

Minutes

RASC Victoria Center Council Meeting

December 4, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

Fourth Floor Lounge, Elliott Bldg, University of Victoria

1. Minutes from October 9, 2103. Approved.
2. Bruce Lane - Victoria Centre Budget for 2013-14 and Treasurer's Report

Category	2012-13 Prediction	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Prediction
Income	7800.00	9479.46	8445.00
Membership	3750.00	3649.41	3700.00
AGM	1750.00	1750.00	1995.00
Telescope Sales	1500.00	1435.00	750.00
Lottery Sales	Combined ^	1750.05	1500.00
Star Party Donations	800.00	340.00	500.00
Other Cash Donations	--	550.00	--
Expenses	7108.80	5696.94	8520.00
Administration	1073.80	480.35	600.00
Monthly Meetings	200.00	--	--
AGM	1935.00	1935.00	1995.00
GA 2013	600.00	192.63	--
NGA 2014	--	567.20	1000.00
VCO	800.00	311.13	1200.00
Astro Cafe	300.00	225.00	225.00
Star Party	500.00	530.88	650.00
SkyNews	200.00	90.85	150.00
Public Outreach	400.00	1092.87	1500.00
Awards	500.00	271.03	600.00
Insurance	500.00	500.00	500.00
Discretionary Spending	100.00	--	100.00

Predictions for this budget have conservative revenues, which will likely be exceeded. For a sensible budget, I felt it was important to not overestimate revenues, to give a more realistic figure to work from. For instance, no value is given for Other Cash Donations, because this shouldn't be an expected source of revenue, but a case of members sporadically stepping up to help out in special circumstances. Similarly, budget expenses were over-estimated, with an eye towards extra expenses that will come with celebrating our centre's centennial and the National General Meeting in 2014. This is why the Star Party, Public Outreach, and VCO have increases in their

budgets. Similarly, the budget increase to Administration takes into account the additional T-shirt printing that will likely occur for our centennial year. Our increase to the Awards budget, takes into account our agreement, at the last centre council meeting, to continue with the expense of the UVic Book Prize for their Astronomy Department. The budget item NGA 2014 is set at \$1000.00 for what is theoretically a budget neutral event, but if we want this done right we should be willing to spend some of our own centre's budget towards the success of this event. As a result of this event not regularly occurring at our centre, the budget number for this item is highly speculative and will require careful monitoring to ensure a fiscally responsible use of our financial resources.

Budget passed.

Treasurer's Report: \$5681.67 in members account and \$578.29 in gaming account. Sid suggested leaving only \$60 in gaming account and putting the rest into the main account because we must report to the BC Gaming Commission. An additional account needs to be opened for the GA. Discussion about whereabouts of document required for opening accounts. CRA data checked by Lauri and appears to be up-to-date.

3. Committee/Project/Other Reports

- a) Events, outreach – Sid Sidhu. Nelson and Chris have volunteered at the schools. Discussion about having Astronomy Day at RBC Museum and Observatory Hill on May 10th, 2014. Janet McDonald has OK'd it. Should we do it and how about day events at museum and night sky viewing at the Hill? Mark concerned of timing around GA2014. Possibly try to get new members to participate. Bruce noted there are a lot of tourists at the museum, opposed to locals. Discussion. Agreed to hold at Museum. Nelson will contact Janet. Need to confirm space and key contact person at the museum. Cattle Point as Plan B if CU isn't available. Jim suggests Cattle Point may be a better option as it will highlight this new urban star park. Also, it is easier to get to.
From Sherry Buttner: 164 total membership; expiries pending – none. Transport Canada green laser pointers – nothing to report. A friendly reminder that all RASC Victoria Centre sanctioned Outreach or other events using green laser pointers must communicate it to Transport Canada (through Sherry). HIA liaison – nothing in particular to report except a reminder about winter driving conditions on the Hill – be careful. Plaskett is not available and UVic is pending for telescope use.
- b) 2014 GA Committee – Paul Schumacher/Mark Bohlman – On Nov. 20 executive group met here. We are focusing on getting website launched for Feb. 1 and getting all the pricing done for tours and meals. Dec. 13th and 16th meetings possible. Lauri noted that Sunday afternoons usually has a specific topic. Suggestions: Introduce the International Year of Light – 2015. Discussion. Mark - Light Pollution in Urban Areas? Lauri – similar to Edmonton 2 years ago. Jim – local issues or link it to IYL. Lauri – outreach and education policies re: observing. Bruce – can never have enough light pollution education. Mark – Seattle Times had an excellent article on light pollution. Will be mentioned in SkyNews.
- c) Website – Joe Carr and Bill will be posting Victoria Centre's history on the website. Facebook group has passed 100 members. A couple of new Zenfolios with people profiles online. Observing highlights are now on slideshow.
- d) Tech Committee – Matt Watson. The plan to make a long range WiFi link is proving difficult but still feasible and it is the only way to get internet with the ability to do broadcasting. If anyone needs help with email, please come to Matt and he will try to help. Matt working at cleaning up Spam. Tracking tested on the 14 by Charles – perfect. Discussion of various results on telescopes. Matt is afraid of spiders.... ;)

- f) Center of the Universe Meeting November 24 – Attended by Lauri Roche, Chris Gainor, Nelson Walker, Roy Watson, Malcolm Scrimger, Sid Sihu, Jim and Betty Hesser. A variety of impressive people were present: Butchart Gardens, Don Moffat, the Museum, Shaw Ocean Discovery, Lana Popham and her assistant and a scientist from NRC. NRC doesn't intend to mothball the bldg. so if someone could put it to good use, all good. There are long and short-term committees (Chris and Lauri on short-term). First item on agenda will be setting up a nonprofit organization which will need a board of directors. Discussion re: Science Venture and programs for school children. Long-term committee for sustainable plan. Lauri suggested we watch for suitable board members. Also, memberships can be sold and business people from these could be called upon as board members. Jim will be representing NRC. Be prepared to be back on the Hill in late spring.
- g) Swan Lake Trail Markers. There wouldn't be much in the way of astronomical events. The director is gone and the Swan Lake Board of Directors has changed focus, tabling this trail. The Secular Humanist Society and the various clubs involved would like a letter of support. Agreed that Nelson will write it.
- h) Star Party Date (July 25 - 27, 2014) at Metchosin Cricket Field – Nelson Walker. Date wasn't in National Sky News. Joe will make sure it gets in this year. Bruce suggests we have a "media officer". Chris and Sherry have been doing a lot of media work. Chris to discuss with Sherry. Use Astronomy day to promote GA.
- i) Book Prize Awarded – Nelson Walker investigated the origins of this; was informed it was 50, then 30, years old and meant for the most outstanding undergraduate astrophysics student. The prize was awarded a couple of weeks ago (\$300). Discussion. Suggested perhaps free membership in RASC instead next year? Nelson will write a congratulatory letter to this year's recipient and will discuss the future of it with UVic.
- j) National Issues– Mark Bohlman. 3-hour conference call. NAC still finding its feet; difficult period as centers figure out how they fit in.
- k) New Business
 - i) Bill Almond - Actual 100th birthday of Victoria Centre is April 28th. Will we celebrate it on that day? Discussion. It was decided to incorporate GA theme into all events.
 - ii) Malcolm would like to set up a special event station during the GA – Ham Radio – international field day is the last weekend in June. Approved

Adjournment 9:15

Next Council Meeting: January 8, 2014 - following General Meeting