RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

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

REGRETS: Scott Young, Russell Brown

1. Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement — Dennis
2. Welcome and Introductions — All
3. Adoption of Agenda — Dennis
    - Couple of minor changes to the agenda.
4. Adoption of previous minutes — Dennis

Ed Moved. Mike: Seconded. Carried.

5. Financial Report — Mark
    - Mark: First report from Wave. Bank is promising online access in the next month – a "hybrid" of personal-business account.
    - Balance is 18,552.29; GICs =3,000 (2 auto-renewing). More assets than we talk about, but historical costs. Will need to work on depreciation of building and equipment for future reporting (tax).
    - Need to depreciate. Need to know the useful lives. Electronics will depreciate quickly. All GIC in the sheet. Two of these auto-renew. Any other assets I should record. Need accurate records for our return. Total income to date in 2023 is 2015.29. The P&L has twentieth as month end, should be month-end. Will work with bank to sort out. Currently charged $4 / month. If increases too much will see about redoing the account.

MOTION Mark moved to accept statements, Judy seconded, passed.

6. Committee Work Reports
    a. Policies and Procedures Manual — Dennis
        - No update.
    b. Observatory Committee — Dennis
        - DFA – Inspector visited on Wednesday last week, met by Judy. He sent Ed an email on Friday with a series of questions, some of which do not reply. A sub-group will need to get together to answer the questions. Now waiting for a claim to be filed from the U of M. Dennis: Several people said they can help. Ed: To send to Wawanesa Ins. Judy: The Letter of Authorization is received. Should indicate that the letter for auth has been received. Also the DFA claim from the University of Manitoba and tax statement for Glenlea are pending from the University lawyer.
    c. Incorporation — Dennis
        - Dennis: We are now fully incorporated (Registry # 10156595). This is very positive news. Russell: Immediately registered with CN. (Stan joined)
    d. Member Meeting — Judy
        - **Member Meeting March -**
        - Beginner Session – Scott Young

- What's Up? – Bryan Stach
- What's New? – Michelle Boyce
- Observatory History – Jay Anderson
- Main Speaker – Darren Hennig: "Double Trouble: The Joys of Observing Double and Multiple Stars"
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- Judy will miss next 2 Council meetings and RASC meetings.
- **Member Meeting April -**
- Beginner – gAIL Wise
- What's Up? – Bryan Stach
- What's New? – Danielle Pahud
- Main Speaker – Dr. John Percy - Pulsating Variable Stars: Some Human-Interest Aspects
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- **Member Meeting May -**
- Beginner - TBD
- What's Up? – Bryan Stach
- What's New – Michelle Boyce
- Main Speaker – TBD
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- **Member Meeting June –**
- Beginner – gAIL Wise
- What's Up? – Bryan Stach
- What's New? – Jay & Judy – Eclipse 2023
- Main Speaker - Dr. Erik Kosolowsky – First Results from JWST
- Need ideas for June.

e. Finance Committee Budget — Mark Irvine
- Dennis: Any other volunteers? Ed volunteered. Judy as well. Not Abdul.

f. Star Parties — Russell/Dennis
- Dennis: Not heard anything from Russell. Cliff who is treasurer is ill again. Looking at changing the handoff of the acct to Mark. Have to be tracked for the financial reporting. Mark: Cliff and I met, confident in what he has. Would set up a fund balance and not integrate too much. Might consider moving to BMO. Would go down with you and him to get signing auth. Stan: When he was treasurer with Cliff he was getting a separate financial statement. Mark: Not received that yet.
- Stan: Russell and Silvia have been talking about SWSP. Silvia is away for 2 weeks on business. Talking about mentoring him for running the SWSP. Dennis: That is good news. Marc: Abdul did renew his membership.

7. Appointed Positions Recruitment — Dennis
   a. Explore the Universe — Stan
   b. Volunteer Coordinator
   c. Mentor Coordinator
   d. Meeting Coordinator
   e. Light Abatement Committee Silvia Graca — Dennis
   f. Dennis: Talked to Silvia on the DSP. Some readings need to be taken.
   g. Youth Outreach
8. Business Arising

a. National financial situation — Dennis
   - You saw what came out from Charles Ennis on the final decisions to close SkyNews, Robotic Telescope, and staff changes/resignations. What's done is done. Sent out note to National Council. National Board finally got their minutes on the website. Nothing saying they actually checked the financials. They need to do that on a regular meeting, in order to prevent the problem(s) happening again. They cannot leave all to the Financial Comm at National. Bit concerned about the 4 staff that left. The new ED (temporary) is walking into a bit of a mess with 4 fewer staff in the main office. Not sure how that is going. They mirror themselves. The number one concern is what the financial crisis will do to membership, particularly with the notion that there is no longer a benefit of SkyNews, and the dues are scheduled to increase. Could not have been any oversight. It is the BOD responsibilities to manage the finances, not the ED's. No excuse for this. Will forward stuff as I get it.

b. Enn Tant — Dennis
   - Dennis: Some discussion on this. They are closer to the Brandon group. Daemon: Website shows only Kithi Manitoo (SWPP). Maybe Brandon would be a more logical provider. Stan: True about only Mark and his brother. Dennis: Were they going to pay money? Judy: I think so. Mark: Could we get Brandon University to help out there? Mike: I can reach out. Daemon: I can reach out as well. How much funding is available (more than gas mileage), and whether BU and others there would help.

c. Workshop for Children — Dennis
   - Kamala: Yes this was me. I can be a volunteer. -Judy: This is to ask for further information rather than to conduct the workshop program

d. Name tags — Scott
   - Dennis: Scott not here.

e. NCC — Dennis

f. Glenlea, cleanup, damage repair — Ed

g. Spruce Woods gift to casino — $180 plus tax — Dennis
   - Dennis: $180 for a similar photograph to mount to present to casino. Reason for this is that the casino helped with DSP, changed their lighting, significantly reduced. Not in the budget.

MOTION Michelle: Moved and Judy seconded for $180 for a similar photograph to mount to present to casino. Mark: What is this? Maybe speaker recognition, Outreach is fine. Carried.

h. NC Report — Dennis
   - Dennis: Nothing more right now.

i. Science Rendezvous — Dennis
   - Judy: Stan was coordinating. Stan: Need a group to volunteer. The person at the university knows we are interested and undecided as yet, about a table. Need to decide if indoor or outdoor event. Judy: It is on May 6.

j. Bino/telescope day Darren Hennig — Dennis
   - Stan: Nothing further from Darren. With Darren it will be a go. Scheduled for March 25 afternoon.

k. Nova Program do we do it? — Dennis
   - Dennis: General support last time. Want to recruit someone. Ed: It is a good program. The program was developed in other Centres, and National last year brought it together. It has potential to generate some revenue for Centres, and does do some training.

Dennis: Will put out request for volunteers at the next membership meeting and needing someone to coordinate. It should pay for itself.

l. Website – usability — Dennis
   - Dennis: Any chance can make it more usable. Marc: Still cannot edit pages. Still having trouble with pages. People at work don't know WordPress very well. Word Press seems the issue. Scott was willing to help, but he's been occupied hugely at work and just getting back there. Dennis: Scott might be an option later.

m. Strategic Plan/Bylaws — Dennis
   - Dennis: Bylaws, should review them later this year. Focus will be on Observatory for now. Need to figure out the plan. Big enough project for next year. Could also review the Strategic Plan for now. Judy: Policy and Procedures manual to accompany, Judy indicates she's happy to help on the Policies and Procedures manual.

n. Manitoba Education — All
   - Dennis: Scott mentioned he is on the working group. To follow-up if someone to be a part, need a curriculum lead. Kamala: I volunteered, I do quite a bit of STEM for schools but not in astronomy. Dennis: Can work with them. Judy: Andrea, if still a member, might be able to help. Dennis: Will need to check if Andrea is a member. Marc: No she is not. Dennis: But Kamala could reach out to her. I will reach out as well to Andrea.

9. Round table — All
   - Stan: groups.io, couple of requests for ETU (Explore the Universe). I am naïve on this. How to get people back on line with us. Marc: To investigate. Stan should be able to go in and set up. Michelle: Could demo it. Stan: Desperately need to educate the club on this. If a single page on this would be helpful. Mark: Could be a page on the Newsletter. Ed: Could use what went out initially as instructions. Stan: Would like something. Would like to get people involved who are striving for it. Could give Ed a kick in the butt on this. Michelle: Would like the writeup on this. Could add a video to the website. When we do the demonstration at the meeting, clip that part of the video that is made, and add it to the instructions on the website. Judy: You can login at Groups.io, or on the bottom of every email, is "reply to sender", "reply to all", "send email on new topic".
   - Michelle: I will have a go at the Observatory comm. Dennis: Okay. I will announce at the meeting that you are the chair and ask for volunteers. It involves a number of roles: coordinating, volunteering, telescope training, maintenance of site, planning for future, flood repairs, etc. Michelle: Please email her the list of volunteers so we can collect them together. Judy: I would like to know what the Observatory Comm does. Michelle: I was told to read the minutes. Then I was asked to take care of the flooding and there were a lot of people to help out. I will give it a go. Email me and cc the others involved. Judy: Just a bunch of volunteers working on this.
   - Judy: Not much, your suggestions for May speaker is top of mind. I am the liaison between U of M and RASC. They indicated always a good relationship with them. Should approach them in the fall for a more formal arrangement. But we need a plan. Michelle: I have tenuous connections with the incoming chair with the Physics and Astronomy Dept. Judy: Need to have relationship with the Dean and mem service and Legal Svcs, etc. but Michelle's help will be much appreciated.
   - Mark: Mt Lemon has a program, a five hour program to see what they do as outreach. Judy: Relationship? Mark: Just discuss what they offer for outreach and what their scope looks like, 40 cm scope. Their program goes from 3pm – midnight and gets people behind the scope taking photographs. Other scopes are there too (6-8 of them),

and other Centres also go there when they visit. Might be good for people to know about it. It was $80 to $90 per person. They truck you all over the campus. Possible we might be able to follow something like their program, to draw people to RASC through our observatory. We haven't focused on Outreach at Glenlea for insurance reasons. University of Arizona got a million-dollar donation. There was an article in a recent Sky & Telescope about three scopes in AZ, and he will dig it out for Mark/Kamala (who is visiting soon). Mark could break this down for a presentation to the RASC May meeting.

- Kamala: Can we do an episode of the Dome at Home, sharing this thought with Stan. Stan: Already sent an email to Scott about this. Stan: How do we contact them, they won't be on groups.io. Stan has already contacted Scott about this. He will talk further about this idea.
- Marc: Couple of points:
    i. Did get an email on the ETU group. All council members can create.
    ii. When a new member signs up, 232 active members.
- Ed: reminder about Friday's meeting. Ed will be absent. We need to make sure we will still be able to do the hybrid meeting. He will email Scott and Kris and Judy. He can drop off the hardware to Judy except for the laptop. Whatever laptop is used will need Zoom client.
- Bryan: nothing
- Daemon: he will help with Science Rendezvous.
- Mike: We have a 4" Maksutov without a mount. Just need a push / pull alt/az mount for it. Will keep looking on the used market, and if he can get one for $200 or so, he'd like permission to make that purchase. He has council approval to maintain/upkeep equipment, but this is new.. Dennis: So motion to spend

MOTION Mike Moved, Daemon seconded, Mark: Explore Scientific has a manual one. Mike: One a month ago. Mark: Try for $200 but with a range. Mark suggests modifying motion to increase value; be frugal and reasonable within that range, say up to $400 including shipping. In favour of amendment. In favour of amendment – yes, in favour of motion? Dennis: Both motions carried.

10. Next Meeting, Monday April 3, 7 PM
11. Adjourn 8:15 PM

	Name	Signature	Date
Secretary	Ed Wright		