

RASC WINNIPEG CENTRE OBSERVATORY COMMITTEE MINUTES



Location: Zoom

Date: Tues September 14 2021

Time: 7PM

Attendees

Gord Tulloch (Chair)
Jay Anderson

Bryan Stach
Stan Runge

Mike Karakas
Wing Kwong

Steve Altstadt

Agenda Items

7:00PM – 7:05 Welcome / Indigenous Acknowledgement

7:05 – 7:10 Agenda Review / Additions to Agenda - None

7:10 – 7:20 Review Terms of Reference
– Reviewed, no feedback

7:20 – 7:25 Document storage / Google Drive
– Gord reviewed Google Drive and indicated that

7:25 – 7:40 Participant Self-introductions
- Participants introduced themselves

7:50 – 8:10 Review / Discuss Member Feedback

- Gord reviewed 2019/2021 member survey feedback as relates to Glenlea
- Wing – Comments re: usage of the dome and the scope, there been any discussion re: social gathering
- Gord – Yup, coming up in other questions (reviewed), if we didn't have a dome people would still be there
- Steve – Probably get more mileage out of a snowblower or panels as a windbreak
- Jay – we had a 8' fence we took it down so now the wind sweeps the pad clear now
- Gord – These ideas are great we have funds and ability to fundraise, question is what do we want to do?

7:50 – 8:10 Review / Discuss Member Feedback (cont)

- Jay – To expand the pad we would need to get deep permission from U of M. The pad belongs to the University not us. It sounds like we could sell the telescope and take out the observatory and we wouldn't suffer much or if any loss of use of Glenlea we'd probably enhance it if we could expand the warm room and put the toilet so it's connected to the warm room and up higher so the mice couldn't get at it. Reasons for not using the observatory are either things we have no control over like they live too far away or the road's crappy, we can ask Danielle to get the farm to plow the road or cut the grass except immediately around us. They'll do that if we ask. The first step is to fix the warm room. Full of junk right now.
- Bryan – U of M willing to cut the grass or plow the road but if we ask too often they'll charge us. Couple of hundred bucks. Lawn mower good enough, trimmer there. Need to go out there and look at maintenance needs to be done
- Gord – A field trip out there is a good idea, Bryan has the most recent experience in what needs to be done, we need to have a to do list. This group doesn't have to do the work but we need to organize work parties to go do what we need to do. Commented on relationship with the University, don't necessarily want to pop our head out the foxhole unless we know it's going to be a positive. Danielle helping figure out timing. We're working on relationship building with newsletters etc. No formal relationship with U of M since 1996.
- Wing – Want to throw out working with office of external relationships which is basically marketing department, produces communications, outreach and appeal, relationship with alumni, might be an area to shift focus. Observatory could be a possible attraction with alumnis. One of the more successful alumni programs is book club, could envision alumni relations could champion astronomy club. Might be interesting, this area is fundraising and disbursement of funds but perhaps we could create a program or fund to help pay for financially power Glenlea managed by Gleanlea.
- Mike – Like the way this is going, might be some synergy here, observatory dome seems to be a lost cause so what happens if the dome is gone, pad is expanded, put a runoff roof and loaner scope shed there so U of M could use and get funding.
- Wing – We should maybe increase our vision and make this a true crown jewel because they fundraise and spend it on things like a fitness gym whereas if we have a bigger vision we could go bigger.



7:50 – 8:10 Review / Discuss Member Feedback (cont)

- Gord – We have to keep the vision consistent with the number of people willing to not only by in the program and the people to run it. The current situation is one person is stuck with maintaining a declining facility. The Strategic plan has tons of stuff in it that we could do but it takes money and moreover volunteer labour to run it. We don't want to create a monster. We have to have a vision and move forward with things that will benefit the club without over-extending ourselves. History shows after enthusiasm wanes few people will pitch in to run them.
- Wing – There are funding programs where we could hire students where 75% of their wages are covered, if they were interested in astronomy even better.
- Gord – We see National do that a lot, managing and training people is what we need to resource. It's laudable to have big vision but at the same time we have a lot of competing ambitions (for example astronomy courses at schools) The organization has not been mature enough to make this stuff sustainable. We need to re-envision.
 - Mike – Looking at aging members, not too excited about going up the stairs to operate the scope, something at ground level better
 - Jay – Different focus – U has new telescope that may or may not be designed to be remote, most of the time the scope will idle. We want to expand our warm room. U is big on outreach but they don't have the people to do it. Why don't we make a deal with them where we use some time on their observatory and help them by making it remoteable since we have that expertise, take down our observatory, expand the warm room into that space and make a deal with the university where it becomes a place for the public to come so we can do outreach. We get space to expand, better bathroom, public outreach and we get the use of the telescope.
- (meeting ended abruptly as we hit 40 min limit)

8:10 – 8:25 Operational Duties for Glenlea

- Zoom Meeting ended before we discussed

Open Forum:

Next meeting date: TBD, at Glenlea