RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Monday, May 01, 2023, at 7:10 p.m.

PRESENT: Marc Sarrasin, Ed Wright, Mark Irvine, Dennis Lyons, Bryan Stach, Mike Karakas, Kamala Kodi, Daemon Nightshade,

REGRETS: Russell Brown, Scott Young, Stan Runge, Judy Anderson, Michelle Boyce

1. Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement — Dennis
2. Welcome and Introductions — All
3. Adoption of Agenda — Dennis
4. Adoption of previous minutes — Ed
    - SWSP was a comment.

Minutes accepted as circulated

5. Financial Report — Mark
    - Mark: receipts and disbursements, we are below budget due to 1st qtr, oner spent by $22. Favourable. Had to buy cheques for the accts, juggling the two accts for now, keeping old acct until sees the deposits come in to new acct. Took 7.50 out of SW acct. Change in balance sheet, liability for the old acct, is fund accounting, for non-profit we have $1,900 for the SWSP. The other thing was the meteorites. Could not get cheques to Russell yet, $472, needs to be paid. Ramping up our programming. Expenses not too bad. Honoraria will carry into next year. Cash flow report is good. Balance sheet should not change too much. Retained earnings of about $100K. To think about depreciation expense for the assets. Just need assessment of how long these things will last. Observatory will need to look at when upgrading. Would be depreciation rate to get us to the market value. Optics keep their value. Electronics go to zero. Will start on budget in 4th quarter. Maybe Sep or Oct meeting to review.

MOTION Mark moved, Ed seconded approval of the Financial Report. Passed

6. Committee Work Reports
    a. Policies and Procedures Manual — Dennis
        - Nothing completed on this while Dennis was on vacation.
    b. Observatory Committee/Cleanup — Michelle/Ed
        - Dennis: Latest on flood report? Marc: Red River cresting this week. Bryan: The river level was nothing to worry about right now. Too early for a work party.
        - Ed: ball is in our court. Waiting for a couple of items from U of M. Dennis: Will wait for Judy to talk to U of M. Not heard from Michelle. Once flood waters go down will put together a plan.
    c. Member Meeting — Judy
        - Dennis: No speaker for Beginner's session. Scott could do Groups.io. Who is primary speaker? Ed: Stan and Mike Karakas. Technology might be a risk with Scott being on his own. Problem with coverage. Kris, Judy and myself are away next week. Scott might be able to bring someone in from his work to assist him. Will have to monitor this. They would need a laptop. Not sure if club's laptop will suffice. Need laptop to support Zoom. Marc: I can help at the meeting, but I have no extra laptop.

d. Finance Committee — Mark Irvine
   -
e. Star Parties — Russell/Dennis
   - Dennis: Note from Russell. He has a Zoom with park on the public event. He will communicate that once confirmed.
f. Explore the Universe — Stan
   - Nothing from Stan on this.
g. Eclipse 2024
   - Dennis: Nothing new from the National. Not heard about the glasses yet. We have a backup plan with the Planetarium. Partial is Sept and then big one next year is April.

7. Appointed Positions Recruitment — Dennis
   a. Volunteer Coordinator
      - Some people are interested in training at the observatory.
   b. Mentor Coordinator
   c. Meeting Coordinator
   d. Youth Outreach
8. Business Arising
   a. National financial situation — Dennis
      - Dennis: Not changed a lot. They are working hard to get their ducks in order, be financially responsible. Priorities are recruit and hire new E.D. and a new office admin. They were the critical positions. Likely to go with minimum staff of 3. Review by CRA is underway. It has been quiet, which is a good thing. Bad stuff gets out fast, but a lot of good work is going on. Think is moving in the right direction. They do send me good information.
   b. Enn Tant — Daemon
      - Daemon: Enn Tant, no update, sent email and heard nothing.
   c. Workshop for Children — Kamala
      - Kamala: Did call Megan, a day care, they will conduct summer camp during holidays for children, want one day, likely July 14, might be 2 or 3 sessions wanted. She asked more information and also about the charge. Maybe 45 minutes per session. It is in Winnipeg. Dennis: Need a call for volunteers now have date. Kamala: They had a place. Requesting daytime. Maybe take a solar scope since requesting daytime. Dennis: Do we charge? Normally only if there is a cost, e.g., for travel. Dennis: A charge would filter out people. It is in the city. Ed: Who is requesting this? Kamala: Googled this, From the email, from 'On The Move Inc.' and contact person is Megan. They are a chain. This is an organization into early childhood education. It is Friday afternoon. Likely a summer camp. Someone may have to take time off work. Ed: I am with Dennis, nominal fee. Mark: Could start with rate for half day and full day, maybe $50 and $100. Kamala: They are asking two or three sessions. Mark: Once establish the rate then can waive it. Depending on the org, we would have discretion to waive. Depending on the circumstance, e.g., public good for us. If three days then maybe $200. If PR thing for us we might want to waive the fee. But nice to establish the fee. Dennis: Like the idea but maybe $100 and $200 in Wpg area. Also getting requests out of town. Like the idea of setting a rate and then can reduce or remove it if necessary. Mike: Comfortable with that line of thinking, and agree on the $100 and $200. Mark: Then what do we use the money for, revenue or to a fund. Could start with it as general revenue, but later could pass motion to dedicate for another purpose, e.g., a scholarship. Dennis: Like that we

could fund improvements at the observatory. Putting in general revenue allows us to have a discussion.

MOTION Mark moved, Mike seconded that the rate for education sessions will be $100 for ½ hour and $200 for a full hour.

d. NCC — Dennis
   - No update
e. Glenlea, cleanup, damage repair — Ed
f. Spruce Woods gift to casino — $180 plus tax — Dennis
   - Dennis: Not talked to them yet. Don't know if will accept it.
g. Science Rendezvous — Stan, Daemon, Kamla
   - Dennis: Email to the membership. Mark: I volunteered to help. Mike: I also volunteered. Not sure how many he needs to pull off this time.
h. Website – usability — Marc/Russell
   - Dennis: A lot of conversation on the website. Understand the website working. Marc: Yes, so far working, the X Theme plugin was crashing. Bought it and is working. Gradually on other plugins. Not the whole website is working yet. The menu at top is not working yet. Marc: Cost CA$107 approved through email. Will send receipt to Mark. Dennis: Was approved by email vote.
i. Strategic Plan/Bylaws — Dennis
   - Dennis: Placeholder for the fall.
j. Manitoba Education — Kamala
   - Dennis: Any follow-up. Kamala: Nothing pending as of now until they come back.
k. Pinawa event — Daemon
   - Mike: Still being discussed. Looks like a go. Councillor at Pinawa works for CP Rail. Will review the decision where to hold in Pinawa, more rustic, the campsite not ready yet until Jun 1, he has guest cottage with 4 people and his buddy has a camper. I contacted just a few people. I have everybody needed right now. Wait and see. Just need to confirm some plans. Dennis: Excellent and thank you.
l. Friends of Spruce Woods event — Russell
   - Dennis: Russell says this has died, not responding. Take off agenda.
m. Astronomy Day — Mike/Daemon
   - Dennis: Looks like an awesome event. Looked like fun. Thank you to everyone.
   - Kamala: Alternate days for full moon, add to Outreach 1.
n. Bulk purchase of cleaning supplies — Scott
   - Dennis: Scott asked someone to post to the groups.io. Someone going to do that? I will see if I can do it.
   - Kamala: Portage Main Collegiate requested astronomy night, were thinking Glenlea, could be La Barriere park, they will discuss and come back with alternate days which we could consider. We are waiting for them to come back.
o. Credit Card — Mark
   - Mark: We need all of the exec back so when Judy gets back.
p. Social media policy and procedures — Scott
   - Dennis: Was circulated on Google Docs. No changes recommended. Any comments?

MOTION Daemon moved, Mark seconded to accept that policy. CARRIED

q. U of M mask policy change — Dennis
   - Dennis: Policy changed, just to formally change here. It is optional now. We will just reflect their policies. Good will reflect that.

r. Glenlea Public use — Dennis

- Dennis: Generic for now. What is your feeling about
    i. Ed: Address the liability issues, risks, need a policy, in favour if addressed
    ii. Mark: have a good location. Need a sub comm to work with the U of M, it is the university's property, decide what to do, find out what our options are, in favour of it, designed for astronomy, need small group to do some research.
    iii. Mike: Going along, only liability would be the observatory building, the warm room should not be an issue. If road in good shape is okay. So need to get the U of M on board and handling the liability. Mark: Would be liability for the U of M base plus young children.
    iv. Kamala: Agree with what others said, advantage to have public involved, helps our centre to expand, near to the city, make sure are rules and guidelines,
    v. Marc: All points I had were mentioned. Observatory not safe enough there. If okay with U of M, need permission for property and the observatory.
    vi. Daemon: Very much in favour, great outreach tool, counts of people coming.
    vii. Bryan: Think is a great idea, but is their property, need to ensure not interfering with their courses. Should have more events. Also, the Venus thing, breakfast for the members.
- Dennis: Okay so we should do:
    i. an internal risk assessment, I can draft up, share with the group, then decide if can meet that.
    ii. If can mitigate most of the risks (e.g., not unlock the door), then move into discussions with the U of M.
    iii. Then discuss insurance with National. Should not need to request every time. Should be covered under the National policy and insurance. There is a requirement for first aid. Might be additional expenses. Moment bring in groups we are responsible for first aid.
- Dennis: Will have for the next meeting so group can review.

s. YMCA event — Russell

- Dennis: This was from Russell. He wants to canvas for volunteers. He recommends go for it. Most in favour. I will put out on Groups.io.
- Russell: (via email) *We have commitment from the YMCA to provide travel, food, and accommodation expenses for the full weekend for 3 RASC members to provide one night of observing on June 9. This is at Camp Stephens, an island on Lake of the Woods owned by the YMCA. RASC volunteers will have full access to the camp and all activities for the entire weekend.*
- *I think we should canvass for volunteers for this event to gauge interest. If we get more than 3 volunteers, we can ask the YMCA if they can support the increased volunteer count. You can reference the email chain I sent earlier this month for more information.*
- *If I can get a synopsis of the response to the YMCA Event soon after the meeting, it would be appreciated so I can action them.*
- Dennis: What is consensus. Looks like all in favour. Okay I will get out on Groups.

9. Round table — All

- Dennis: How are we doing for handouts? Daemon: We have tons. The only thing is colouring pages.
- Dennis: Bill MacDonald's remains being put to rest in July. Silvia found out it is in July. Asked Silvia to contact.
- Dennis: Award recipient. Scott announced this to exec. Silvia was awarded the service award. Will be announced at May 12 meeting. She will be recognized with the other members. The little bit of effort to write up is worth it, really worth it.
- Bryan: Got to the Manitoba Symposium. Need to send Mark the name of person, gave the $50 award. Dennis: Send to Scott for the Newsletter.
- Marc: Nothing new. Astronomy day was great success. Geese and deer went by. Had people looking through my scope. Venus looked like the moon. One person thought Venus was the moon. Then they wanted to see Mars, not M13. Awesome evening.
- Kamala: Definitely an experience first time they see the moon. A lot of people interested. Also the visiting cards for the table. Did not see RASC brochure, just the visiting card. Daemon: Because there was a breeze and did not want blowing.
- Mike: For astronomy day 2, good for the evening presentation, was thinking about sending email to her to continue synergies in future years, was successful. What about the daytime event Dennis: Certainly an option, the bookstore can be steady or dead. Mark: The solar observing was the challenge. Other option is the Forks, or Planetarium for First Fridays. Definitely an advantage at Chapters. Marc: First time at a daytime event inside. People really liked the planisphere. Steady stream of people. Daemon: I enjoyed it overall. No large crowds. Two setups, scopes by the window and then the booth. Could not predict we would get no clear sky at all. Volunteers answered a lot of questions. Chapters was happy with us.
- Mark: The other thing that worked well was the site managers. I did the booking. Russell: Had email chain, then MK and DN ran the sites. I did the logistics. We just needed Scott's list of things to do. There is an astronomy day in Oct as well so another opportunity in the fall. Also, a lot of people wanting to take pics through the eyepiece. One person liked M13. People were steady. All the people wanted see, a lot of little kids, wanted to hang on to the tripod. Joy with Assiniboine Park Conservancy was surprised how good the crowd was. Pent up demand perhaps because of COVID. Not a lot of advertising. Mike: Scott might have had it on Facebook.
- Ed: Mechanisms for charging for services and receipts? Mark: Yes, can do invoice in Excel. The whoever attending take invoice with them so there is a proper record. Then use business #, not sure about GST. Dennis: The threshold is $35K. Mark: If we issue an invoice without a GST # then the buyer company can get into trouble so always better to out our GST number on things like that. Suggest deal with as an invoice. A charge the GST. Can use an Excel template and invoice using Excel.
- Ed: Will send the invite out on May 6 for the message for monthly meeting, Scott doing groups.io beginner needs to be confirmed.
- Dennis: Scott: $85 for the lanyards,

MOTION Dennis moved, Mike seconded that we spend for $200 at Staples for lanyards and name tags. CARRIED

- Dennis: Good meeting. Never seen so many requests for outreach. Not able to support everybody, but being able to meet the public requests is good. Will be good to see what Glenlea to look like. Example the Pad might not be big enough if outreach demand continues. We have leads for these events. Thanks to everyone.

10. Next Meeting, Monday June 5, 2023, 7 PM
11. Adjourn 8:25 PM

	Name	Signature	Date
Secretary	Ed Wright		