

RASC Victoria Council Minutes

Elliott Building 4th Floor Lounge, University of Victoria

May 28, 2003

7:30 PM

Present: Chris Gainor (Chair), David Lee, Sid Sidhu, Joe Carr, Frank Ogonoski, Bill Almond, Ed Maxfield, Lauri Roche, Blaire Pellatt, Robert Walker, Sandy Barta, Bruno Quenneville, and Frank Younger

Regrets: Jim Hesser, Rich Willis, and Colin Scarfe

Meeting called to order by the Chair at 7:30pm.

1. Astronomy Day Wrap Up – Sid Sidhu

- Public turn out this year was lower than last year. Last years high turnout may have been a result of the planetary alignment that received a lot of press. This year's lectures were well attended though.
- Great volunteer turnout
- Sid asked some general questions: Should we hold it again next year? Or should we consider every second year? What does it cost us to put this event on? What do we as a club get out of it besides good volunteer interaction?
- In future years should we consider using paid advertising methods?
- We did have reasonable good media coverage of the event afterwards. There was an article in the Times-Colonist and a short clip on CH television
- We had very good co-operation and support from the Royal BC Museum
- Expenses: Please turn in any Astronomy Day related receipts to Lauri ASAP!

2. Light Pollution Committee Report – Sid Sidhu

- Sid recently delivered a letter to the mayor of Victoria with 85 signatures supporting light pollution abatement. He also plans to deliver similar letters to other municipalities soon.

3. Sidewalk Astronomy – Blaire Pellatt

- Blaire indicated the public libraries have been very receptive to the sidewalk astronomy program.
- They do have good display cabinets that we could consider using for promotion.
- The libraries will also post notices and even promote the programs on their web site.
- Blaire provided council with a summary sheet detailing the program
- He also suggested a club competition to create a RASCVic "thank-you" card for general use
- Blaire also wondered if anyone was interested in organizing a trip to Oregon on a "Mars Expedition" to attend the annual Oregon Star Party – Aug 28-31. He will announce this at the next regular meeting, in SkyNews and at the Island Star Party.

4. RASC G.A. 2003 – Chris Gainor

- Chris brought forth the idea of subsidizing member's attendance at this year's GA, which is in Vancouver. At the meeting time he knew for sure of 8 members who were planning to attend.
- Motion: *Lauri moved that the Centre pay registration fees for the 2003 GA for members who attend up to a total of \$1000 divided evenly. Receipts must be given to Lauri for reimbursement.*

Seconded: Joe

Passed unanimously

5. Pal Virag – Lauri Roche

- Lauri indicated that payments for \$1200 and \$6100 have been made to Pal. Chris needs to review Pal's reports for this past year.

6. Star Parties

Island Star Party (Frank Ogonoski organizing) - July 25-28

- Good progress being made for speakers, door prizes, displays...

RASCALS Star Party

- Nothing to report at this time

RASCALS Picnic

- Date set for Aug 9th

7. World Spectra Heritage Project – Frank Younger

- Frank spent a few minutes describing this international project to rescue spectrographic plates created at various observatories over the past century or so.
- The project has the backing of the I.A.U. now the task is to secure funding.
- Many donations of plate collections, scanners, etc. but they need to get the program running.
- A pilot project has been run to look at the spectra of earth's atmosphere of the last century looking for ozone detail from many historical plates
- Elizabeth Griffin of the DAO is working on creating the "Spectroscopic Virtual Observatory"
- Frank felt the RASC would be a good candidate to assist in the project. They would be looking for fundraising skills, technical assistance, general assistance, data entry, and any other help we may be able to provide
- Chris and David Lee will to put together a proposal to present at this year's GA.

8. Annual Banquet – Lauri Roche

- Lauri asked if we wanted to return to the Gorge Vale Golf Club again this year. Everyone felt it was a good site and agreed
- She also asked if we wanted to go with a fixed menu rather than the buffet style.
- The options will be presented at the next regular meeting for a vote by the members

9. Centre of the Universe 16" Telescope

- Progress is continuing slowly
- New CCD is ready to install. The polar alignment is still a problem that needs to be dealt with

10. Members Only area on web site – Joe Carr

- Joe suggested that we implement a "members only" area on the web site like the National office has on the main RASC website.
- The purpose would be to place items like, meeting minutes, agendas, etc, that the general public should not see.
- Members would sign up to receive the access password
- Everyone agreed it would be a useful area and council members should think about items to include and suggest these to Joe.

11. Other Business

- Joe Carr asked why the Centre address is a member's home address. In the past it has been this way because the cost of renting a mailbox is expensive. The cost of changing now would be high, as we would have to have cheques and letterhead reprinted. It was decided that the next time the treasurer position changes, we should revisit the issue and check into the costs as it would be a logical time if we want to make the change.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

*Robert Walker
Recorder:*