

RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.



PRESENT: Mike Stephens, Abdul, Judy, Mike Karakas, Gord, Dennis, Ed, Bryan, Andrew, Terra (at item 11b)

REGRETS:

1. Call to order President 7:00 PM
 2. Indigenous acknowledgement
 3. Welcome and Opening Remarks President
 - a. Dennis: National is moving to a new location
 - b. National insurance – They will do a webinar in detail. Two major points: 1) the centre is covered not individuals and 2) only council approved events are covered and must be related to science. Keep it simple, send email to council, Gord: So, our members are not covered? Dennis: Lots of people at national did not understand this coverage. Just needs to be science oriented. There will be a webinar for further instruction.
 4. Additions to Agenda President
 - a. Ed on vacation next council meeting
 - b. Awards committee to nominate people for awards
 5. Adoption of previous minutes President
- MOTION: Accepted as adopted.
6. Financial report Treasurer
 - a. Abdul: Balance is at \$17,770. This will go down with insurance billing.
 7. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Bylaws Dennis
 - Judy: Cleaned up the intro. Bylaws at Dec meeting. Dennis: No comment from National. We will go to the Centre membership for approval of the new bylaws. Judy: We need appropriate notice of a special meeting. Dennis: we should send a separate bulletin to members that a special meeting to ratify bylaws is held at 7:30pm at December meeting. **ACTION Ed to send out notification.**
 - b. Incorporation Gord Tabled
 - c. Next RASC Zoom Meeting Judy
 - Judy: Have the next two beginner sessions lined up. Might have speaker for Nov. Will ask the speaker who cancelled last month. Gord: Going to the Mars Society meeting and will see if another individual would be available.
 - d. Strategic Plan and Recruiting incl Volunteer Coordinator Ed
 - No changes to planning; now trying to execute the plan. About recruitment, there are people for Finance, Nominating, Observatory. However, still need Volunteer Coordinator and Meeting Coordinator for further attention. Ed wants an 'on-boarding' process from Chairs of committees. GT asks if there has been follow-up on Finance committee – an update report is pending. Ed: Are we going to do anything more to recruit on those positions? Gord: Someone should announce at meeting (Dennis), Gord could post in newsletter, need to post on other channels.

- e. Operations Manual Mikes
 - MikeK: Meeting next Tues. Want Dennis and Gord to help kick off. Understand bylaws are overarching document. Looks like a lot was from National. Gord: There is the Centre Ops manual, be careful to use the right document. The ops manual is stuff that can be changed by council. It is in the “Winnipeg Centre Policies and Procedures Manual”. MikeK: Want to meet Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
- f. Mission, Vision, Values Dennis
 - Dennis: Any more feedback? None, so they are done.
- g. Contact Reports Gord Tabled
- h. Insurance Dennis
 - Gord: There are number of tasks will not be able to do. Cost of letting it ride is maybe \$350. The current cost is \$700. The value for the bldg. is \$96K. But it is not worth that. Could reduce to \$45K. The LX200 is only \$6,300, not \$15,000. That would cut in half. Judy: Would we need to have someone come and review the assets? Gord: They don’t care that much. Much of our assets has over-estimated replacement values. Dennis: Does this make sense to Council to make the change.

MOTION: Gord, MikeS second. To work with the insurance company to reduce the annual premium based on the reduced coverage levels and asset values. CARRIED

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MOTION: Gord, Judy Pay for the insurance costs to \$700 CARRIED

- Abdul will phone the company tomorrow on the invoice, and pass GT the information so he can provide the estimates.

- 8. Event Reports
 - a. SWSP 2022 Gord
 - Gord: Silvia wants to step back; her name is on every task. Told Silvia lets put together a real committee to integrate with council and try with the Spring Star Party (St Malo), She is the chair, at the next meeting could say we need a committee. Dennis: Need email. Gord: All channels. Should recruit volunteers at next regular meeting, it will decide whether we do have a spring star party. Dennis can ask for volunteers at upcoming meeting. Silvia already started to socialize date for SWSP. Silvia already starting to work with park and has a date already I can book St Malo in January.
 - b. St. Malo Spring Event 2022 Gord
 - Should be able to book in January, and if we get volunteers, we can put it on. GT will not do this himself. He will scope out the facilities from a cabin he’s rented (personal) for Nov. Dennis: Are you the chair for the St Malo. Gord: Yes, but not permanent.
 - c. Scout Camp Gord
 - Gord: Not a lot of people, Stan, Judy, Jay, Dennis, Gord, Marie, etc. came. A lot of kids had fun. Vast majority engaged and had fun. We will likely get contacted by Scouts and guide groups.
 - d. Tipis and Telescopes Gord
 - Gord: This is ready to go. Silvia and Gerry ready for this. (Silvia knows Wilfred.) They are north of the Selkirk Aerodrome so not sure if GLP allowed. Wilfred expecting a GLP session. Dennis: Will look into that tomorrow. Need approval from council. Gord: Silvia wants approval for this. Need confirmation from

Dennis that the airport is only open in daylight hours. Dennis: If no one objects we have council approval.

9. Job Descriptions

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| a. Beginner Session Coordinator | Judy | Tabled |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gord: Thought these were done. Dennis: Not done, but part of the ops manual. Could turn over to Mike and Mike. Some of these documents are in GoogleDrive, with some mixed formatting. Only need Loaner Scope Coordinator description | | |
| b. Newsletter editor | Gord | Tabled |
| c. Membership Coordinator | Abdul | Tabled |
| d. Webmaster | Gord | Tabled |
| e. Loaner Scope Coordinator | Abdul | Tabled |

10. Break at halfway point

Dennis

11. Fundraising Coordinator

Ed

Tabled

12. Updates

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| a. Finance Committee incl Budget 2022 and Council Banking Issues | Abdul | 10 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dennis: Abdul can show what is there. Also need guidance for next year. Abdul: Not started with this yet. Gord: Will decline Mark for observatory comm and make available for the finance committee. Dennis: Abdul to reach out to Mark and Daemon. We need to start on next year's budget. Fin Com should reach out to other committees for other things needed to go into the budget. Abdul to proceed to connect these people and start to meet regularly. Gord: You could look at the Strategic plan. You could do a statement YTD with a chart of accounts. You will have revenue accts, expense accts, fixed asset acct. Dennis: We really need Abdul to get the committee working very soon. Also, SWSP is independent but should show up in the report. Once incorporated we need to show under one set of books. Gord: You are going to have to assume you will need Cliff's accounts. Ed: Target dates? Dennis: ACTION Abdul to have drafts for next meeting. Ed: Anything else you need from council? Abdul: Nothing at this point. • New banking ideas will be reviewed by Finance Committee and make recommendations to Council at next meeting. | | |
| b. Light Abatement | Terra | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terra: Not received many emails on anything. Past month moved to Vancouver. | | |
| c. Youth Outreach | Andrew | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew: Not a lot to report due to other assignments and work. Gord: Met with Wild Outside, the youth outreach, doing program on Nov 1 with them. (Canadian Wildlife Federation) Dennis: Any liability with this. Would like to report by email so at end of the year we can report. There would be no liability issues. Important that if someone says an outreach activity is a Centre initiative, then we should be able to know so a) we're insured if needed, and b) we know about the activities. Gord: Would have this on the volunteer coord list and an idea of how many people we reached. Scouts was 125 people. Hopefully Tipis and Scopes should be recorded. | | |
| d. Observatory Committee | Gord | |

- Gord: A lot of the meeting was him reading things. Establishing what doing going forward. Evaluate if another site warranted, ops status of the observatory, had a free discussion about the survey, and then about ideas thrown out. MikeK: It was the first volley at it. Gord: It was blue skying. Wing is proponent of working with alumni to get funding for an interpretive centre. We are meeting at observatory next week. Will look at structural issues. Look at pad, the dome, lots of ideas. Doing for the next two months. Should be prelim report to council for Dec. Steve not sure why he is there. Ed: Would like to attend as a guest, so he can see it and what's there in his perspective. MikeK: We will need some daylight time. Need on the weekend. Gord: Also, Wing would like to bring a potential sponsor from the computer company.
- e. Work with like minded organizations Dennis
 - Dennis: Not much to report
- f. Nominating Committee Bryan
 - Bryan: Have elections coming up soon. How running the elections? Dennis: Do call for nominations and know what positions up for renewal. Gord: Pres, Sec, Treas, VP are two years, plus the councillors are 2 years. Dennis: President and Vice President can only hold the position for no more that two consecutive terms. Treasurer and Secretary can do continuous terms if elected. So, need to ask whether people are going to continue. DL, GT, EW one more year, and all Council members have 1 more year, so only positions available are those vacated by current council members. MK and MS are appointed, so they need to run for election to Council. Bryan also has one more year. Judy: Register my nomination for Mike and Mike. Dennis: Also anyone who is appointed, Bryan committee should suggest people for the coordinator positions, e.g., volunteer coordinator and meeting coordinator.
- 13. Meeting Coordinator All
 - a. Already discussed
- 14. NEW Business
 - a. Interest Groups All
 - Dennis: Never called them special because sets up the cliques vs if an interest in something, point to someone who works in that. Dennis: How dealing with IG as a whole? Abdul: Not a problem. Gord: Don't want it to be a clique e.g., with Darren, as long as inclusive and they publish a newsletter article regularly. But not if a personal clique. MikeS: Why only hear about this now. For the ETU, can be done with binos. Also, the budget for the eqpt is not necessary to be successful. It should be focused on everyone not only those with really big binoculars and focusing on really deep-sky objects. They need to include other people starting out. EW: Ensure that they live up to the Values statement. Gord: Also need someone to lead it. Dennis: Summary, for IGs, they have to have lead, comply with values, include everyone, do newsletter minimum once per year, and advertise through all our channels. Dennis: For the binos group, want them to focus on completing a RASC Observing Certificate (moon with Binoculars, etc.).
 - Dennis: Should I reach out to him? MikeS: Yes.
 - b. Geology Field Trip Dennis

- Dennis: Ed Cloutis had discussion, 1 – 3 day field trip, Ed said in the spring when warm. Judy: Yes for me. Gord: Me. Dennis: Will get back to him for the spring.
- c. Dr. Pahud U of M newsletter
- Gord: The newsletter is now being provided and DR Samar Saafi-Harb. Did send her a newsletter. Danielle will send to a list of faculty. Also to the Assoc of Science Educators. They are talking about being involved in the PD days next year. Please send suggestions to add new recipients.
- d. Telescopes for Kids All
- Gord: We now have one telescope to give away, and maybe two with the one that Andrew offered. We should briefly mention it at the meeting, and Gord will have an in-depth article in Winnicentrics. People might donate to this as a fund (so we might purchase equipment to give away in December each year). There were some really enthusiastic kids at the Wilderness Camp event who would have been ideal recipients. Gord will talk to Wilfred about getting Indigenous kids involved. There may be a better way to approach this for students, other than an essay. Dennis: Maybe they could write a story, make a video or draw something – a mechanism that is more culturally appropriate. Gord: we could do this across the board, so it is more even to determine who might get the telescopes. MikeK: The 4.25” at Glenlea might be useful to donate to someone, as it needs minor repair, and it is not used. Gord: Could also give away Loaner scopes, if we’re not going to continue that program. There shouldn’t be many who wouldn’t like a used scope. We should review membership retention, to see if the winners last year, actually renew their membership (we gave that as a prize last year too)..
- e. Volunteer for speaker gifts Al
- Judy: This is meeting coordinator role. Gord: Agreed
- f. Donation of binoculars and tripod Dennis
- Dennis: A set of nice bins and very good tripod was donated along with a receipt for purchase by Patrick (The former users are now needing lighter-weight bins); Patrick has the receipts for the tripod and bins. National can issue a tax receipt. The donor really wants them to learn about the night sky, either as loaner or as a prize for kids. For others being donated, the bins are same as ones in SkyNews. They bought smaller bins. They would be happy with scopes for kids, want used for education. MikeK: The tripod is difficult for astronomical use. Maybe we should use a parallelogram mount to attach. Gord: Those bins are heavy. I would just give to a kid. MikeK: There a couple young ladies at SWSP that could have used bins. Judy: Could we do a raffle at Xmas? Dennis: Not the intent of the gift.
- g. Discover the Universe Dennis
- Dennis: It is geared towards educators. RASC National has agreement to promote this program. RASC is one of the partners of Dunlop Observatory. There are educators in our membership who could, Jennifer West works with them. It is a like minded organization.
- h. Free Press article Ed
- Ed: Catherine Lee is friends with Laurie Mustard who looks for articles on many topics. There could be articles on SWSP, or other volunteerism, or

astrophotography. Would this type of public relations/outreach, via the newspaper, to bring awareness to the public, be of interest to Council? Judy: Yes would be good. Gord: Yes would be good. We get air play on Christian radio, any sort of press coverage. EW: Will contact Laurie to check his interest about doing an article. MikeK: Also, the mentorship program could use boost Dennis And scopes for kids is good news. This year would like to get press releases.

- i. Enforcement of members-only status at events Gord
& Glenlea / signing members up on the web site or venue

- Gord: It has become clear that there are people showing who are not members. E.g., Sam not a member. Andrea Misner not a member. So we are not good at telling people they are not members. We are not checking. We should check at events. Could say if pay membership now can get in. Paul Paradis having issues getting them on the phone. If somebody shows up without membership, can we get a cheque and register them. Dennis: Have seen that done before. Gord: Think should put in policy that only members can attend. MikeK: I agree except that to turn away once travelled. Gord: Could follow-up with them after. At same time is 60 days grace. We could ask them to pay or promise to renew and we follow-up later with those people. We should do pre-registration (this year was anomalous). Dennis: Agree with you, if someone shows up and we tell them if they register that they need to pay their membership. Gord: Would set up the registration but we would need to be willing. Dennis: National in theory should have 7 days/week service. Judy: The SWSP never shared the registrations.

- 15. Next Meeting - Fixed dates first Tuesday of the month Dennis
- 16. Round Table All

- a. Ed's vacation. Gord: He can do the Zoom.
- b. Dennis: Awards committee. Ed: What is purpose of awards. Dennis: Two awards we have to provide.
- c. Ed: Will send the invitation out this evening for the monthly meeting.

- 17. Adjourn 9 PM
- a. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

	Name	Signature	Date
Secretary	Ed Wright		