RASC Winnipeg Centre

COUNCIL MEETING 5 Sep 2024

DRAFT MINUTES

Location: Zoom

Present: Dennis L. (Chair), Scott Y. (recorder), Stan R., Ed W., Marc S., gAIL W., Daemon N., Michelle B., Judy A., Wing K., Kamala K. , Mark I.

Absent: Bryan S.

1. Call to Order & Land acknowledgement - Dennis called the meeting to order and read the Land Acknowledgement.

2. Welcome and Introductions - Dennis welcomed all members.

3. Adoption of Agenda - the Agenda was adopted by consensus.

4. Adoption of previous minutes - Scott received minor corrections from Judy and Ed.

> **MOTION 202409-01** - Moved by Scott Y. & seconded by Judy A.. that the meeting minutes of 4 Jul 2024 be approved as presented.

The motion was CARRIED.

ACTION ITEM: Scott to update minutes and post final version.

5. Financial Report - Mark I.

Not a lot of activity this month other than member fees, SWSP revenue.

Finance Committee has met, will look at investments after the budget process for 2025 is finished. Cash on hand is $9,000 in spending account (no interest), so should use some of that up. $600 in interest this year, versus $12 in previous years - big improvement.

Should revise Finance Policy since we don't have as many volunteers as we need, and dopn't want to be out of compliance with policy when audit occurs.

Need someone (internally) to "audit" financials, Judy volunteered but can't because she has signing authority.

Policy requires two signatures beyond the person drafting the cheque (sso three people total), which is delaying people getting paid. Will propose changes to Finance Policy in near future.

Tax return was assessed, status as NFP was agreed to by CRA. Next task is training James Fast on tax return.

We will probably be overbudget in revenue this year, largely due to eclipse glasses and low expenditures.

SWSP surplus has been put into a special fund in past, do we want to do this again? Would bring it to $3,000 for next SWSP.

MOTION 202409-02 - Moved by Mark I. & seconded by Scott Y. that the Financial report be approved as presented.

Discussion:

- Ed: we had a large surplus in events this year. Mark: that was one-time revenue from eclipse glasses.

The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 202409-03 - Moved by Mark I. & seconded by Daemon N. that surplus from Spruce Woods Star Party be held in a fund for the following year.

The motion was CARRIED.

Need to share files with James Fast, access was shared then revoked, but will redo it.

MOTION 202409-04 - Moved by Mark I. & seconded by Wing A. to provide access to James Fast to the Finance Committee's folder on the Google Drive.

The motion was CARRIED.

ACTION ITEM: Mark I. to share the Finance Committee folder with James Fast.

Marc S. Membership is 252 versus 229 ??? last year.

Wing: not all expenses have been submitted for food, it was over budget but Wing offers to cover overage because of leftovers.

6. Committee Work Reports

a. **Policies and Procedure Manual** - deferred to a future meeting
b. **Observatory Committee** - Michelle was having technical difficulties and so Scott reported on behalf of the committee.

ObsComm Terms of Reference presented for discussion.

MOTION 202409-05 - Moved by the Observatory Committee to accept the Terms of Reference as defined in the attached document.

MOTION 202409-06 - Moved by Judy A. & Seconded by Wing K. that Motion 202409-05 be tabled.

Motion 202409-06 was CARRIED. Motion 202409-05 was tabled.

MOTION 202409-05 - Moved by the Observatory Committee that Council use the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) enclosed to finalize negotiations with the St Hubertus Game and Fish Association for use of their site by our members.

Discussion:

- Mark I - described status of negotiation. Suggested to work within their existing bylaws where there is a “visitor” fee of $2 per person. Works on a trust basis, we would self-report numbers and pay. Would need to meet a St Hubertus member there to get in. Needs someone to set up the system for tracking. Centre would pay the fees. Would need policy on guests bringing guests. Agreement would last only until end of 2024.
- Scott: need some policy and details before we can inform members
- Stan: should have an intro event for members there.

The Motion was CARRIED.

ACTION ITEM: Mark I to send draft MoU to St Hubertus for review.

MOTION 202409-05 - Moved by Mark I. & seconded by Marc S. that Council approve the non-budgeted amount of up to $200 to cover fees until end of 2024.

The Motion was CARRIED.

Dennis solicited comments via email on the Observatory Committee’s draft Terms of Reference so that discussion can be simplified for next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: ALL to read ObsComm draft Terms of Reference and provide comments by email before next meeting.

c. Member Meetings - Judy reports that the September featured speaker will be Mike Karakas who will speak on PLanetary Imaging. Beginner’s Session - gAIL, What’s Up - Bryan Stach, What’s New - Danielle Pahud. October speaker will be James Edgar.

Judy mentioned the possibility of using 100 Innovation Centre as meeting site for one-off event, as a dual event with Alumni association - perhaps December? There is interest on the part of U of M but can’t meet until after homecoming.

d. Finance Committee - covered under Finance Report above

e. Spruce Woods Star Party Planning Committee - Daemon reports total attendance about 60 people. Surprise expenditures incurred, had ordered 3 portapotties, only 1 was there, had to order another one from an attendee’s business for an extra $300. More food bought than needed, had invited park staff but they didn’t show. Budget is pretty close, finances to be finalized. Stan: final attendance was 55.

Dennis thanked SWSP committee for running a great event, and Daemon for his leadership.

Discussion:

- Daemon: we will need to look at storage for grill and potentially other things like loaner telescopes.
- Wing: possible in negotiations with U of M?
- Michelle: UHAUL has better prices.
- Daemon: UHAUL was about $138-150/month.
- Judy: did similar costing, small space to hold griddle is $15/week. Storage shed is about $1500.

- Judy reported that Mike K: prefers to receive the loaner scope at his home, deal with repairs, etc. and then send it back out, not have it dropped off at a remote storage location.
- Daemon: Griddle is in Daemon's basement, no rush but not a long-term solution.

ACTION ITEM: Daemon will do some research on storage options and bring back to Council either online or at next meeting.

Dennis declared a Recess for 10 minutes at 7:55pm.

The meeting reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

f. Explore the Universe - Stan noted the difficulty of doing both EtU and the Workshop program, and asked for anyone able to help. There were no volunteers from Council.

Discussion:

- Wing: what is the point of the program? Is it being promoted to the public or teachers?
- Dennis: it's designed to help members get into visual observing with a minimum of gear, provide focus to someone starting out in observing.

g. Fundraising - Wing: no major activity, will get Telescopes for Kids program running under same terms as last year. Keep dates of awarding in Jan-Feb.

Discussion:

- Judy: Stan suggested a basic scope model that should be followed up on.
- Ed: has been given the job on FinComm to determine grant revenue for 2025, is that something in FundComm's area? Wing: yes. Scott: not fully, Council should do grants. Wing: three funding targets: STEM, Indigenous, Girls.

h. Nominating Committee - Dennis reported that no nominations had been received yet, but date of AGM needs to be set so we can ensure we follow Bylaw on notice for nominations and Bylaw changes.

Discussion:

- Scott: how much time is needed to get financials ready? Is March good, or should it be April?
- Mark: March worked this year, provides enough time to get financials audited and approved.
- gAIL: a later date will allow more procrastination.

MOTION 202409-06 - Moved by Daemon & seconded by Mark I. to set the date of the Centre's AGM as March 14, 2025., as part of the regular meeting.

Motion 202409-06 was CARRIED.

ACTION ITEM: NomComm to send calls for nomination as per Bylaws, find candidates for open positions.

7. Other Business.

a. **Program meeting changes** - any further suggestions to Judy.
b. **NCC Dark Sky Preserve documentary** - Dennis - went to Stuartburn Council meeting. Well-received, see tourism benefit, will provide Letter of Support. Grown to include a lot of land. Tim K. and Dennis decided to not include the documentary maker, Tyler, in the meeting. He isn't happy about that. He was at public event at SW.
c. **Glenlea Flood Repair:** The responsible individuals (Jay Anderson and Mike Karakas) aren't on Council so who will report? Judy: there was a discussion at SWSP. Stan: Paul Moffat who designed the building was at SWSP and he offered some suggestions. Work will require a half-dozen people at least. (Pier goes down 20 feet.) Scott: can Paul provide some of this info for posterity?
d. **Workshops:** Stan: working on Star Hopping workshop after summer. Looking at a late-October date.
e. **On the Move event:** Mark I.did the event again, wasn't the best date because it was on July 19 so no daytime moon, it was cloudy. Ivan, Wing, James, Mark were present. James and Mark did classroom presentations. Starburst candies were a hit. Invited back again next year. We can tell them what a good date is for next year. Collected $100 fee. It was noted that we have to be careful about taking pictures with kids. Mark had a outstanding 7-yo boy "volunteer", told Mark about black hole and white holes.
f. **U of M meetings:** Wing: Southwood Circle event is not U of M, but UM Properties. This is the outreach event that needs finalizing in early October. Haven't had first meeting yet due to scheduling. Will meet with Dennis, Judy, Wing and UM Properties. They like astronomy so it could be a good partnership. U of M alumni relations meeting: had one meeting with Roslyn Dali (homecoming events), Dara Maternik (life-long learning). Interested in RASC Winnipeg as a life-long hobby. Couldn't get a homecoming event done, so will work with life-long learning on one-off test event. Judy has been working on Glenlea agreement but no progress since connecting with people has been difficult.
g. **Marc S** - need a second person for website. No progress, no volunteers came from previous call for volunteers. No volunteers from Council.
h. **Dennis:** there was a suggestion to get a smart telescope for the loaner scope program. This triggered a discussion on what loaner scope program is for.Discussion:
    - Michelle: people use loaner scope program to "test drive" what they might like to buy, so should have a smartscope.
    - Scott: this topic needs more than the last few minutes of a meeting for discussion.
    - Judy: smart scopes don't help people get to know the sky.
    - Mark I.: may be difficult to keep up with technology

ACTION ITEM: ALL contribute thoughts on email list on " What is the purpose of the loaner scope program? "

i. **Committee structure:** Dennis will start a discussion on the process we use in striking a committee.
j. **Mark I:** Charitable donation funneling through from national: This is nothing national has done yet, we would be breaking new ground with them. Dennis: big obstacle is that there's a law allowing it, but CRA has no processes for it yet.

Finally, Dennis thanked Kamala and her family on behalf of the Centre for their work here and wished them all the best in their new location in Minnesota.

Meeting **adjourned** at 9:05 by President.