RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the council of RASC Winnipeg Centre held via Zoom on Monday, September 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Judy Anderson, Marc Sarrasin, Mark Irvine, Dennis Lyons, Mike Karakas, Ed Wright, Russell Brown (late joining), Bryan Stach (late joining)

REGRETS: Scott Young, Abdul al Manni, Michelle Boyce, Kevin Galka

1. Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement — Dennis
2. Welcome and Introductions — All
   - Dennis: Bryan might not make this meeting
3. Adoption of Agenda — Dennis
4. Adoption of previous minutes — Dennis

Ed Moved, Judy seconded. ADOPTED.

5. Financial Report — Abdul
6. Committee Work Reports
   a. Bylaws, Polling — Dennis
      - Presented officially on Friday's meeting, after the CSA presentation (joint with Mississauga). Ed is preparing to set up the poll. Will remind people that they need to be members in good standing to vote. Will not ask for amendments, as members were asked to notify us in advance.
   b. Policies and Procedures Manual — Dennis
      - Dennis: No progress for this as of yet.
   c. Observatory Committee — Russell
      - Dennis: Russell is away. Mike: The structural engineering report is still pending. It will only cover struct engineering aspects. Ed: Mike's thoughts on what to expect from the Engineer's Report? Will there still be things missing that we need. Mike: it won't cover mold, only the structural stability. Mike will be very surprised that they tell us to abandon the structure. Only the bottom plate exhibited any wood rot. The engineer said the bottom plate would not be a consideration. That would not be a major concern and could be remediated and prevent closing the structure.
      - Mark: Who doing the DFA app? Dennis: The committee and Russell. Discussion on the web application form. Mark: We shouldn't be surprised by the template requirements. Ed: It didn't seem like a major job; it's a web form. Dennis: It's a really ballpark estimate of needs. Sept 23 is getting closer.
      - Russell (attended later): Nothing to report on the observatory committee. Mike is running with it for now. Dennis: Can you look at the DFA form? Russell: Will look at it and let you know.
   d. Incorporation — Tabled
      - Dennis: Ties to Bylaws.
   e. Finance Committee — Abdul/Mark Irvine
      - Mark: Not met recently. Not talked to Abdul yet. Treasurer is supposed to be the chair of the Finance Committee. Will keep prodding Abdul for an initial Finance Committee meeting. Judy: Important because we should have a budget for the AGM. Mark: Is

there a previous budget? Judy: Jay had an old template for the budget. Mark: Could start with a broad template. Dennis: Also try the strategic plan.

f. Star Parties — Russell
   - Dennis: 250-400 people were at the public portion of the Dark Sky preserve presentation and viewing. Weather was good, and mosquitoes held off. Lots of aurora, 60 degrees of the sky was draperies. Judy: It was about ¾ covered. Dennis: 60 to 70 was the turnout. Dark Sky ceremony was about 250 people. Jerry did a star tour. Rick was there for Sunday for National. Reps from Brandon Centre, interest in other parks. Marc: Went to the opening ceremony then left.
   - Dennis: Silvia stating that she is stepping down. Bryan: Silvia said last year. Russell: Did speak to Silvia, he would be able to take co-reigns. Silvia has been doing everything. Need to recruit a committee. Bryan: Found sometimes she does not tell him until week before. Dennis: You just need to recruit and then delegate. Bryan: I am willing to help as well. Judy: I bet there will be people volunteering because people attend religiously.
   - Russell: Are we dropping the Spring Star Party? Dennis: Likely dropping it because we don't have a chair. You need that key person to confirm a location. Judy: Gord Tulloch tried that location last year with his family. Maybe useful to ask him if willing to spearhead that.

g. Awards Centre nominations — Bryan
   - Dennis: Bryan was supposed to have a report for us but having family issue. Sandy Shewchuk is supposed to be at meeting on Friday and Dennis will present his plaque/picture then. Will present him with his picture. Gord Tulloch (outstanding service) and Trevor Bryant (outstanding achievement).
   - Bryan: Am working on the presentation. Because everything on Friday, let's do it at Oct meeting. Dennis: Were going to present the plaques. Bryan: Can we postpone to Oct? Judy: Are these long? Bryan: Okay can write something quick up. Dennis: Will get a picture of them receiving the award. Dennis: Will do Sandy Shewchuk for the Spruce Woods one. Bryan: I did tell Trevor Bryant from Brandon he is getting one.

7. Directors and Councilors — Tabled
8. Appointed Positions Recruitment — Dennis
   a. Winnicentrics Editor
      - Dennis: Gord going, Scott taking over. Mark: Thought was temporary. Dennis: Will contact Scott to find out whether it's ongoing.
   b. Spring Star Party
   c. Explore the Universe
   d. Webmaster
   e. Volunteer Coordinator
   f. Mentor Coordinator
   g. Meeting Coordinator
   h. Light Abatement Committee
   i. Youth Outreach
9. Web Infrastructure and io email list update. Archiving — Russell/Marc
      - Marc: Everyone imported into groups.io. still a few issues. Who registering members? There are a couple of people not able to log in. Judy: Jay not asked to do that. He wants to send reminders out to people. He has been frustrated trying to send general messages. He doesn't have authorization to do that. Dennis: To Marc reach out to Abdul to see if he can do the changes. Neat thing about this is. Maybe need an info

sharing group. Judy could do it for Jay. Judy: Maybe a general discussion group. Ed: There is a *General Forum* already. This is what is being used to replace the former RASC-list site (U of M) for conversation and general information. Dennis: That is what they should use. Marc: It is being used a little bit. **ACTION Marc to check with Abdul on the members**. Ed: Would be good to document it. Dennis: For social media FaceBook they have to apply to join. Dennis is moderator of FaceBook, and Abdul is moderating new member access. The advantage of the groups.io site is that people can choose to get the emails from a conversation, rather than feel spammed by all the conversations. Dennis is hoping that Scott will write up something on use of groups. Marc looking to put a link to groups.io and how to use it right on our website.

- Ed: Checklist: go back to web infrastructure and io. Email list: looking at timeline, we did the launch (Marc/Russell) and retired the UM RASC-list. After that comes the WordPress forums. There was no easy way to archive material and users would have to do that themselves. Do the members know that they'll need to archive? Russell: No update on that now. Was a discussion with Silvia and Gerry on archiving their discussions. Darren has already archived the Binos group forum. Main forum users were there for the Townhall. Silvia, Gord, Jerry, etc. Dennis: Maybe send out a notice to ask people to archive their stuff.
- Russell: Also got feedback that the 'main' chat does not work for them. Was suggested that I do a Coles Notes. Will pitch the Gen Forum for this use. Will put together a how-to on how to use this.

10. Business Arising
    a. Membership Meeting location Judy
        - Judy: Report on meeting: Meeting is at St. Johns, beginner session (Alan Macklem), CSA presentation, Dennis discussion, What's UP, What's New, Bylaws and vote. Judy: Michelle doing what's new.
    b. Joint meeting for CSA, thank you MB Museum Ed
        - Ed: There is a risk associated with the joint hybrid presentation, and shows a slide of the set up for technology; different as there is a remote presenter as well as local presenters, so there will be two laptops, one will be an attendee at the meeting, and the first one will be the administration laptop. The risk is that it's new to the Centre; Scott and Ed have not able to get together yet to practice the setup so that the remote speaker can always be seen by the group attending in-person. The way these events go, it's time sensitive. Dennis: there is risk, but the worst-case scenario is that the presentation will be visible and the moderator/Dennis will not be able to interact. The presentation will still work, although the Q&A may be disjointed or less interactive than we'd like. Hopefully those on Zoom will still be able to read the chat. Russell: a possible contingency is to have moderator dial into Zoom. Ed: Will try to test in advance with Scott.
    c. Meeting format/streaming equipment Scott/Marc
        - Dennis: Marc looked at this. Marc: No time yet. Dennis: We will anticipate expenses for equipment in next year's budget. Ed: Some of the equipment is quite specialized (webcam of good quality, tripod, microphone). Judy: Kris Keller has the sound system. Dennis: That sound system is the Centre's.
    d. Speaker Gifts, purchase more meteorites Dennis
        - Dennis: Did order more meteorites. Judy: Jay was a speaker. Should he get a meteorite? Dennis: Yes please. Local presenters are no less important.

e. Promotional handouts — Dennis
   - Dennis: Abdul not here so not sure what is left. We need to know how much is left from the weekend at SWSP. A lot of people went through there. Judy: We are still getting Sky News at the house and we get an invoice which is not paid right away. Think where it should go, Comms person or the Treasurer. Mark: SkyNews should probably go to a communications person or the treasurer. Mark I. suggests magazines should go to someone else than the treasurer who is paying for it. At least 2 people should be involved. SkyNews should be a line item, with expense pre-approved. If cost exceeds budget then a new motion is needed.

f. Nomination Committee — Bryan
   - Dennis: It is Sept already. They need to start now to see what positions available. He needs to strike a committee. He will have a month to put it together for council. Must be presented to us for the December meeting.
   - Judy moved Can appoint Stan and Jay. Passed
   - Dennis: Elected Stan and Jay. Target date for slate is the December meeting. Need to talk to people.

g. Name tags — Scott
   - No report from Scott

h. NCC — Dennis
   - Dennis: They are looking at Stuartburn as a new location. In Saskatchewan they have a similar DSP. They are keen on doing it. There is now a lot of interest in light abatement. CoW had been interested in some of the urban parks for this. We need people to keep people interested and get point people to talk to the city, parks board, etc. and look for 'low hanging fruit'. Russell: I would like to step up for that. Dennis: Intent is not for council members to do all the work. This council has done a lot of work, trying to keep things focused on what the strategic plan is pointing us too. Not council's role to do everything.
   - Should be able to get Gerry and Silvia to go with Dennis out to NCC, get new pictures. There is a commitment from Winnipeg Centre to do outreach in a dark sky preserve. NCC wants to push tourism in Stuartburn, and their town council is very keen. So it's a win-win-win. There was a team of excellent volunteers, and they made the SWSP dark sky preserve work. There were excellent presentation there.

11. Round table — All
    - Ed: Awards presentation by Bryan is still needed (with powerpoint by Bryan).
    - Judy: Was an idea earlier about a Wpg School Division meeting. But everyone happy to get back to St. Johns, has the two screens and amphitheater, won't get that in a school. Russell: A lot of the high schools have a theatre setup. Judy: For Miles Mack they work with you on locating a room. Miles Mac Collegiate has an auditorium-style theatre; they may have sound/IT systems. The schools were to charge $65 per room. Dennis: These places make $ based on equipment. They have a strict policy. Also, we would not know until school starts. It's not impossible, but gets expensive. Mike: Also people don't like to change. He talked to a few members who indicated that they really don't want to move from St. John's and will forego the coffee break in order to stay at St John's for meetings. It is safe. Judy: They insist that we cater food from them. Dennis: Safety is also a big issue, and it is good at U of M. For now let's drop looking for another location.
    - Bryan: Did reserve Boston Pizza for Sep 9. Dennis: We need nominating committee, and Jay and Stan are voted by Council to be on that committee. We need to present a slate

of officers at December meeting to present, and then to vote at the AGM. Bryan can also talk to people at the in-person meetings to recruit people

- Russell: SWSP had 60 attendees, members and guests, and all the reg fees were $960, had 70 registered and 60 showed up. He asked Silvia if she would co-run it with him next year, and this year Silvia did essentially everything. Dennis: We will be able to recruit a full committee, and get it done if we ask people to help. Bryan: People need to know with a longer lead time when asked to volunteer. Russell will talk with Silvia and let Council know how it goes. Judy: A committee will work on SWSP, if/when they are asked and then given authority to do things
- Marc: For Russell he will contact Abdul about adding people to the website.
- Mike: Spoke with Ed and later Russell about doing a Google poll about what to do with Glenlea, look at options to bring people out there. What are the options to bring people out there: are they intimidated by the dome? Ship needs direction on how to steer. Observatory Committee needs chance to chat. Russell, Mike, and committee should brainstorm, and bring ideas to Council, which are very likely to be a poll of members. Ed: Also, the flood resiliency. Mike: Also, the accessibility. Dennis: Also, people feel safe there vs Birds Hill. Mike: Yes for those reasons I think Glenlea should stay there.
- Mark: Nothing for me at this time.
- Dennis: Council has been very busy for past 18 months, vote on bylaws this week and he heard no counter opinion. Hopefully the bylaws vote goes well, not heard any concerns about them.

12. Next Meeting Monday Oct 14, 7 PM?
13. Adjourn 8:32 PM

	Name	Signature	Date
Secretary	Ed Wright		