RASC Winnipeg Centre Council Meeting 7 Nov 2024

DRAFT meeting minutes

Present: Judy A. (Chair), Mike I., Scott Y. (recorder), Kamala K., Daemon N., Marc S., Stan R., gAIL W., Bryan S.

Regrets: Dennis L.

1. **Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement**

   In Dennis' absence, Judy A. served as Chair and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and read the land acknowledgement.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

   Judy mentioned the recent passing of Murray Sinclair and its impact on the province.

3. **Adoption of Agenda**

   MOTION 202411-01: Moved by Scott and Seconded by Marc S. that the Agenda be approved as presented.

   Motion 202411-01 was CARRIED.

4. **Adoption of previous minutes**

   Due to the late circulation of the minutes they were not approved at this meeting.

5. **Financial Report**

   Mark I. was not in attendance and so this meeting was deferred until later in the agenda.

6. Committee Work Reports

a. Policies and Procedures Manual (Dennis) - no report

b. Observatory Committee

With the resignation of the Chair and several members, Council discussed the way forward.

Judy will ask for people to express interest for "new" ObsComm and Council will appoint a new one. We should recruit for skills, not just whoever would like to be on it.

Wing: Chair should be a skilled administrator. Ed W. agrees. Stan disagrees.

Currently still 4 people on the committee, but the committee shouldn't just be whoever didn't resign yet.

Scott: all committees expire at AGM by default unless they are standing committees.

Discussions on what is role of ObsComm - is it just maintenance, or also future planning, other sites/buildings?

c. Member Meeting 8 Nov Judy

Speakers set for November, Dec and Jan as well. Possibility for February - SmartScopes

d. Finance Committee Mark Irvine

Fin report: quiet month, $314 in fees, summarize Mark's email report for minutes. Southwood Circle event brought in $200 revenue, paid within a day. No worries. Probably won't receive calendars by tomorrow's meeting. Training James Fast in backing up Treasurer's position. Results fairly close to plan. Had an excellent year, largely due to eclipse. Savings of $21,000, should look at spend money from savings for capital. Budget is for operations, not acquisitions. Started process of filing GST return. We have no statutory holdings due. We can recover GST we have paid as a not-for-profit. So far, about $50 worth of GST will come back. Worth saving it up. Technically below the threshold where we need to file, but are voluntarily doing it to establish process.

Wing: mentioned formality of making a capital request, what should that look like? Mark I. - just draw up a motion for a capital expenditure.

Ed: is Glenlea repair capital or maintenance? Mark: Capital, because it extends the facility's life.

Stan: we received an amount from the gov to do these repairs. Does Council not just say "go spend that money"? Ed/Mark: Grant was 1314.40, all cost recovery for money already spent, there is no money "left over". CF Motion in June, amendment in August? - must be changed,

e. Explore the Universe Stan - covered in workshops below

f. Fundraising - Wing

Mark I set up GoFundMe account in Centre for Telescopes For Kids 2025. Automatic transfer from GoFundMe to Centre bank account.$435 raised in first two weeks. Website updated with correct info for 2025. 2-sided campaign - encourage kids to apply, and encourage donors to deadline.,

Scott: what is deadline? Wing: Dec 31, 2025, but we can change that. Need awareness to see what our funding will be like. We need program deadline set in advance.

Judy: Wing will think about a "hard launch" for campaign, dates for application. Wing: yep, will bring proposal.

g. Nominating Committee Dennis/Scott

Election at AGM in March, we still need candidates. Mark I will stand again. Scott: James Fast will stand for Councillor, two other potentials still TBC. Suggestion by Mark I: Ivan Yuen

7. Business Arising

a. Storage for equipment Daemon

No money, loaner scopes will remain in users' homes, so need for storage is lessened.

Spruce Woods has contacted us re next year, they are sending us a gift.

b. Budget decision

Mark walked through the budget items. As proposed there is a deficit of $150.

> **MOTION 202411-03:** Moved by Mark I and Seconded by Stan R that the 2025 budget be approved as presented with $150 deficit with expenses of $8750 and receipts of $8600.

Motion 202411-03 is CARRIED. Judy asked Mark to thank the Committee for their work. Scott pointed out that this process is much better than previous.

c. Telescopes for Kids Wing - covered above

d. Volunteer recruitment and retention All - cut and paste error from last month's meeting

e. NCC Dennis - deferred since Dennis is not present

f. Glenlea, damage repair - Jay has done some minor repair. Bathroom door needs replacement, checked electrical, put mouse traps out. With flood damage that hasn't been done, we will have mouse issues all winter long. No way to get any substantial work done before winter.

g. Calendar sales Stan - all 30 are sold, 20 are paid for, waiting for them to arrive

h. Strategic Plan/Bylaws (Dennis) - deferred

i. Workshops (Stan) - working on starhopping workshop series, using Explore the Universe as a basis. Will run pilot in early December with 10-ish members, will announce at tomorrow's meeting. Also looking at one on SmartScopes. Wing: is that a classroom workshop" Stan: Glenlea or classroom. Ed: is there a charge? Stan: no. Scott: for members only? Stan: yes. Ed: training has value so could charge, open to public. Stan: intention is mentoring.

j. U of M meetings Wing/Judy/Dennis - meeting is scheduled with Faculty of Science for new MoU with University. No extant copy of old agreement. Science is very enthusiastic about maintaining collaboration. Meeting week of Nov 18, then involve U of M's legal dept.

k. Website two people access Marc - Scott will put his name down as interim

l. Telescope loaner purchase of see star? Wing

MOTION 2024-11-04: Moved by Wing and seconded by ??? that the Centre purchase a SeeStar 50 smart scope for the Centre's loaner scope program, plus a case. Stan would be the caregiver for the scope.

Process: loanee must be a member for X months before eligible. One month maximum. People will need to supply their own device (phone or tablet, iOS or Android).

MOTION 2024-11-04 was CARRIED by email vote before the meeting and is recorded here.

Mark I will purchase the scope on the Centre's credit card and ship it to Stan's address.

Stan will purchase the case and get reimbursed.

m. Award nominations

The Centre has the Service Award and the Achievement Award. National has the Service Award and other awards. Ideas: Trevor Bryant has been involved at Spruce Woods for a long time, may be a good person for our Service Award. Wing: can we create a new award for volunteerism for outreach? Scott: write a proposal and and bring it to Council.

n. Holiday potluck - Saturday 18 January at Launch in the exchange. Wing will check date. Fee was $100.

o. Wilfred Buck movie Dennis - Dennis and Judy received direct email from NFB to do a public or private event. Wing went to the opening at Cinematheque, and it was a little boring, very little to do with astronomy. Judy agreed. So, no thanks.

9. Next Meeting, 28 Nov 2024, 7 PM