this. (Gord shared his screen and demonstrated.) MarcS: He might be interested. He has used WordPress before. Gord: It has become a burden. Pitch it to the group, but if no one needs to do it, Russell: I could help. Could give it a shot. MarcS: He has used WP before. Gord: I could do a 5 min presentation at meeting. If you know how to use a word processor, should be able to do it. Michelle: My plate is full but have done some HTML in the past. Gord: Had 3 webmasters before, Sam did a lot then backed out. Gord: Preferable to have one person doing it and others helping. MikeK: One person might be Brendan Petracek, might approach him. Also another part of the role is moderating the forums.
- d. Volunteer Coordinator
- Dennis: This is more for public outreach. Arranging for the volunteers. Hopefully after Mar 15 can get back.
- e. Mentor Coordinator
- Judy.
- f. Meeting Coordinator
- Dennis: Tools are there. Just organizing the meetings and speaker gifts after. Gord: I would recommend getting the person doing it today to talk about. Kamala might be good. Dennis: Okay will identify person to talk about it at meeting.
- g. Light Abatement Committee
- Dennis: Need someone to move it forward. Michelle: SW was listed as dark sky preserve. Dennis: Noted by Silvia and sent in. It is easier to get the IDA certification compared with RASC.
- h. Youth Outreach
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10. Web Infrastructure and io email list update Gord
- Gord: Next step is the U of M hosted a listsrv for us since July 2003. Now that the sponsors with access to this system have moved on and other centres moving away. We thought the alternative would be National's. They asked their web service people to develop a forums functionality. Not good. Others are using **groups.io**. For > 100 people is \$20 per month. We now pay a couple hundred per year for forums function on our current website, so it would be essentially net zero cost if we switched. RASC Wpg would replace old RASC Wpg. RASC Public list, people have been asking for that, people asking to be on mailing list. (Gord demonstrated what the page would look like). Russell: Downside is anybody could send to all. Gord: No, it would be a moderated list so that wouldn't happen. Can have up to 500 people in premium account. Can have calendar, photos, subgroups, polls, chats, files, databases, etc. This would be a good augmentation of website. We should consider paying \$20/mon and migrate everything. Wish we had this in our website and get it. Suggest we move everything over now or in Oct. MarcS: Can we get a RASC.CA domain? Gord: No Dave Lane owns RASC.CA. All I can do is tell him the IP address and then he sets it up. (Gord demonstrated the forums). Many people want to send an email rather than going into the forum. For the current RASC.Wpg list we do not control it. It could be gone tomorrow. Nice thing about forums as well is persistence. You can read prior messages before you joined it. Michelle: Another thing is a digest which I find is convenient. Scott: Like it. Good solution. Just wondering about archiving stuff on the old site. Gord: Already have a

copy on my servers that I download. All: Like it. Dennis: Now or later? Gord: The costs are US\$240 per year, we pay US\$200 per year for existing forum service. Nice thing for the webmaster is you can import lists of members, makes it easier to manage the membership list. Nice thing is we can have as many subgroups as we want. Nice thing for the webmaster is you can import lists of members. If someone stops being a member, they should come off the list but that doesn't happen with the current service. This would replace the forums. It would give the email a forums capability and the forums an email capability. Dennis: Everyone seems to be in favour of starting this now and in the fall drop the other one. Gord: Okay will take care.

- Gord moved that we pay an annual membership for Zoom at \$200. Tabled pending the discussion of zooming meetings once we return to in-person.

11. Business Arising

a. Membership Meeting

Judy

- Dennis: Been discussion on the groups, every centre in that position. General consensus is there is a definite demand to keep Zoom as part of meeting. Need to decide. It also opens up the breath of speakers. Zoom gives that advantage, any astrophysicist can present. Gord: 1) We have people from all over Canada MikeS: Have people from all over the world, people that are ill or at work can attend. Ed: It was in the strategic Plan. Gord: Yes out of town members want it. Judy: Yes out of town members wanted this. Michelle: On Zoom like that but the social aspects of meeting are great as well. Concerned might not get as many people attending. Also need some sort of a setup. Gord: We had a lot of people > 100 in person. Tech aspects, not insurmountable, sure can deal with that. Audio is often the problem. Michelle: UofM has all of that eqpt. Russell: Voting might be an issue. Dennis: Online users can be done with polling. Would not support restricting to in-person. Also, the only voting needed seems to be in the AGM. Usually very specific for one thing. It will need to be outlined in P&P manual how online to be done when just members can vote if there will be a combination of in-person and zoom/remote attendance when there are votes taken. Gord: One easy way might be the president holds the proxies. Dennis: We seem to have 100% support for deciding to allow going to hybrid meeting (zoom and in-person). Need a couple of people to look into the logistics. Need technical knowledge. Russell: Could help. Not sure what equipment we have. Gord: We have a 400W Fender PA with a mic, that's it. Scott: I can work with you to help. Dennis: **Russell and Scott to look at that.** Abdul: We have a projector and camcorder also. Michelle: the university has a connector where you can connect. Scott: We have our own projector and sound system because the UofM wanted to charge something like \$200 per meeting. Bryan: Kris Keller has projector and microphone.

MOTION Gord moved and Judy seconded that we pay CA\$200 up front for a one-year subscription for Zoom. CARRIED

- March: Beginner: Mike K; What's up? Bryan; What's New? Danielle; main speaker Dr. Dale Frail, Astronomy from Antarctica.
 - Main speakers essentially scheduled up to/including October..
- b. Meeting format/streaming Dennis
- c. CN Railroad Russell
- Russell: CN has Railroaders in the community program, up to \$3K per year, me and Kevin Galka, only thing we have to do. Would like \$ to go to our centre. Other centres are already registered, do not have to be registered charities, but only as a not-for-profit

(after incorporation). As soon as incorporation, he can register for the support, and could potentially see a few thousand dollars/year from CN. Need the treasurer to signoff. Council meetings, star party assist, 260 hrs per year. Ed: This would be ~+50% to our annual revenue.

- d. Scouts Canada Gord: They requested scopes to present to 60 scouts in Feb; suggested doing this in the springtime
- e. Fischer River Cree Nation Gord: A winter survival person was interested in doing some astronomy with people, and GT suggested it would be better when it was warmer and dark, likely Fall
- f. U of M Support Dennis
 - Dennis: Provided letter of support to U of M. If it succeeds in its proposal to work toward bringing science and astronomy to indigenous communities.
- g. Free Press Ed
 - Ed: in progress.
- h. Speaker Gifts All
 - Dennis: had the meteorites. Judy: Paid for 6. Dennis: To follow-up with Ralph.
- i. National Council Report Dennis/Bryan
 - Dennis: The insurance info and FAQs are available. The Board working on code of conduct. Good generic documents. They are meant to be appendices for operations manual.
 - Smaller centres asked if we would want them to have a website to host their website. Majority of people not interested. Mostly for the smaller centres.
 - Solar eclipse committee – 2 years out, goes through Ont and New Brunswick. Jay is on that committee at National. Bryan: April 22, 2024, is the solar eclipse.
- j. Memberships from OHMIC and MB Museum Dennis
 - Dennis: We bought corporate memberships at these. How to handle this. Do we want to send to T4K. 8 and 10 memberships. Gord: Last time the whole membership was asked, but suggests this time we ask who would use it, and only those people put in their name. Council agreed. Dennis: Submit to president at RASC.CA
- k. Awards All
 - Dennis: Need to decide on awards. Do have two awards to consider. Bryan: Who decides? Dennis: It is the council. To Bryan, do want to take that away and bring nominations back. Gord: Need name not won it before. Need to have names on the plaques. Dennis: Have picture of the plaques.
- l. Insurance notes from National Dennis
- m. Dalvenert Museum
 - Scott: Have our curator digging into, nothing specific, Judy: Nothing from Jay on this. Scott might want to do talk about early astronomers in former Winnipeg.
- n. Arthur E Wright School Gord
 - Gord: They want a professional astronomer to describe what they do for a living. We know three of them. Could ask Danielle, Dr. Samar Safi-Harb, or Dr. Michelle Boyce. Michelle: Scanned that email. Okay cc me on that.
- o. Public events post COVID Dennis
 - Dennis: On Mar 15 all restrictions to be lifted. Are we good if on Friday I announce that we are okay with opening up public outreach events? Are we good for the outreach? For monthly meetings, we have to wait for UM to ask if we'll come back. If get these requests, would need volunteers to bring scopes. Gord: We need a volunteer

coordinator before we do this. Dennis: Want to plant the seeds, big cultural shift for everyone. All: Comfortable.

- MarcS: Astronomy Day in May? MikeS: Sunday, May 15, lunar eclipse, mid-totality at 23:11, totality starts at 22:20, it will be cloudy of course.

p. Women and girls in astronomy Dennis

- Dennis: Judy: people to connect with the website. Good to announce at meeting on Friday and say any women or girls who want can connect with this link

12. Round table All

- Scouts: Dennis: Anything on this? Gord: Told them talk to me in the sprint.
- Fisher Nation – Gord: Didn't do much this year due to COVID. He suggested July / August. It is close to Toulon.
- Invite to Friday's membership meeting – Ed: Will send out draft for council to review. Gord: Could have standing item on the agenda what a position is about. Volunteer and Meetings coordinator. Dennis: Put in 5-minute item on that.

13. Next Meeting Monday 4 April, 7 PM

14. Adjourn

9:12 PM

	Name	Signature	Date
Secretary	Ed Wright		