



**Council of Halifax Centre - Minutes of Meeting
15 September 2017
SMU, The Atrium, Room AT306 (6:30 AM - 7:30 PM)**

Present: Paul Gray, Judy Black, Andrew Frank, Melody Hamilton, Paul Heath, John Read, Sean Dzafovic, Jim Millar, Pat Kelly.

Regrets: Dr. Roy Bishop, Andy Hasler, Tony McGrath, Art Cole, Tony Schellinck,

Guests: Chris Young, Dave Lane.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Paul Gray welcomed members and guests. He asked if members had other items to add to the agenda. "Time of Meetings" was added as Item 13.

170915MN – Mot01

It was moved by Jim Millar and seconded by Melody Hamilton that the agenda be approved as circulated.
CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

- a) April 2016
Action 2 remains open.
- b) May 2016
Action 3 remains open.
- c) September 2016
Action 3 remains open.
- d) October 2016
Action 16 remains open.
- e) January 2017
Action 2 closed
- f) February
Action 5 closed.
- g) March 2017
Action 3, 4 remains open.
Action 6 closed.
- h) May 2017
Actions 1-2 closed.
Actions 3 remains open.
Actions 4-6 closed.

170915MN – Mot02

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Andrew Frank that the minutes of May 12, 2017 be approved as

circulated.
CARRIED.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

Sept: Solar Eclipse presentations by members in Nebraska and elsewhere; summer activity recap (two DSW week-ends, Nova East, Starmus)

Oct: SMU's MacLennan Lecture (Sarah Seager)

Nov: Youth Night: Ruining Zhang re Mapping Asteroid Orbits, Catherine & Nathan Gray re Starmus

Dec AGM: unknown; "Who Wants to be a Gazer?"

Because of the McLennan Memorial Lecture on October 20, 2017, the Halifax Centre meeting space will not be required. Members will be advised of the change and SMU should be notified of cancellation of the room space for that night. Members agreed the Council meeting would be held Saturday, October 21, 2017.

170915MN-Act01

Judy Black will notify members that the regular meeting is being replaced by the McLennan Lecture, and will notify them of particulars once they are known.

170915MN-Act02

Judy Black will notify SMU of the room cancellation requirement.

170915MN-Act03

Paul Gray will determine place and time for Council meeting of October 21, 2017.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

3. RASC 2011 Cultural Connections

Halifax is one of 3 Centres that has done something with external cultural groups. We have been contacted by the Deanery, Ross Creek, the Mi'kmaq at Kejimikujik National Park, and the Symphony. Because of our Centre's involvement with these groups, no further action is required.

4. Purchase of RASC Banner

Paul Gray will contact National for the PDF of the banner. Once acquired, John Read will add "RASC Halifax Centre" to the banner.

5. RASC Halifax Centre Website

This item was deferred as no action has been taken to date. Andrew Frank reiterated his concerns regarding the Discussion list.

UPDATES / REPORTS

6. Report: Nova East

Judy Black and Melody Hamilton submitted a report to Council. All in all, they were both pleased with the outcome. It ran smoothly and there were several positive comments throughout the week-end. Judy noted the following:

1. Date of 2018 Nova East - August 10-12, 2018 (as recommended by this Committee and approved by Council)
2. The Chair/Co-Chairs need to be determined by October 31, 2017, and a planning committee struck shortly thereafter.
3. A wrap-up meeting is being held tomorrow (Sept 16/17). Recommendations arising from the meeting, especially those with financial implications, will be brought to Council for approval.
4. Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee have been drafted and will be reviewed by the Committee.

7. Report: SCO BBQ (Friday, June 16/17)

Paul noted that he was not at the BBQ and therefore could not comment. members provided some insight as to how well it went. Melody Hamilton stated that Jamie Carmichael had been invited but did not attend. Paul questioned if the BBQ was an event we wanted to host again in 2018. It was agreed unanimously that this was a great social event for our Centre and should be retained.

170915MN-Act04

Judy Black will circulate the report of the 2017 SCO BBQ to members of Council.

8. Update: Halifax Centre Laptop

The laptop has been purchased, loaded with the required apps and was used at Nova East. Chris has agreed to look after it.

9. Update: Library Cart Repairs

Paul Heath has completed the repairs to the library cart. No further action is required.

10. Update: SCO Repairs

An email has been received from Blair McDonald regarding the door handle. Another email was received from Art Cole citing spiders in the warming room. These will be added to the SCO repair list.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Video Production by Halley Davies

Dave Chapman submitted via email a request for further funding for video production by Halley Davies. Council had agreed in a previous meeting to fund the Star Finder video, which will be delivered at the Member's meeting later this evening. Expenses have already been claimed for petrol and mike rental. Halley feels editing will add up to 5 hours at \$30/h for \$150. This estimate includes captioning, which is an option in YouTube for hearing-impaired viewers. Dave Chapman said Halley should do that. He has seen a rough edit of this video and it looks excellent!

As a RASC volunteer, Halley also shot video at the Dark-Sky Weekend. It includes crowd scenes and interviews, plus public observing and presentations, kids, quite a variety of stuff. She could edit them into a fun video to promote RASC Halifax Centre and to show the experience of an amateur astronomy weekend under the stars in Keji.

A suggestion had previously been made by Paul Gray that we make a second video along those lines. It was discussed, but we never received a solid confirmation that Halley should undertake the editing work. She estimates this will be an additional 5.5 hours work, for \$165 (also with captioning).

PROPOSAL

Given that Halley is doing this partly as a volunteer, this represents an incredible value to the Centre, to get a professional quality video for such a small outlay. I ask Council to approve the additional outlay of \$165 for the second video, so I can give her the go-ahead. She has no work at the moment, so she is available.

170915MN – Mot03

It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by Paul Heath that Council approve the additional outlay of \$165.00 for the Halifax Centre promotion video by Halley Davies.

CARRIED.

12. Nomination Committee

Judy Black noted that a Nomination Committee needed to be formed by the end of October in order to produce the list of nominees for the "Board of Directors" according to the approved Bylaw #1. Members agreed that two members of Council and one or two from the membership should comprise the Committee. Paul Gray, as Vice-President and interim President, would sit on the Committee as an ex officio member.

170915MN-Act05

Paul Gray will make a general call for volunteers to sit on the Nomination Committee.

13. Time of Meetings

Because some members have difficulty in achieving a 6:30 PM arrival, and because there was virtually no time for set-up and socializing before the Members Meeting, an adjustment to meeting times was suggested by Paul Gray. He also noted that Blair McDonald had agreed to conduct a 20- to 30-minute imaging workshop for members before the Member's Meeting. Paul made a recommendation for revising the start of the Council and Member's meetings and included time for Blair's workshop. Members agreed with the recommendation and agreed it begin in November.

170512MN – Mot04

It was moved by Jim Millar and seconded by Andrew Frank that starting with the November 17, 2017 meetings, the following times be implemented:

6:45 - 7:45 PM: Board of Directors meeting

7:00 - 7:30 PM: Imaging Workshop by Blair McDonald

8:00 - 9:30 PM: Member's Meeting

CARRIED unanimously.

14. Adjournment

170512MN – Mot05

It was moved by Jim Millar to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Black
Secretary, RASC Halifax Centre