

RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

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



PRESENT: Terra, Dennis, Abdul, Mike Stephens, Gord, Bryan, Judy, Mike Karakas, Ed,

REGRETS: Andrew,

1. Call to order 7 PM President
 - Congrats to Judy and Jay on 50th anniversary
 - Terra is moving to Vancouver permanently in mid-Sept, but she is willing to fill out her term on council.
 2. Indigenous acknowledgement Gord
 3. Welcome and Opening Remarks President
 4. Additions to Agenda President 2 Minutes
 - EV scope purchase
 - Ed – opportunity for an article with Winnipeg Free Press
 5. Adoption of previous minutes President 2 Minutes
- MOTION: Accepted as adopted.
6. Financial report Treasurer 2 Minutes
 - Abdul: Did not visit bank in last week for the balance. Dennis: **Exec comm to discuss Abdul's business address.** Judy: Did we subsidize the SWSP? Abdul: Previously have not had to do that. We only did this once or twice, not this year. SWSP handled by Silvia, Stan, Cliff. Dennis: Is cost recovery basis.
 7. OLD BUSINESS
 - a) Bylaws – Feedback? Dennis 10 Minutes
 - Dennis: Was some feedback. Judy: Were inconsistencies with committees. The pres having two votes. Dennis: The two votes for the president is specific and not normally changeable. Already discussed. Judy: Inconsistency in special meeting vs AGM; corrected in the draft that is posted. Dennis: other than 2nd vote it just read better. If no other feedback will become final bylaw. Oct is earliest to present. Nov would be second. Can vote in Dec and call that a special meeting. Judy: Yes to Dec. Ed: Yes. Dennis: Let's plan for that. Ques in the Nov meeting. Will do at Zoom and in-person. **Decision: Final copy to Oct meeting. Nov for questions. Dec would be a special meeting to vote in the bylaws.** Would make it cleaner. Have not heard from National yet. Judy: Need their okay by Oct meeting.
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 - b) Incorporation Gord Tabled
 - c) Next RASC Zoom Meeting Dennis 2 Minutes
 - Judy: Two speakers: Ed Cloutis from UoW spectroscopy and Mark Watoski on Perseverance navigation. Could have Ed first, split time in **ACTION: Ed to send the Zoom links.** Judy: We have two speakers. Somebody to watch the time. Dennis: He will send an email saying What's Up and What's New to be 10 minutes each. Gord: Sent a s/s out so they can keep that up to date.

- Gord to give Ed access for the Friday meeting.
- d) Strategic Plan Ed 4 Minutes
- Slide deck developed for presentation, ending with a Call to Action, asking for volunteers for specific tasks/roles. Enough detail to be informative, without being overly detailed. Planning for 30 min. Judy asks for someone to watch the time; 10 min for Bryan and Michelle, so there's enough time. speakers' schedule for one spreadsheet, now shared with Danielle and Michelle so they will alternate and enter titles, etc. Ed: To do Presentation. Dennis: questions in the chat box. Judy: 22 minutes to speak. Dennis: Ed to host one of the SP sessions. Questions limited until the end. Speak for 23 min so there is time for questions.
- e) Operations Manual MikeS 4 Minutes
- MikeS: They discussed a bit in SWSP. Now have time to discuss. Had initial meeting. Will start meeting this fall, for discussions on the manual, to be meshed with the Bylaws document.
- f) Social Events Post Covid All Tabled
- g) Scout Camp Gord 4 Minutes
- Gord: Good to go. Have signup sheet. Gord, Stan, Marie, Jay, Judy. Could ask for other volunteers as well. MikeS: I will check and might attend as well.
- h) Mission, Vision, Values – Feedback Dennis 10 Minutes
- Dennis: Was feedback. MikeS and MikeK. Judy: Wants public outreach part of the mission. Ed: Had relationships in there for a reason. MikeS: It was just a question of punctuation, could put comma in there, MikeK: It was a run-on. Judy: Liked the last comment about adding the profession.
 1. Keep the wording but correct the punctuation
 2. Leave community as is
 3. Update as requested including the wording “**from the novice to the professional**”
8. Job Descriptions
- a) Beginner Session Coordinator Judy Tabled
- b) Newsletter editor Gord Tabled
- c) Membership Coordinator Gord Tabled
- d) Webmaster Gord Tabled
- e) Loaner Scope Coordinator Abdul Tabled
9. Break at halfway point Dennis 10 Minutes
10. Updates
- a) Light Abatement Terra 4 Minutes
- Terra: Been in communication with Silvia, the dark sky preserve is provisional, got report from Jennifer about lighting retrofits, national did not send anyone else, that person's internship expired. Terra is acting as a go-between with National, although National hasn't yet sent application form for any other sites. MK: The people who would receive would be Tim Kennedy and Sandy Shewchuk. Terra: Yes, Jennifer Bryson from SW would be one. Mostly getting everyone on the same page. National not ready yet to recognize SWSP. Sandy, Tim, and Silvia agree still provisional until retrofits are in place, still getting communications from National LPA, just studies do far. Dennis: It is difficult working with them. Mr. Dyck did not share the report with the others. There is another National group that handles these and much simpler. Dennis: the chair is there now so that should help. Thankfully Terra is there. Terra: Nick Hammer occasionally mentioned

meetings of the LPA. They have me on their forum. Dennis: The fact National got an intern to help is good, they are trying to change the leadership of the committee.

- b) Youth Outreach Andrew 4 Minutes
 - (No update. Andrew not in attendance)
- c) Work with like minded organizations Dennis
 - Dennis: Changing relationship with University of Manitoba; Oak Hammock Marsh is now advertising their astronomy presentations
- d) Wilderness Challenge Gord 4 minutes
 - Previously discussed
- 11. Budget 2021 – develop based on strategic plan Dennis/Abdul. 4 Minutes
 - Tabled
- 12. SWSP Dennis 2 Minutes
 - Dennis: The SMSP Committee did an awesome job. Judy: Yes but Silvia should push harder for things like the 2nd biffy, would need more tables. Gord: Likely Silvia has enough to do but she might not be engaging others. Comments he had was the early picture. For next year we need to be more assertive. Should be better as a group situation. MikeK: She did have help in previous years. Agree she needs help. Gord: The spring SP will be a group effort. MikeS: On Sunday spoke with her and Jerry, trying to do everything by yourself. She seemed amenable to that. They are going to send out a survey with questions like whether doing a banquet. It is supposed to be fun. Need list of what went right and what better next year. Gord: Could bring her in as consultant for Spring event to model good behaviour. Dennis: The SWSP is technically a committee of the council. But the spring event is already in April. Need someone to be ex officio in that committee. Will take burden off the SWSP coordinator to report back to council. Terra: SSSP (Saskatoon SP) as example? MikeS: Yes, a number of things get divvied up – red light checker, hospitality tent, baked goodies for cash, somebody there at all hours. Dennis: The key point is jobs to be broken up. Gord: Should kick off committee for Spring SP and then keep it for SWSP. Dennis: So, in summary will try to bring in under council oversight and talk about in next meeting. Bryan: a week prior was contacted to bring projector; covid restrictions made it difficult for Silvia to plan the event with all the details. Dennis: volunteers need to be involved, to divide up the work -- GoogleDocs really helps.
- 13. Merchandise store Gord 2 Minutes
 - Gord: Got feedback from people at the party that people are interested and that we can set them loose in the store. Perhaps everyone on council to try out. Could promote to ... so we can get some feedback. Gord: Give everyone free run and say ... I will work up a slide on this. Can post that on the website. Can do that after the meeting. Use all the channels. Ed: What happens if there's a problem with a product. Gord: The purchaser. Ed: Is there any liability to Council about a bad product or interaction. We won't make good on a product if someone doesn't like it. There are no guarantees. Gord: Just let everybody loose on it and ask for feedback. MikeK: Do we know how many ordered? Gord: Yes because we get a complete list of what purchased and we get a cut. Ed: Risk for council? If is a \$20 Gord: Can say "no guarantee"
 - Dennis: Got lots of business cards (1000) in from Sam, also a bunch of the lanyards, and the card stock. Sam is unfortunately moving to B.C.
- 14. Contact reports Gord 4 Minutes
 - Gord: Waiting for a volunteer coordinator, so tabled for now.

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| 15. Insurance if time available | Dennis | 4 Minutes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dennis: Waiting for National. Gord: Seen nothing. | | |
| 16. Membership Coordinator | All | 4 Minutes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gord: Abdul took over. Abdul: yes, okay for me. Gord: Working on list of people that we keep. I do not trust the National list. We just knock people off the list if not in the list. | | |
| 17. Finance Committee | All | 4 Minutes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dennis: Update on this. Entertain a motion to strike those committees. | | |

MOTION: Gord moved to strike the Finance Committee with current treasurer and other members who express interest. Seconded by MikeK. Mark Irvine and MikeS have expressed interest. Gord: Chair appointed by council. **ADOPTED**

- Nominating Committee. Would be Bryan as past president to be the chair. Jay Anderson and Stan Runge have not yet agreed to serve here. (Chair is appointed by Council, who is responsible to strike and maintain committee),

MOTION: Gord moved to strike a nominating committee chaired by the immediate past president who shall approach other former council members to form nominating committee. Judy seconded. **ADOPTED**

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| 18. Observatory Committee | All | 4 Minutes |
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MOTION Gord moved to replace the director position with a committee comprised with a chair appointed by council consisting of committee members recruited by the chair from current nominations and/or other members who expressed interest. **ADOPTED AFTER AMENDMENT**

- Other people will volunteer to help on this, but will not be on the committee. Gord would like to Chair. MikeK he is throwing his name in there as well.

MOTION Ed moved to have Gord chair the committee, MikeS seconded, **ADOPTED**

MOTION Gord moved to create the Volunteer Coordinator position. Judy seconded. **ADOPTED**

- Fund raising coordinator – Ed: Strategic planning committee disagreed about this. This is a key function for going forward with upgrades to Glenlea, requiring a lot of fundraising (~40K) with ongoing expenses (internet at Glenlea, maintenance, etc.). Opposing argument is that each initiative/project should take on fundraising functions for that particular initiative. Ed argues that it is very beneficial for Council to have a designated person who can provide consistent relationships with other organizations/government, to generate funding, and build relationships with community groups and initiatives for public exposure to enhance the messaging. One person could manage the information and fundraising applications. That person wouldn't do everything, but would oversee the fundraising function and communications. this would be a sales and organizational role with strong record keeping required. Ed states he is trying to set us up for the future, as the optimum position is to have this role staffed on an ongoing basis, rather than project to project.
- Gord: Judy and I disagreed. From our perspective each project would have a fundraising component specifically to that project. The coordination and knowledge should reside in Council rather than in a particular coordinator. There would still be centralized coordinating function. This person would be doing nothing for a while, as there are no projects as yet. Observatory committee would figure out a plan, and get it ratified at

council and with membership, and then assess what fundraising was required. There would be some redundancy if we had a fundraising coordinator.

- Judy: Too big a role with no function at present. Have not yet approved the strategic plan.
- Terra: Would this position be involved in brainstorming? If so would autonomous. Agree with Judy can be visited later.
- Dennis: Suggest we table this rather than throwing out window. The urgency for tonight not critical. **TABLED**

19. ST. Malo Spring event Gord 4 Minutes

- Gord: The park is 100% for event prior to May 15 opening. Could have a rain date a week later. Have done this with the scouting groups. Bay 11 in Sunset Pines is ideal. Nice location. Added benefit of the cabins in walking distance of the observing fields, have tenting, RV, cabins. It is very dark. Would get their interpreters on side. They would be responsible for BHP as well. The guy to approve it said good to go. Gord will test it by staying in one of those cabins and set up his all-sky camera. We need to apply for a permit (\$35) in January. Cost of cabin is \$350 / weekend. Gord: It is on the website. Dennis: Need to confirm Apr 30th. Terra: Utilities? Gord: There is no running water, rustic facilities, might need biffies, and a generator. This is the reason for the committee.

20. Council Banking Issues Abdul 4 Minutes

- Dennis: Abdul needs to send to executive for discussion and decision.

21. Meeting Coordinator

- Judy: We need a meeting coordinator. Is that function of council? Gord: Seems like something we need, Scott not doing, supportive of someone doing that role. Ed is taking on the Zoom/technical part, which is great. Need to fill out the spreadsheet. Need to start looking fwd. Dennis: Okay will advertise for that position in the next meeting as well.

22. NEW Business

- EV Scope – Jay asked if we are interested in purchasing. Judy: Jay asked for US\$2100. Current price over US\$3300. Jay said it would be better for an individual because it would be cared for better. It needs care and charging and people to download the app. Should not sit at observatory. He feels there would be buyers. Ed: Asks whether Council can afford this - \$2650 CANADIAN – it's a big amount as we are currently configured as an organization. If he was the treasurer, he would wonder about this as an investment, given current budget. MikeS: Agree better if one person owns it. Better consistency. MikeK: this scope is tremendous for outreach. The magnification of the star is great. I can see the point ... Terra: Semi disagree with Ed. It lines up with our mission, would anyone be interested in owning by themselves. Agree with Judy needs to be tasked with someone. Dennis: who interested? (yes - Terra, Gord. Ed, Judy against) Gord: Table until have a loaner program coordinator. Unless we have this would not be workable. Dennis: It was split evenly. We will table it. If Jay got buyer tomorrow council would not be upset. **TABLED**
- Wilfred Buck request Tipis N Telescopes GatheringGord 4 Minutes
 - i. Gord: Been invited to attend with Wilfred Buck, Oct 5 through Oct 7, during the week, weird, tried to check in with Silvia, is near Selkirk, looking for approval to call for volunteers. Indigenous folks prime contacts for scope for kids.
- Asking gAIL to do Constellation of the Month again Gord 4 Minutes

i. TABLED

- Dr Pahud discussion re: U of M, invite to web site, sending newsletters Gord 4 minutes

i. TABLED

- Telescopes for Kids holiday telescope giveaway Gord 4 Minutes

i. TABLED

- Volunteer to handle sending gifts to speakers Gord 4 Minutes

- WFP PR opportunity – Send to Executive committee.

23. Next Meeting Fixed dates first Tuesday of the month Dennis

24. Round Table All 4 Minutes

- Abdul cannot continue as Loaner Scope Coordinator in case there is some kind of legal action (private), it's best to keep the equipment far away from him. Two DOBs. Bryan has PST. Abdul is without a vehicle at present. Gord will pick them up on Saturday from Abdul's and take them to Glenlea. (Ed is backup, Mike K also volunteers).
- EV Scope and Loaner program – Abdul X125 only used once or twice; so EV scope might be used even less.
- Ed: Membership meeting coming up on Friday; but Gord has Zoom credentials (Gord has to sign up Ed as administrator, so he can organize it). Ed has a paid account (\$25/mo); Gord/Ed should work this out offline, in time for this week's meeting.

25. Adjourn 9 PM

- a. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

	Name	Signature	Date
Secretary	Ed Wright		