

RASC Victoria Centre Council Meeting Minutes Feb 27, 2002

Members Present:

David Lee, Chris Gainor, Sandy Barta, Lauri Roche, Sid Sidhu, Jim Hesser, Betty Hesser, Robert Walker, John Howell, Malcolm Scrimger

Minutes of January 22 Council Meeting:

Motion: Carried

That the minutes be approved as read

Moved By:

John Howell

Seconded by:

Lauri Roche

Members-at-Large

John Howell brought forth the suggestion that we review the members-at-large elections and term lengths. He explained that while a member of the Calgary Centre, the Members-at-large were elected for a 3 year term. There were a total of 9 Members-at-large and that 3 of these positions came up for election each year. Members-at-large could be reelected for a maximum of two additional terms for a total of 9 years.

Sid reviewed our bylaws which indicated that a total of 15 elected positions were available. Subtracting the regular council positions, this leaves us with 6 Member-at-large positions to be filled. Skynews currently lists 8 Members-at-large. The bylaws only indicate the positions, but not a term lengths or rotation. Sandy felt a rotation scheme would help bring new blood into the council. Several people also felt that a bylaw amendment was not needed but rather a recommended guideline would be adequate.

Motion: Carried:

To set a recommended guideline for the Member-at-large positions. There will be a total of 6 positions, the term length is to be 2 years, with a rotating election of 2 positions each year. A member-at-large may be re-elected two additional times for a total of six years.

Moved by:

John Howell

Seconded:

Lauri Roche

Membership Cards:

Several members have commented that the Centre of the Universe has asked for proof of RASC membership . People recall that we used to hand out small white (credit card sized) membership cards yearly. Lauri will look through box of stuff given to her by Bill Almond to see if we have any cards.

Attendance at the GA:

Sandy indicated she will not be able to attend this years GA and that we should look for an alternate. Chris Gainor indicated he may be willing to attend once we have a clarification of costs. Lauri will contact national office to see what expenses are covered by the RASC.

Recorder Position

The vacant position will be brought up at the regular meeting in March. Sandy will also ask John Pazder again.

Astronomy Day:

Sid reviewed the progress in organizing this years Astronomy Day.

- 3 speakers have been arranged (past, present, future)
- Sandy is sending out e-mails to solicit volunteers

- Sandy would like an on-site volunteer coordinator at the RBCM to ensure volunteers are used effectively
- The last meeting with the RBCM found them more receptive to letting us use space, equipment, and "friends of the museum" volunteers.
- RBCM will provide a tent for our use
- Astronomy Day has a write up in the RBCM "Discovery" magazine as well as being listed on their website
- Stelly's school will try to bring their mirror grinding project as a demonstration
- The Centre's antique brass telescope will be setup at the RBCM for Astronomy day, then moved to the Centre of the Universe for permanent display.
- Sandy will look after buying the door prizes

Light Pollution:

Sid indicates the Highlands municipality has adopted a light pollution bylaw. View Royal is progressing well towards one as well. Langford has been cooperative regarding the FutureShop and new gas station lighting designs. Bill Almond is working with a supportive Colwood counselor regarding streetlights.

Video Proposal:

John Howell presented his thoughts on creating a video record of the many leading Canadian Astronomers. He discussed this informally at a past GA in Toronto and received many positive comments that indicated he should pursue it. He thinks the RASC should look into making the video, and that perhaps a committee could be formed to look into what would be involved. Many felt this was a national concern and perhaps we should propose the idea to National Council at the next GA. We will also raise the idea at the next regular meeting.

Motion: carried:

Victoria Centre support a proposal to the National Council at this years GA to create a video or series of videos and/or a book on the history of Canadian Astronomers.

Moved By:

John Howell

Seconded By:

Sid Sidhu

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm
Robert Walker for the recorder