

RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Monday, May 02, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.



PRESENT: Dennis Lyons, Ed Wright, Scott Young, Judy Anderson, Marc Sarasin, Mark Irvine, Abdul al Manni, Mike Karakas, Kevin Galka, Bryan Stach,

REGRETS: Russell Brown, Michelle Boyce, Michael Stephens

1. Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement Dennis
2. Welcome and Introductions All
 - Dennis: Michael Stephens has given us his resignation but would like to come back in future.
3. Adoption of Agenda Dennis
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4. Adoption of previous minutes Dennis

Scott moved, Marc seconded, ADOPTED

5. Financial Report Abdul
 - Abdul: Balance is \$17,929.79, only 3 txns, one membership fee, bank fee, cheque for Robert's Rules. MikeK: Cheque for Hello Parallelogram Mount? Abdul: Sent by mail.
6. Committee Work Reports
 - a. Policies and Procedures Manual Mike and Mike
 - Mike: Committee has not met yet. No time.
 - b. Observatory Committee Russell
 - River lapping at the observatory doors. Road is very soft.
 - c. Incorporation Tabled
 - d. Finance Committee Abdul/Mark Irvine
 - Mark: Submitted the policies a month ago. Policies are a good thing for a foundation. Dennis: Need to add the policies document to Google Docs. Judy: Sent comments. Mark: No did not receive them. Written in a generic way for non-profit. Ed: Changes for registered charity? Mark: No this is more than adequate. Covers the gamut. There are obligations on the governance and some of the issues with not filing certain things.
 - e. Star Parties Russell
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 - f. Awards Centre nominations Bryan
 - Bryan: Made report and will send to the council. Two nominees, outstanding achievement Trevor Bryan, and Service Gord Tulloch. Also the Service Award 40+, Norman Howey, a member for >45 years. How will we award this to him. Could do the two awards at the GA. The 40+ could be in Oct 2022. Looking for adversity, character awards. Ed mentioned honouring people at the meetings. Scott: I think awesome to recognize the people. Maybe not a service award. Could be a one off thing. Dennis: Only comment is for outstanding and achievement award, technically for last year. Would hope to present the plaques at the BBQ and invite Norman to the BBQ. Expenditure is about \$10 per plaque.

MOTION Judy moved to do the engraving for two awards not to exceed \$50, Abdul seconded.
ADOPTED

- Dennis: For Norman, Judy: Just a certificate, ACTION Bryan to handle the certificate in an 8X10 frame. Mark: Can we waive his fees due for long-term? Scott: Is a nightmare accounting thing. They grandfathered them in. Dennis: We could pay next year's membership dues. Scott: Good to know how that fits with other centres. Ed: Could do a 5, 10, 15, anniversary thing on a slide each membership meeting. MikeK: Sounds like a good idea to me as well. Could do in the newsletter as well. Dennis: Could you send Gord a list once a month on who is new? Abdul: Yes could do that. Dennis: Great new people and people here for anniversary divisible by 5.
- g. Bylaws Judy
 - Judy: Did send in a report. Was intended to be reviewed by council. Really important to look at bylaw suggestion since tasked by members to do that. Really important for everybody to consider the reasons for the changes. Will resend to everybody. Interesting to think about the changes. Not completely along the lines of original committee, some are clarifications, and some more foundational, e.g., the president able to vote a second time to break a tie. President is a member of all committees, president takes vote, but only votes to break a tie. I think it helps to have all of the tracked changes. Dennis: Duties of councils and directors removed. Judy: Will look, thought it was there. Scott: Some things got moved to different sections. Judy: It is there, article 7. Kevin: It is still there. Dennis: There was a move several years ago to give president to have a vote so they can ethically express their opinion. That is why a lot of places now have this capability. Personally, I would have a hard time not having an opportunity to vote. Did not take long to review. Will put questions in on the shared drive.
- 7. Directors and Councilors Tabled
- 8. Appointed Positions Recruitment Dennis
 - Dennis: No movement on that yet. Will continue focusing on positions in the meetings. Hopefully able to do this more effectively with in-person meetings.
- a. Spring Star Party
- b. Explore the Universe
- c. Webmaster
- 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
 - Marc: Russell has a presentation on this.
- 10. Business Arising
 - a. Membership Meeting Judy
 - Judy: Silvia (beginner session), Bryan (what's up?), Danielle (what's new?), Silvia (SWSP update), Darren Hennig (Main speaker – Dark Nebulae).
 - b. Meeting format/streaming Scott/Marc
 - Marc: Nothing to report yet. But might be possible to use sound system on Zoom. Scott: I was late contacting Danielle about room sound system. Just contacted her. Will get on that in May. Did talk to audio folks at museum, said could do it, but need tech savvy person running the gear to be able to stream in real time while having a meeting.

- c. Fischer River Cree Nation
 - Nothing new.
- d. Speaker Gifts All
 - Judy: At previous meeting we voted to give speakers outside city gift, I gave 5 and Dennis gave 6, have 2 left, should we give out to our members. Scott: It is nice to give them something, I wonder if there is something more Winnipeg centric. Ed: A really nice thing to recognize speakers, and it's very beneficial having Zoom to be able to have really good speakers from away. Judy: Could be a Winnipeg T-Shirt. Dennis: Everybody nodding yes to doing it for Wpg Centre folks. Judy: They are \$23 each for shipping. Mark: Could get a cup that you heat up that shows a galaxy. Dennis: Have 2 more to give out, and look around so we can have some on hand (mugs, etc.). We will discuss next meeting.
- e. Memberships from OHMIC and MB Museum Dennis
 - Dennis: Have a list of names. Will get it out next week. Still not for all of them.
- f. Arthur E Wright School
 - Dennis: Wait for Russell to come on.
- g. Artemis Project/Shooting for the moon Dennis
- h. Astronomy Day Judy, Dennis
 - Dennis: Have enough volunteers. Judy: Got good response from people for Saturday day and Saturday evening. Wondered if could have small budget for a poster to direct people and could get them laminated and then mount them outside. Didn't hear back from Marc Sarasin. 18 x 24 were \$18 ea. Marc: Stan sent an email. Spoke to someone at McNally Robinson for a poster.

MOTION Judy moved and Marc seconded to spend \$24 x 2 to get the posters. ADOPTED

- Judy: In person reporting to National on all of the star parties happening. Dennis: I responded to Phil Groff, for us is 8:00 to 8:30, everybody gets a chance to spend 30 minutes, will get Zoomed or on Facebook. Marc: For Friday, what if clouded out, Saturday, in Chapters during day, evening at McNally. Scott: Could if is raining put up sign saying *cancelled*. Marc: Could stay and put up promo material, and people could look at telescopes and maybe a slide show. Scott: Could put up postcard of Saturn. Judy: Could do a rolling slide show outside McNally.
- i. Peace Garden Star Party Dennis
 - Dennis: Heard back from lady. Aug 26; the Peace Garden people are offering \$400 for expenses and meals. Idea is around 10:00 p.m. to do the observing. Would like someone to do a talk during the meal, a sky tour. It is about a 3-hour drive. Marc: Yes the campground is small. There is also the Turtle Mountain campground, not far away. Dennis: Will try to get a bit more info, and advertise for volunteers and make a decision.
- j. In person meetings Judy
 - Judy: I sent an email and vm for the person who does event planning at St. John's college. I think it is important to get back to in person as soon as we can. Dennis: I agree. Has U of M gone back to in-person? Judy: Not for current term but trying. Mark: Does the room have cameras for streaming. Scott: Yes. Mark: Could stream to YouTube. Abdul: I used to use the guest Wi-Fi. Don't know if they have eqpt we can use. Dennis: St John's does have equipment, but initially wanted to charge \$200/meeting for us to use it.
- k. High school group Judy
 - Judy: This is the Seven Oaks Met School, did not hear back from him yet. Said Glenlea not great. A school yard would be better.

- Dennis: There was discussion about what events can be held at Glenlea. Don't have an agreement in place yet. Recommend we don't have anything else other than with members or family. Judy: We have not had an agreement in place for 2 years. I would not want to put a damper on. I think getting tacit approval from Danielle would be good then take to Dean's office to get through the legal stuff. Scott: Good point about liability. The building is not up to code. Just one broken leg and then insurance is void. Like what Judy said as long as Danielle is aware. Then the question is, is it available to non-members? In last meeting we said regular meetings are for member benefits. Dennis: If a non-member shows up then is trespassing, but if a group shows up invited, then it is RASC sponsored and covered by insurance. Judy: Agreed that scopes on the pad would be okay. Mark: Is it a question of risk and liability to the club? Dennis: Yes. Scott: If not using the dome, then why going there? Dennis: The risk is if we have people go in with the trap door, could be negligent. If one falls down the trap door, especially in the dark or for kids on a tour. The benefit of Glenlea is the warm room. If good with Judy's suggestion to talk to Danielle first, we can do that.
- l. Access to membership lists Dennis
 - Dennis: Was a bit of a discussion. Technically it is their data. We need to find out their policy first. We have to respect their rules on it. Will try to ask Phil that question tonight. For now, it is the membership coordinator who has access. We don't want to release private information more broadly than it should be, and don't want to open up the list to nefarious use of the data.
- m. Sharing of zoom links for meetings Dennis
 - Scott: I notice that it is shared on the website. Ed: That link not created yet. Scott: Decided last month to not share to anybody but members. Marc: I can move it. Abdul: Also, there is a limit of 100 users per session. Got to 65 in January.
- 11. Round table All
 - Ed: getting \$1,000 from Canada Life as a community volunteer grant. They will only pay to a registered charity. Ed – having a corporation is really a big benefit, as currently we are limited in being able to accept donations (registered charity necessarily means giving a tax receipt). Our membership is aging, and they may have legacy amounts that could be available for donations. National said they don't like to "process" donations and then give them to the Centres, but they will in some instances. It will be very useful to be able to do that. Will need formal things in place. But let's get our corporation in place, is little work. Let's first get incorporation, which is very little work for a large benefit.
 - Marc: [Groups.io](#) – Russell and I met to org the groups. Bino group is already using it and can transfer to us. Looking at exporting from the site. Not too obvious on how to do it. Have ideas to look at. Looking at moderators for subgroups. Has 30 GB for storage. Might need to control it a bit. If can access to a members list, can add. When to announce to the membership. Dennis: Marc/Russell can indicate when we want to 'go live', and then Dennis will announce it at a meeting. Ed: Terms of use for our members? Marc: Not sure, can take away (thinks there is restriction of some words that cannot be used). Ed: Back up of the forums? Gord had taken a backup. Marc: Also, some of the forums had been disabled.
 - Bryan: Looking forward to the public event this weekend. I will take pics at the outreach events.
 - MikeK: For the strategic plan and the incorporation, I am finding some time constraints, and would like to relinquish this task (although stay on the committee), don't have time

on the P&P it needs a push, ideally someone in the bylaw committee. Dennis: Will get everybody to contribute.

- Mark: Thanks for allowing me to join. Have a background in finance and charities. A lot of obligations, double edged sword, want to ensure we are a benefit to those we are serving. The government wants you to have clear position on what you are doing. Definitely a worthwhile pursuit but not with eyes closed.
- Abdul: Nothing to add.
- Judy: I feel like I've been taking on other things so not volunteering for P&P, although would help. Not going to lead that charge at this point. You told everyone I am acting as VP. Dennis: Yes and Mark Irvine to council. Judy: I am looking for someone to do beginner session.

12. Next Meeting Monday 6 June, 7 PM

13. Adjourn

8:32 PM

	Name	Signature	Date
Secretary	Ed Wright		