

Minutes

RASC Victoria Centre Council Meeting

May 4, 2016 (approved September 7, 2016)

Fourth Floor Lounge, Elliott Bldg, University of Victoria

Serving as Recorder: Past-President Nelson Walker

1. **The meeting was called to order by President Sherry Buttner at 7:30 pm. In attendance were Matt Watson, Chris Purse, Bruce Lane, Nelson Walker, Jim Hesser, John McDonald, Sid Sidhu, David Lee, and Lauri Roche.**
2. **The minutes of the Council Meeting of March 2, 2016 were approved as read.**
3. **Executive Officers Reports:**
 - a. **Treasurer's Report – Bruce reported that there remained \$610 in the Centre's "gaming account," and \$12747 in the Centre's "member's account.**
 - b. **Vice-President's Report - Chris reported that Centre membership stands at 227, with 17 of those within the "grace period."**
4. **Committee/Project/Other Reports:**
 - a. **Astronomy Day 2016, Royal BC Museum May 14 – Event is on track, volunteers are being organized by Nelson, Lauri, speakers by David Lee.**
 - b. **The issue of training members in the operation of the planetarium at the Centre of the Universe was discussed. A number of FDAO members have received training, plus Aaron (Science Ventures) and two students, plus member Greg Higgs**
 - c. **School Program – Sid and Lauri reported that as of this date, they have presented programs at fifty schools.**
 - d. **Sherry announced that the Lieutenant Governor has arranged to visit the DAO during the Summer Star Party to occur August 13. She will be accompanied by her aide-de-camp and our own President.**
 - e. **Sherry announced that subsequent to an NRC requirement, the Summer Star Parties scheduled this summer will require that tickets be presented at the gate by visitors. The tickets will be available on line, and will be free. It is hoped that the tickets will be succeed as a form of crowd control. There**

will be 225 tickets available. Special guests will not require tickets, but will have a special validation at the gate. Some further details remain to be worked out.

f. Website – Joe Carr reported that the website is in good order.

g. Tech Committee – Matt Watson reported that the VCO is in good order

5. **New Business - Out of order, as the first item on the agenda, was a presentation by one Bill Smith, of the “Cattle Point Foundation.” He reported he had worked with Mark Bohlman on the Cattle Point Dark Sky Preserve. He sought to enlist the Centre’s aid in promoting/designing/building a “walkway” around Cattle Point, similar to what he had “seen in Europe,” and upon which a pedestrian might experience the scale of the solar system; with a model planet Mercury appearing within the first twenty yards or so, a models of Jupiter thus being at the observatory, Uranus being on China Beach, and Pluto in the distance near Tofino. He talked of First Nation support for the project, and suggested it be named “the Salish Sea Walk of the Planets. It was not entirely clear what Mr. Smith wanted from us, but in discussions that occurred after his departure, there seemed to be little interest in club involvement.**

6. Adjournment

Next Council Meeting: September 7, 2016