

RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.



PRESENT: Abdul, Judy, Gord, Dennis, Bryan (at 7c), Terra (8:10pm)

REGRETS: Ed (on vacation), MikeK, Mike S,

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| 1. Call to order @ 7:06 pm | President |
| 2. Indigenous acknowledgement | President |
| 3. Welcome and Opening Remarks | President |
| 4. Additions to Agenda | President |
| • Scouts – Nov 4 call for volunteers | Gord |
| • Awards committee to nominate people for awards | |
| • Mentoring program report | Judy |
| 5. Adoption of previous minutes | President |

MOTION: Accepted as adopted.

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| 6. Financial report | Treasurer |
| • Abdul: Balance is at \$18,349.04. Insurance reduced to \$632 from nearly \$1000. In good shape. Still to be invoiced for calendars and promotional materials (total ~\$900). | |
| 7. OLD BUSINESS | |
| • Bylaws | Dennis |
| • Ed sent out notification. To be opened for discussion at Nov 12 meeting, with notice of vote on Bylaws during special segment of December 10 meeting. | |
| • Incorporation | Gord Tabled |
| • Upcoming RASC Zoom Meetings | Judy |
| • Nov 12 meeting: Chaired by Gord (Dennis double booked): beginner session – Jay, what’s up – Bryan, what’s new – Michelle, main speaker – Dr. Jennifer West (planning document at: Winnipeg Centre Speakers list - planning.docx - Google Docs) | |
| • Dec 10 meeting: Beginner session – Darren H, call to order for special meeting on Bylaws – Dennis, what’s up – Bryan, what’s new – Danielle, main speaker Dr. Leo Alcorn | |
| • January 7, 2021 meeting: beginner session to be booked; AGM (election, financial report, budget and discussion); then what’s up, what’s new, main speaker TBD (?Darren H, or Mars Society speaker, or Dale Frail or MikeK on planetary imaging). | |
| • At every Council we should talk about potential speakers including members. | |
| • Strategic Plan and Recruiting incl Volunteer Coordinator | Dennis |
| • Still need Volunteer Coordinator and Meeting Coordinator – posted in WinniCentrics. No news or inquiries yet. Gord will raise the need at Nov 12 meeting. | |
| • Operations Manual | Mikes |
| • MikeK and MikeS both sent regrets. | Tabled |
| • Contact Reports | Gord Tabled |
| • Insurance | Dennis |
| • Abdul – indicated earlier that insurance costs were lower this year from ~\$1000 to \$632. | |

8. Event Reports

- Spruce Woods Lunar Night Gord
 - Gord: Silvia and Gerry plus others went; event was well attended by members of the public, and a great night was had by all.
- St. Malo Spring Event 2022 Gord
 - Silvia still wants to recruit for SWSP herself, rather than utilize parallel volunteers recruited for St. Malo. Will be a call for volunteers for this event at the Nov meeting. St. Malo will not happen if no volunteers, vs. SWSP will happen regardless, as per Silvia.
- Tipis and Telescopes Gord
 - Well attended night-1, led by Silvia and Gerry, as per article in WinniCentrics. Night-2 clouded out; Gord notified Wilfred that no-one from RASC would be attending.
- Scouting group Gord
 - The group is quite aggressive. Originally wanted Dec 9 at Camp Amisk outside the City for 60 scouts, when it's cold. Alternate date at a school yard with parking in the City was okay but wanted Nov 4 so school is available for washrooms for young people. This was too short a notification period. Leader wanted a partial moon, Jupiter and Saturn up, so have settled in on Nov 17. Will be announced at a meeting. If no volunteers, can do something in

9. Job Descriptions

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| ● Beginner Session Coordinator | Judy | Tabled |
| ● Newsletter editor | Gord | Tabled |
| ● Membership Coordinator | Abdul | |
| ● Can manage the positions | | |
| ● Webmaster | Gord | Tabled |
| ● Loaner Scope Coordinator | MikeS | Tabled |

10. Fundraising Coordinator

Ed Tabled

11. Updates

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| ● Finance Committee incl Budget 2022 and Council Banking Issues | Abdul | 10 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----|
- Dennis: Abdul was to have drafts available for Nov 2 meeting after a meeting of the Finance committee. This was to include ideas on Centre banking in the future, with recommendations.
 - Abdul – committee met two weeks ago and he introduced the position. Mark Irvine had an objection to Incorporation, as he indicated that such organizations are notorious for volunteers who stay on for life. Abdul was unable to convince people to meet a second time. He spoke to René, National Membership Coordinator about this, and she said that being a charity is not harmful for a Centre (currently only 5 of 30 Centres are neither incorporated or a charitable organization). Gord feels there are harms to becoming a charity.
 - Gord – Dennis should be invited to the meetings ex officio, and Gord would like to attend. Meeting to draft a budget is important as we need that by the time of the AGM.
 - Abdul will try to call another meeting this week or early next week. There was a brief discussion about a budget (currently there is no budget). Two members of the committee have an idea (Daemon, Wing) about budgeting but no real budgeting was achieved in the brief meeting (1 hour). A second meeting never

happened. Abdul will schedule a second meeting, and Dennis requests Monday or Tuesday next week, at the latest.

- Judy – used to chair a national organization of scientists. She recommends that the treasurer make a rough budget (based on previous years) in Excel, with scenarios for next year that use the same amount of money as last year, use more money (e.g., from donations or fund raising) and use less money (e.g., fewer members). That way, we have contingencies if things don't go well.
- Dennis recommends having committee look at the Strategic Plan while drafting the budget, so that implementation of the SP can be started by allocation of funds in particular directions that are especially active (e.g., this year, suggesting some additional funding to observatory committee and to other activities that are working well). This will help us achieve the goals in 5 years.
- Dennis asked about the banking issue; Abdul indicated there was no time to discuss it with the Finance Committee.
- Dennis – the decision about incorporation is a Council decision; incorporation includes the process of reporting, and sharing agendas and minutes with Council. So, there should be an agenda and minutes. He suggested the meeting agenda should prioritize the need for a budget as it needs to be presented at the AGM in January.
- Judy – incorporation doesn't change the need for a budget, only record keeping.
- Membership Abdul
 - 227 active members right now; 7 are pending review; 3 are on hold; total includes 20 new members since end of July.
 - Judy – asked about renewals. Abdul said for the most part people have renewed, while a few dropped out in May or June. 7 memberships will lapse by end of October (only 6 will likely renew). Membership “on hold” is one that has lapsed but is still within the grace period (currently have until end of November to renew); likely most on hold, will renew. Abdul will send a reminder one more time. National may also send reminders (maybe new system works better than the old one, and they have 2 staff working on member services).
- Light Abatement Terra Tabled
- Youth Outreach Andrew Tabled
- Observatory Committee Gord
 - Nothing to add from minutes (on website for Council) and article for newsletter summarized discussions ongoing, and some things taking ideas to Council for discussion: building an enclosure for 14”, building or buying some new tables, and planning for an extension of the pad (pending re-establishing relationship with UM). Pad would be fill and gravel with paving blocks on top for a total of ~6’ extension E, W, and S. Gord recommends getting rid of telescope mounts/piers (would need jackhammer), but place for 14” could be built to avoid those piers.
 - Dennis – request the committee try to put together a rough estimate for the budget.
- Work with like minded organizations Dennis
 - Nothing to report
- Nominating Committee Bryan
 - Met last week with Jay (Stan absent) – 2 council positions open, and 2 nominees. Jay reminded the positions need advertising in meeting,

WinniCentrics. Look at the history of how it's done. During nominations, need to ensure that nominees are willing to accept the responsibilities of the positions. Nominations to be sent to Bryan.

- Dennis reminds Bryan we will need Directors and Councillors as per the new Bylaws document.
- 8 directors (4 executive, 4 councillor positions) plus 4 councillors non-directors. All are voting and Council is the governing body. At election, people will need to know they are running for a director position or not. Will not really have an issue if everyone is able to be a director. So we need at least 1 councillor to be a director (for the incorporation of current council for Centre. We need a maximum of 5 to be elected or acclaimed.
- Dennis would ask people who are nominated, if they are willing to be a director. If we have more than 5 willing to stand for election, we would recruit those who are not elected into other positions.
- Judy recommends making sure that members know the difference between director and councillor.
- Advertising is very important. Gord will announce in meeting Nov 12.

12. Meeting Coordinator All

13. NEW Business

- Interest Group update – binos group Dennis
 - Dennis: Darren H is willing to run it as per our guidance from last meeting. Darren asked for a spot for website to have a forum for bino interest group. Gord will do this. Darren is really the only one who posts on the website. Judy – Darren volunteered to be a main speaker. Gord suggests inviting him.
- Geology Field Trip Dennis Tabled til spring
- Telescopes for Kids & Press Release Gord
 - Press release at 9am today; invited to CTV morning show spot by 9:15 today. 5 spots starting at 6:15 am. Two winners from last year have been asked to join. One likely (as per discussion today with Gord), and also invited Stan. Gord will do first and last spot on the morning show. Rachelle also asked for a bit on how to use a telescope, etc. This should be fun and will get us huge audience and some donations. Gord does has \$750 from Kevin Kliewer's donations that have sold on Buy and Sell. He recommends Orion 4.5" Starblast scopes (commonly used in library loaner programs). Gord's been buying eyepieces. Donations 2 from Michelle Paquette, 1 from observatory (4.5" on EQ1 Gem in warmroom, now repaired and being painted). Andrew offered his 8" XT8 but not confirmed. Celestron 102mm from Mrs. Paradise. 50mm refractor from Michelle. Celestron first 3" scope that Gord bought. Lots of donations appropriate for older and younger kids.

MOTION: Gord/Judy – donating 4.5" on EQ1 Gem to the Telescopes for Kids program. PASSED.

- Dennis recommended that Gord get approval to purchase scopes while there's time to get them before the holidays. Gord indicated we could spend funds Starblast scopes (~365 each, eyepieces ~125) unless club could contribute up to \$200 to offset Gord's deficit.

MOTION: Gord/Judy – Centre to contribute \$200 toward purchase of a Starblast scope. PASSED.

- Gord - Committee to select winners – Gord, Judy, Ed, Dennis (to date)
- Free Press article Ed Tabled

- Mentoring program report Judy
 - 6 mentors (5 are currently active with a learner as of Nov 1), 13 learners (1 suspended for non-compliance to covid regulations, 1 no response to mentor, 1 on hold for winter). Mentoring going fairly well, although some communication, travel, and covid-distancing issues. Using zoom and email for sharing info often before meeting. Some have equipment and getting help with setup, others purchasing it and advancing nicely. Mentors with highly variable commitments: 1-6 learners per mentor. Need to get one new learner to register online (Kyle). Could announce the opportunities for members to register to mentor and/or to learn.
 - Gord – continues to be a resource for learners, although not going to officially be a mentor, as he’s got lots on the go.
 - Dennis – good to hear the program is running well.

14. Next Meeting – **December 7** -first Tuesday of the month Dennis

15. Round Table All

- Dennis: Awards committee – Bryan was to think about this. No update on awards but will have something to report by next meeting (Nov 12). Bryan will send an email and spend a few minutes on awards while he’s doing what’s up. At end of announcements Gord will give
- Judy - Invitation for the monthly meeting – will this be from Ed? Should be on the generic account. Gord will confirm when Ed returns and pitch in as needed.
 - Terra - Light Abatement (Terra recently logged into meeting): Terra tried to attend the Vancouver meeting, but they limit people who can attend. Has no news on activities. She was hoping to get some new insights from a activities on light abatement at a different Centre.

16. Adjourn

9 PM

- Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

	Name	Signature	Date
Fill-In Secretary	Judy Anderson		