

**Royal Astronomical Society of Canada,
Victoria Centre
Council Meeting Minutes
University of Victoria Jan 26, 2006**

Present: Scott Mair (Chair), Joe Carr, Colin Scarfe, David Lee, Dave Bennett, David Griffiths, Blaire Pellatt, Sid Sidhu, Li-Ann Skibo

Meeting called to order by the Chair, Scott Mair at 7:30 pm

Minutes Items

1. Review of Minutes.

Motion by Scott to accept May 24 minutes. Motion Carried

Motion by David G to accept the Oct. 19 minutes. Motion Carried

2 Astronomy Day - May 6, 2006

The committee held a brain storm meeting exploring ideas for interactive exhibits. Organizations participating this year include University of Victoria, Pearson College, National Research council, the Centre of the Universe and Central Middle School. Sid requested the budget be increased from \$800.00 to \$1000.00 for the creation of new exhibits. It was clarified that the extra funds would be from either the gaming account or club funds but not from both.

Motion by David G to amend the budget for astronomy day to \$1000.00. Seconded David B. Motion Carried.

The Royal BC Museum *Discovery* magazine has added Astronomy Day to its calendar of events. The club appreciates the depth of recognition and participation by the Royal BC Museum.

Action: Scott will pdf and send to Li-Ann the International Astronomy Day planning committee report to append to these minutes as appendix 1.

Ideas for Astronomy day: Look for micro meteorites.

Astronomy Day theme title: "Astronomy, Capture the Experience!"

3 Carolyn Porco Visit.

Pamponia Martiniz of the Vancouver Centre will confirm arrangements and a budget for the Travel from Vancouver to Victoria.

Action: Scott will ask Colin S to host the lecture at the University of Victoria on May 5 in the evening, as a free public lecture. If UVic is unable to host, Scott will speak to Paul Wild, Theater Director of the National Geographic IMAX Theater. (w) 480-4895

Action: Scott M will be responsible of publicity for the event.

Dave B suggests the Club prepare a 5 minute Welcome/RASC Promotional/Thank you speech.

Include the lecture as one of the stamps on the Astronomy day Passport.

4 Star Party

Two dates available for the Victoria Fish and Game Reserve. May 26-27 or Sept. 1-2

Discussion was held re pros and cons of each weekend looking at other events in Victoria occurring on or near these dates, object in the sky to view, phase of the moon and deciding when it is likely that families will plan their summer events.

Motion: by Scott to hold the Star Party on May 26/27 weekend. 6 People voted for, 2 people voted against and for the Sept. 1/2 date.

It was announced that the cost has increased by 33% and we will be charged GST. The Single Ticket will therefore increase from \$15 to \$20 and the Family ticket from \$20 to \$25.

Dave B suggested we include the event in the passport as an incentive.

Action: Council to discuss at next meeting

5 National Representative Expenses

Travel expenses are not fully covered by National. The proposed breakdown is as follows: GA 2006 - National 75%, Club 25% + Registration Fee. Special Meeting- National 50%, Club 50% + Registration Fee.

Motion: by Joe C to reimburse David Lee 100% of the remaining cost for the national council meetings as proposed at the meeting.

6 George Ball Dome

The Dome must be moved from Bruno's property by Apr 1, 2006

Sid has offered his property as a last resort for temporary storage with the intention to use the dome while it is on his property.

Sid would prefer the dome be used for the 16 inch at the DAO. Jim Hesser says this is not possible.

The cost to move the dome is significant.

Council tabled the issue until next meeting.

7 Gaming Application Update

A decision should be made in January and we should know something by February.

8. License to the DAO.

Q: Can a spouse of a member attend observing nights at the DAO.

A: You must be a member to attend. The observing Policy was kept as simple as possible to build a working relationship with the DAO. After the first year, the policy can be revisited to see if changes are required.

9. Membership Diversification

Prompted by an email from Dave Bennett to Scott Mair, a discussion ensued regarding the desirability of diversifying (age, gender) the membership to the Victoria Centre.

Action: Scott will forward to Li-Ann, the e-mail from Dave B re Membership

Diversification at attach to the Minutes

National does not have a family rate but that does not preclude a family rate from Club Centre's.

Suggest identify and remove barriers for women and students.

Add a student rate (19+years) as well as a family rate.

Action: David L will investigate the Toronto and Kingston Centre's re. their Family Membership.

Action: Scott M, Dave B, and Joe C to prepare ideas for a presentation on membership diversification. Due council meeting after next.

10. Library Report on Selected Books.

In examining selected older books in the library, it has come to Sid's attention that a 2 volume set donated by a member in 1940 may be worth up to \$20,000.00.

Atlas of Selected Regions of the Milky Way, Part 1 and 2 by E Bernard 1927.

Sid suggests selling the books and putting the money into a fund for large projects (not for operational expenses) maintained as an asset.

Council went in camera 8:55pm - 9:00pm re: books

If we sell the books, what influence will it have on the Gaming Commission funds.

Action: Scott M will invite members to the next meeting to discuss the pros and cons on the disposition of the books.

Members will vote at the subsequent meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05pm.

Recording Secretary: Li-Ann Skibo

Appendix

Appendix 1

IAD_2006-05-06
Planning Committee Meeting
Minutes of the meeting
Dated 06-01-17

Present: Joe Carr, Sandy Barta, Li-Ann Skibo, David Lee, Louri Roche.

Regrets: Scott Mair, Stephen Courtin

		Action By
A)	Sid outlined the objective of the meeting and explained the various activities that have taken place as a part of the Astronomy Day celebrations during the past number of years. He challenged the group to come up with new ideas to liven up the celebrations that will inspire the public.	
B)	The following are some of suggestions that were discussed at a macro level by the group. a) Astronomy – Capture the Experience 1) Hunting for Asteroids 2) Telescope Primer (Various types of telescope and terminologies) 3) Imaging the Moon	Sandy will provide in one or two sentences an explanatory note for items in a).

	<p>4) Hands mirror grinding experience 5) Hunting for Comets 6) Galileo's Telescope 7) Astronomy with Bino's 8) Distribution of various colours in the white light spectrum 9) Use of passport to achieve award point (prizes at the end of the day)</p> <p>b) Continues with question sheets for the kids activities c) Search NASA kids website for ideas to incorporate hands activities for the kids d) Construction of Planisphere</p> <p>e) Continue with Solar view in front of the Museum f) Incorporate Planet viewing (Venus, Mercury?, Moon) g) Revise the scale model of the Solar System so that it can be brought inside the Hall h) Few years' ago a Meteorite display was very attractive for the public i) Events pertaining to current NASA's Solar System discovery expeditions, such as Mars Spirit and Opportunity rovers and Cassini space craft around Saturn ii) Hubble space telescope discoveries iii) Orrey??</p> <p>To make some of these suggestions into a reality would require some planning.</p>	<p>This will assist in making a decision which of these ideas can be incorporated into these years' activities.</p> <p>Sid will provide the material</p>
C)	<p>The last years' activities were review and decision was made to retain the following.</p> <p>a) Side walk viewing of Sun. (Keep) b) Solar System scale model display (Keep, but consider modification) c) Ask the Astronomer booth. (Keep) d) Information booth. (Keep) e) Ecliptic Calendar. (Bring it back) f) Static Display stands. (Keep, may require rearranging if new activities are incorporated) g) Mirror grinding/Telescope Making. (Keep) h) Kids Activities. (Keep, add new activities) i) Multimedia Presentation. (Keep) j) Local School participation. (Retain) k) Wizards of the Stars. (Retain)</p>	<p>Joe Carr Stephen Courtin</p> <p>Sid Sid Stephen Courtin David Lee</p> <p>Colin Wyatt Li-Ann/Lauri</p> <p>Pal Virag Sid/Lauri David Lee</p>

	l) Public Lectures? (Eliminate) m) Star Lab (Retain) n) Meteorite display (addition to last years' activities) o) Night Sky Observing at the CU.	CU/Sid Sid will contact Paul Gessler
D)	Draft budget up to \$1,000.00 (still have to approved by the council)	Sid
E)	Publicity/Broachers –hand out material	Scott Mair
F)	Is it worth the efforts? There was a unanimous opinion that although it takes lot of efforts to host this event, it is still worth the efforts. This is one of the key events our centre is involved where some of our members have an opportunity to participate and feel connected.	

Appendix 2

--Original Message-----

From: Bennett, Dave LCS:EX
 Sent: January 23, 2006 8:50 AM
 To: Scott Mair (E-mail)
 Subject: RE: [RASC Victoria Council] meeting?

Hi Scott.

I will be able to attend.

One of the things which I would like to bring to Council (not necessarily at this meeting, since it's pretty full) is the issue of Membership volume and diversity. For example, there were only 2 women at the last meeting, and I will bet that the average age of our members is somewhere around 50.

My own feeling is that a better Membership mix would be:

- * 25% families (parents and their children)
- * average age 40
- * 10 to 15% singles/students
- * 35% female

My ideas on how to achieve these objectives are:

- * Create a family membership
- * Organize monthly family events (not just a bunch of guys in Bruno's basement)
- * Organize more education - not to show off our telescopes but to assist someone with a "department store special"
- * More publicity!! Especially describing what we have to offer (see bullets, above)
- * Publicize the Cattle Point nights
- * Have a clubhouse accessible to the public (bigger than Bruno's basement)

I would like to get Council's thoughts on the above, both the targets and the means of achieving those targets.

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