

RASC Victoria Centre Council Meeting

Wednesday 1 November 2017 - 7:30 p.m.

Fourth Floor Lounge, Elliott Building, University of Victoria

Present: Chris Purse (chair), Matt Watson, Sid Sidhu, Deb Crawford, Michel Michaud, Bruce Lane, Jim Hesser, John McDonald, David Lee, Ken Mallory, Reg Dunkley (Recorder)

Call to order 7:30PM

- 1) **Agenda Approved** with the following additional items for new business:
 - a) Resignation of Secretary
 - b) iPad Acquisition
- 2) **Outstanding Minutes** Chris stated that Leslie Welsh has informed him earlier in the week that the minutes of April 5, 2017 and September 6, 2017 were not ready to be presented to council for approval. Chris informed Leslie that it was his decision, as President, to present the minutes to council and let council decide how to proceed. Council decided to review the draft minutes that had been circulated and make the necessary amendments.
 - a) **Minutes of 5 April 2017**
 - i) Item "I Observing Chairs Michel M and Jim S": Amended to read "No Report" (*Moved Reg D. Seconded John McD Carried*)
 - ii) The spelling of a number of names and words were incorrect. Approval for Chris P and Reg D to correct the spelling. " (*Moved David L. Seconded Deb C Carried*)
 - iii) *Motion* by John McD that subject to changes identified in i) and ii) above that the Minutes of 5 April 2017 be approved. *Seconded by Jim H Carried.*
 - b) **Minutes of 6 September 2017**
 - i) Due to the late arrival of Secretary Les Welsh, David Lee kindly recorded the initial portion of the meeting. Unfortunately Les Welsh did not receive David Lee's record and this contributed to a misunderstanding. In particular the minutes of July 12th received approval from Council prior to Les's arrival. Les had concerns regarding budget details in the July 12th minutes involving the purchase of a new telescope. After a thoughtful review the Council were in agreement that the July 12th minutes were accurate but that it would be helpful to clarify the following in the Council record: *In December 2016 Council reserved \$7000 for an upgrade of the VCO telescope. The Motion for the VCO Upgrade Proposal provided approval for an expenditure of \$14000 and set a fund raising target of \$5000. With only \$7000 in the Telescope reserve fund this suggested a potential shortfall of \$2000. The Council was comfortable with this arrangement, however, because the proposal stipulated that equipment would only be acquired as funds became available. The potential for the sale of the surplus equipment would easily exceed \$2000. Due to the relatively strong Canadian Dollar, the 20% saving on the telescope and a very successful fundraising campaign*

the finances of the Victoria Centre are currently healthy and the decision to upgrade the VCO this summer was validated.

- ii) *Moved* by Sid S and *seconded* by John McD that Item 2 of the September 6th Minutes be amended to reflect David Lee's record of September 6th as follows: *Moved* by Nelson Walker and *seconded* by Reg Dunkley that the minutes of July 12 be approved. *Carried*
 - iii) *Moved* by Sid S and *seconded* by John McD that with some additional minor spelling corrections made by Chris P that the Minutes of September 6th be approved as amended. *Carried*. These amended minutes will be circulated to Council via e-mail.
- 3) **Business Arising from the Minutes/Old Business**
- a) Plaskett Telescope Evenings – Michel reports that the event on evening of September 23rd was a success. He will request for one evening over the winter – spring interval.
 - b) 2018 Calendar Orders- Chris reports that Lauri Roche has submitted the bulk order.
 - c) September 23rd Fairfield Fall Fete - Reg reported that the combination of sunshine, solar scopes and lingering eclipse fever generated great interest which contributed to a very pleasant outreach event. Thanks to all RASCals who participated.
 - d) UVic Telescope Evenings - Chris reports that the Victoria Centre can access the 32 inch scope on the second Friday of the month. 11 RASCals attended the October 13th event under clear skies. Thanks to Karun for making this possible.
 - e) CASCA 2018 Conference – Jim H. reports that Bob McDonald has agreed to be the public speaker. A proposed William Herschel concert will not take place during the Conference.
 - f) Victoria Day Parade 2018 – Jim H. reports that new RASCAl Maria has agreed to join the very enthusiastic planning team. Les reported that: *Maria Nguyen and Les attended the visioning/planning meeting for the Victoria Day Parade, with 7 other folks from the FDAO and DAO. Barb Wright also attended to explore if she might be interested in contributing to the effort. Les noted that no one from Council had indicated interest in participating in the design team meeting on October 25, so Les also attended to ensure there was a connection to Council. Please note that ... there will be need for additional volunteer help and possibly financing by RASC Victoria Centre (or national) for particular aspects of the entry in due course as the float is developed.*
 - g) By-Laws Committee – Nelson and Les – No Report
 - h) Sale of a *Photographic Atlas of Selected Regions of the Milky Way* – Michel reports no action for this rare book but it was agreed to maintain the same price.
 - i) VCO Telescope Replacement Project – Matt W reports that the TPO 16 inch telescope has been successfully installed and the initial performance pleased the Technical Team. The guide camera and camera extension tubes have just arrived. An electronic focuser, collimation tool and “dew strap” have been

ordered. Matt is also working on a design for an automated mirror cover. Chris P congratulated the Technical Team for their excellent progress.

- j) VCO Telescope Fundraising – Bruce L reports that \$5210 was raised. Chris P extended his congratulations to Joe Carr for leading this most successful project.
- k) RASC 150th Anniversary in 2018 *Inviting Canadians to Explore Their Skies* – Jim Hesser and Lauri Roche are leading the image contest. They have a student who has mocked up two web pages in Word Press for submitting images: one for astrophotos and sketches and one for art work. It will be ready for beta testing soon. Submissions will require manual vetting before they can appear online. This might be an interesting volunteer opportunity!
- l) AGM: Saturday 18 November 2017 at the Cedar Hill Golf Course – Chris asked for recommendations and donations for door prizes.

4) New Business

- a) Process for sale of surplus equipment from the VCO – Reg D felt that it was important to have an open and transparent process. Among the options explored, the Council was most comfortable with a sealed bid process for items with a specific deadline and a published minimal acceptable offer. In order to proceed, an inventory of accessories and a suitable valuation must be approved for the Televue NP127is, the Meade 14 inch SCT, the HyperStar and the custom cradle. Sid also requested that the sale of a 20 inch mirror should also be included in this process. The timeline is yet to be determined. It has been suggested that initially the sale be restricted to Victoria Centre RASCals. In order to announce the availability of these items Reg D will describe the opportunity the November SkyNews. Items could be displayed at Astro Café prior to the deadline.
- b) The use of funds from the sale of surplus equipment. – Chris canvased for ideas. Preliminary suggestions included an upgraded camera, solar telescope and technology to enable remote outreach with the VCO. This topic may be revisited.
- c) RASCals Star Party 2018 – Although the Metchosin cricket pitch has many advantages it has been the experience that clear skies in August are often accompanied by strong westerly inflow winds through nearby Juan de Fuca Strait. Vibration from these winds can impair visual and astrophoto opportunities. Deb C and Bruce L volunteered to explore alternate sites for this event. An admission cost may have to be considered.
- d) DAO Summer Star Party 2018 – Chris P will be meeting with FDAO shortly and requested feedback about the 2017 season. There was little response at the meeting but if you have concerns or suggestions please contact Chris.
- e) Les Welsh has formally tendered his resignation as Secretary. The role of reading the annual report at the AGM has been delegated to Reg D.
- f) A proposal for acquisition of iPads to support outreach was submitted by Lauri Roche and received National RASC funding. Due to rapid evolution of technology some of the initial plans were modified. The frequency of reporting out on the project progress was not strictly followed. It was agreed by Council however that the spirit of the proposal was not violated. It was

suggested that a final report be submitted to National RASC and ask them if they had any issues.

5) Reports

- a) President & Membership – Chris P- Current membership stands at 253.
- b) Vice President, SkyNews Editor, Astro Café – Reg D– No report
- c) Second Vice President – Deb C – Submitted a list for materials to support Outreach in 2018.
- d) Treasurer – Bruce L – Current Balance \$10075 with \$20 in gaming account.
- e) Secretary – No report
- f) National Representative – Nelson W– No report
- g) Tech Committee – Matt W– Information included in VCO update
- h) Website – Joe C – No report
- i) Library – Michel M – No report
- j) Schools Program – Sid – Sid and Lauri visited several schools last week and received requests from 35 teachers in the last week alone.
- k) Public Outreach – Ken M – Ken thanked David L for giving a talk at Somerset House. Sid encouraged that we keep track of how many events and people that we contact.
- l) Observing Chairs – Michel M and Jim S – No report
- m) Lighting Committee – Dave R – No report
- n) FDAO Liaison – Lauri R – No report
- o) DAO Liaison – James – No report
- p) UVic Liaison- Alex – No report
- q) Camosun Liaison – Jim N – No report
- r) Past President – Sherry B – No report

6) Meeting Adjournment – Moved by Matt W at 9:13 PM