



Council of Halifax Centre - Minutes of Meeting 18 March 2016

SMU, The Atrium, Rm AT306

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

Regrets: Dr. Roy Bishop, Tony Schellinck, Quinn Smith.

Guests: David Lane, Andrew Frank.

1. Welcome & Introductions

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

160318MN – Mot01

It was moved by Chris Young and seconded by Pat Kelly that the agenda be approved as circulated.
CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

- a) December 2015: Actions 1 and 5 remain open.
- b) January 2016: Actions 4, 5, 13, 14 and 20 are now closed; Action 16 remains open.
- c) February 2016: Actions 1-3 and 6 – 10 are now closed; Actions 4 & 5 remain open.

Minutes of the February 19, 2016 Council Meeting had been pre-circulated for review. No changes to the minutes were noted.

160318MN – Mot02

It was moved by Chris Young and seconded by Paul Heath that the minutes of February 19, 2016 be approved as circulated.
CARRIED.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates, Special Events & Guest Speakers

Paul Gray has confirmed a full slate of speakers for the remainder of the year:

- a) April: Paul Evans to address his Lunar Eclipse Time Lapse, and David Griffin to address portable telescopes
- b) May: Luigi Gallo
- c) June: Annual BBQ and observing at SCO
- d) September: Dr. John Spray, UNB (or Dr. Roy Bishop to address Gravity Waves)
- e) October: SMU MacLennan Lecture may replace the regular Halifax Centre Meeting
- d) early November: Dr. David Levy as part of his Maritime Talk Tour
- e) November: Dr. John Spray, UNB (or Dr. Roy Bishop to address Gravity Waves)
- f) December: AGM

3. Budget

Jim Millar presented the revised 2016 budget that had been pre-circulated to members. He noted a total income of \$4001.00, expenses of \$7343.00, making a deficit of \$3342.00. He fully anticipates that Nova East, with its reduced

expenditures this year, will make up for the deficit. Mr. Millar clarified a few line items at the request of Council members.

160318MN-Mot03

It was moved by Jim Millar and seconded by Pat Kelly that the 2016 Budget be approved as circulated.
CARRIED.

4. Youth Recruitment

It was recognized that getting youth members (<25 years of age) remains a challenge for most RASC Centres. Members identified Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat as points of contact with youth. Other existing sources of advertising RASC Halifax Centre included library bulletin boards and their website bulletins, and Meet-up. There needed to be a reason for youth to stay involved once they attended RASC meetings or events, i.e., mentorship had to be in place. Paul Gray suggested a task team be formed to address this and to present possible strategies at a subsequent meeting.

160318MN-Act01

The Youth Recruitment Task Team, comprising Paul Gray, Paul Heath, Ian Anderson, and Andrew Frank, shall present their report at the April or May 2016 Council Meeting.

5. Awards Review (deferred from February 2016)

David Chapman and Tony Schellinck had reviewed the *Burke Gaffney Award* and the *Murray Cunningham Award for Astrophotography*. It had been proposed that both awards be retired for the following reasons:

- a- Neither had been exercised for at least 10 years;
- b- Astrophotography awards is continuing to be a part of Nova East; and
- c- An astrophotography certificate from National RASC is currently under development.

160318MN-Mot04

It was moved by Dave Chapman and seconded by Chris Young that both the *Burke Gaffney Award* and the *Murray Cunningham Award for Astrophotography* be retired.
CARRIED.

6. May 9 Mercury Transit

Dave Chapman suggested that because the transit happens on a Monday, that the weather is uncertain and it would be difficult to see given how small Mercury is, that Halifax centre not go ahead with a big production. Mr. Chapman and Karl Penney may decide to set up a pop-up event if conditions warrant it.

NEW BUSINESS

7. Council Position Descriptions & Recruitment

Judy Black explained that the development of a position description began for 3 reasons: (1) as part of her search for responsibilities for the Secretary role, (2) for use as a recruitment tool for new Council members, and (3) for use in re-writing related segments of the by-laws. The *Position Description: Secretary* had been pre-circulated for members to review and to provide comment as this was also proposed as the template for other position descriptions. Chris Young noted that the position descriptions should be reviewed with an eye for not only what the role is now but also what it should be in the future. Mrs. Black proposed that given all position descriptions had been drafted that she would send them to each person on Council for review and then discuss with them any changes they recommend. All position descriptions would then be brought to the May Council meeting for approval; final approval would be obtained at the AGM.

160318MN-Act02

Judy Black will circulate position descriptions to each of the members for review.

160318MN-Act03

Judy Black will discuss each member's position description with them prior to being brought to the May 2016 meeting for approval.

160318MN-Act04

All approved Position Descriptions will be brought to the December 2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM) for approval.

8. RASC Halifax Centre By-Law #1 Review

Due to time restrictions, this item was deferred to the April 2016 Council Meeting.

160318MN-Act05

RASC Halifax Centre By-Law #1 Review is deferred to the April 15, 2106 Council meeting.

9. Financial Concerns

Due to time restrictions, this item was deferred to the April 2016 Council Meeting.

160318MN-Act06

Financial Concerns is deferred to the April 15, 2106 Council meeting.

10. Reports

a) **Nova East:**

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

160219MN-Mot05

A motion was made by David Chapman to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Black
Secretary

Halifax Centre Agenda – Members' Night

March 18, 2016: 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM
SMU - Atrium AT101 (51 in attendance)

Agenda Items				
Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility	Support Documents
7:30 PM	Welcome & Introductions	Information	Paul Gray	N/A
	Outreach Opportunities	Information	Paul Heath	N/A
	Members' Night Presentations: a) 2016 RASC GA (Paul Gray) b) Summer Star Parties (Paul Gray) c) Using an iOptron Smartphone Adapter (Mark Robertson) d) Transit of Mercury (Dave Chapman) e) Time Lapse (Jerry Black)	Presentations	As cited	
	Astrophotos of the Month		Paul Gray	N/A
	What's Up?		Dr. Roy Bishop	N/A
	AstroPhotos of the Month		Paul Gray	N/A
	RASC Awards: a) Simon Newcomb Award: Martin Hellmich & Halley Davies b) RASC Service Award: Paul Gray c) Fellowship Award (FRASC): Pat Kelly	Information	a) Paul Gray (with special presentation made by Mary-Lou Whitehorne & Dave Chapman) b) Mary Lou Whitehorne c) Dave Lane	N/A
9:30 PM	Adjournment Refreshments		Paul Gray Judy Black	N/A