



Council of Halifax Centre - Minutes of Meeting
19 February 2016
SMU, The Atrium, Rm AT306

Present: Paul Gray, Judy Black, David Chapman, Sean Dzafovic, Andy Hasler, Elli Hasler, Ian Anderson, Tony McGrath, Jim Millar, Tony Schellinck, Chris Young.

Regrets: Dr. Roy Bishop, Paul Heath, Quinn Smith, Pat Kelly.

Guests: Dave Lane, Andrew Frank, Mary Lou Whitehorn

1. Welcome & Introductions

Paul Gray welcomed new and returning members. He asked if members had other items to add to the agenda. Agenda was approved as circulated.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

a) December 2015: Actions 1 and 5 remain open; Actions 2-4 and 6 are now closed.

b) January 2016: Actions 1-3, 6-12, 15, 17-19 are now closed. Actions 4-5, 13-14, 16 and 20 remain open.

Minutes of the January 11, 2016 Council Meeting had been pre-circulated for review. No changes to the minutes were noted.

160219MN – Mot01

It was moved by Tony Schellinck and seconded by Jim Millar that the minutes of January 11, 2016 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

Members' attention was brought to the chart attached to the Agenda that included meeting dates and times, as well as actual times the rooms were booked.

Paul Gray has contacted Dr. Spray to request a presentation on the findings of the Martian Rover; details have not yet been verified. Luigi Gallo would also be an interesting speaker to address the Japan launch and the X-ray telescope. It was also suggested that March perhaps be a "Members' Night" that could include a guest speaker to address time lapse photography of the moon, and to provide updates and information about (a) upcoming star parties, (b) the Mercury transit, and (c) items that members bring forward.

160219MN-Act01

Paul Gray is to contact Dr. Spray to confirm a date and a presentation on a "Martian" topic for a subsequent Halifax Centre meeting.

160219MN-Act02

Paul Gray is to contact Dr Luigi Gallo to confirm a date and a presentation regarding the X-ray telescope for a subsequent Halifax Centre meeting.

160219MN-Act03

Paul Gray is to contact Halifax Centre members to inquire if anyone would present a brief 5-10 minute information session on a topic of their choosing at the March 2016 Halifax Centre meeting.

3. Budget

Several items had been identified for discussion.

a) Sale of Dobsonian: Chris Young had circulated a document that included the description of the telescope and its needed repairs; however, it was to be sold as is. The minimum bid would be \$1200.00. Advertisement was to be within the Halifax Centre community; if no bids received it would be extended to a national scope.

b) Outreach: Paul Gray commended Paul Heath for the outreach he has done and thanked him in absentia for the outreach requirements report to Council. It was agreed among members that required literature would be purchased from national (pamphlet + costs, or the related shipping costs to items provided by RASC).

c) Kejimikujik DSW: DSW had already been allotted a budget at the previous meeting for a speaker's travel and accommodations. Dave Chapman commented that the observing field will be better organized this year to ensure the public can be directed to a telescope set up to view a specific night object.

d) Nova East: NE remains self-supporting.

e) Saltscapes / RV Show: Halifax Centre (HC) would not participate at the Sport & RV show this year. However, HC is sharing a table with Atlantic Photo Supply (APS) at Saltscapes (April 22-24).

f) SCO: Tony McGrath provided a draft budget listing the suggested repairs, maintenance and operation and upgrades to SCO. It was agreed that an additional \$200.00 would be allotted to the purchase of a collimator bringing the total budget for SCO Operating and Capital to \$1000.00. Tony would also investigate a heater system for binoculars.

160219MN-Act04

Tony McGrath is to investigate the cost of a heating system for binoculars and provide the information to Jim Millar for budgeting purposes.

160219MN-Act05

Tony McGrath is to prepare a SCO development plan for consideration at the April 2016 Council Meeting.

g) Nova Notes: Tony Schellinck had previously sent a budget for Nova Notes to Jim Millar.

h) Library: Andy Hasler had pre-circulated a library report to Council members. An inventory of the books in the library had been completed. A budget of \$600.00 had previously been allotted for new book purchases, and the list of potential purchases has been prepared.

i) Star Trek 50th Anniversary: Discussion deferred until June.

j) Nocturne: A budget of \$200.00 is allotted, should funds for this event be required.

k) Secretarial Budget: A budget of \$200.00 will be allotted to cover costs of photocopying and for printing drafts, work and master copies.

l) HalCon: A budget of \$500.00 would be allotted to HalCon (April 4).

m) Geek Quinox: Halifax Centre has been offered a free table (April 23-24).

Because budget allotments for items had not been made prior to this meeting, it was determined that a budget could not be presented at this time. A budget could be prepared for the next meeting.

160219MN-Act06

Jim Millar will prepare a budget for presentation and approval and the March 2016 Council meeting. The not-for-profit status of RASC Halifax Centre was discussed. It was not known what percentage of RASC income had to be spent on mission. Contacting the CRA website for information and Charity were suggested. Mary Lou Whitehorne suggested Jim first contact national office to inquire.

160219MN-Act07

Jim Millar will contact RASC national office to inquire about financial requirements for not-for-profit centres.

4. National Award Nominations

It has been confirmed by National that Martin Hellmich & Halley Davies have won the Simon Newcomb Award. A formal announcement will be made.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Awards Review

Because the time left in the meeting would not allow for the full discussion required, this item is deferred to the March 2016 Council meeting.

160219MN-Act08

Discussion regarding the future of the *Burke Gaffney Award* and the *Murray Cunningham Award for Astrophotography* is deferred until the March 2016 meeting.

6. Communications Strategy

Dave Chapman had pre-circulated the communications strategy to members for review. Dave noted that he had consulted with Tony Schellinck and Judy Black. The document provides a listing of communication activities, responsibilities and timelines for the actions. The document reflects an accurate picture of what currently occurs.

Ian Anderson stated he had brought Nova Notes from the time period of 1999 to April 2013 to the Nova Scotia Archives. It was suggested the RASC minutes also be given to the Archives.

Dave Chapman noted that in the past RASC Halifax Centre had a Facebook page for which Graham Rose was the administrator. Mr. Rose had to step down as the group administrator, and suggested a member of Council be the administrator. Andrew Frank volunteered to assist in that capacity. He also suggested astronomy-related podcasts; this will be discussed at a later meeting.

160219MN-Act09

Dave Chapman will discuss the role of Facebook administrator with Andrew Frank.

7. David Levy Talk Tour

Paul Gray informed members that New Brunswick was bringing David Levy to Moncton on November 6, 2016, with national RASC paying as part of PSP. His arrival in the Maritimes would be between Halifax Centre meetings. Council agreed to hold a between-meeting special event with David Levy as the speaker. The logistics will be worked out once confirmation is made.

160219MN-Act10

Paul Gray is to contact New Brunswick to confirm Halifax Centre interest in David Levy as a speaker.

8. Reports

a) Nova East:

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Quinn Smith had pre-circulated the Nova East report for Council review. No discussion was required.

b) **Library:**

Andy Hasler had provided his report as part of the budget discussion.

160219MN-Mot02

A motion was made by Jim Millar to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Black
Secretary

Halifax Centre Agenda

February 19, 2016: 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM
SMU - Atrium AT101 (46 in attendance)

Agenda Items				
Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility	Support Documents
7:30 PM	Welcome & Introductions	Information	Paul Gray	N/A
	Special Presentation: The Renewal of the Burke-Gaffney Observatory & its New Social Media Interface	Presentation	Dave Lane	N/A
	What's Up?	Information	Paul Gray	N/A
	Nova Notes	Information	Paul Gray	N/A
	AstroPhotos of the Month		Paul Gray	N/A
9:30 PM	Adjournment Refreshments		Paul Gray Judy Black	N/A