



Council of Halifax Centre - Minutes of Meeting
15 January 2016
(51st Anniversary of Halifax Centre)
SMU, The Atrium, Rm AT306

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

Regrets: Ian Anderson, Dr. Roy Bishop, Paul Heath, Quinn Smith.

Guests: Dave Lane

1. Welcome & Introductions

Paul Gray welcomed new and returning members. He asked if members had other items to add to the agenda. He suggested adding nomination for 1st Vice President be added as Item 2. Approved by members.

December 11, 2015 Action List was reviewed. Actions 2, 3 and 4 are now closed. Actions 1, 5 and 6 remain open.

Minutes of the December 11, 2015 Council Meeting had been pre-circulated for review. No changes to the minutes were noted. However, clarification of Item 21 was made; Halley Davies had agreed to become a RASC member and her National membership has been paid.

160115MN – Mot01

It was moved by Jim Millar and seconded by Tony Schellinck that the minutes of December 11, 2015 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

Dave Lane noted the provincial Registry of Joint Stocks required the changed list of officers and the financial statements.

160115MN-Act01

Judy Black is to access provincial Registry of Joint Stocks website to access the RASC Halifax Centre information to provide the updated list and remove the previous lists.

160115MN-Act02

Jim Millar to provide the required financial documentation for submission to the Registry.

Judy Black had pre-circulated the Council Contact List. She requested that members closely scrutinize their personal information to ensure its accuracy. No changes were noted by members in attendance.

2. Nomination of 1st Vice President

Paul Gray noted the position of 1st Vice President (VP) was vacant. He recommended the Council appoint David Chapman for this position; David agreed with the understanding that as 1st VP, he would coordinate communications for Halifax Centre as is customary for that position.

160115MN-Mot02

It was moved by Jim Millar and seconded by Chris Young to accept the appointment of David Chapman as 1st Vice President.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by special resolution of Council.

160115MN-Act03

David Chapman is to develop a strategic plan for publicity for presentation at a subsequent meeting.

ONGOING ITEMS

3. 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 stated Dave Lane would present Twitter interface for the two observatories at the February Halifax Centre Meeting. Paul suggested Dr. Spray be contacted to request a presentation on the findings of the Martian Rover.

160115MN-Act04

Paul Gray is to review speakers on the Physics and Astronomy Colloquium to determine if there are presentations of interest to RASC.

4. Recruitment of Younger Members

Members agreed a bigger discussion was required. This is a challenge not only for Halifax Centre but also for other organizations and for RASC Centres.

160115MN-Act05

Discussion regarding youth recruitment deferred to March 2016 Council Meeting agenda.

5. RASC Halifax Website

Beta testing has been done in Regina and Toronto; however, use by other centres temporarily on hold. Pat Kelly had updated the website as requested in the previous meeting. He will continue to update and maintain the Halifax Centre website until advised of the change to the National RASC format.

6. Outreach

With Paul Heath's absence at this meeting, discussion regarding requests and completed events will be held at the February Council meeting.

Discussion about how best to support the Yarmouth area astronomy group as they start up activities. It was recognized that support to Yarmouth as well as other sites might also be required (such as speaker accommodation and travel costs), and that a budget line item should be given for this support.

160115MN-Act06

Judy Black is to send to all members on the Announce List requesting that they send to Jim Millar by Friday, February 5, 2016 items for consideration as part of Outreach; for example, Dark Sky Week-end, trade shows, library, etc. Submissions should also include a suggested budget for expenditure by September 30, 2016.

7. SCO

Tony McGrath noted that no requests for loan of equipment has ever been made. Jim Millar stated he had tentatively included \$600.00 for equipment maintenance and another \$600.00 for capital equipment.

160115MN-Act07

Tony McGrath is to provide an updated inventory of SCO equipment with his recommendations for required repairs, acquisition of new equipment, and an estimate of these costs.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

8. RASC A/V Equipment

The November 21, 2015 report from Martin Hellmich regarding wireless microphone systems currently used at SMU and recommendations for transmitters to be purchased was pre-circulated to members for consideration.

160115MN-Act08

Paul Gray will price and purchase the wireless microphones before the February 2016 meeting.

9. Nova East

Members had discussed on-line before this meeting about the planning committee composition for this event, as well as potential focus and speakers. Quinn Smith has agreed to be Chair. Dave Chapman is coordinating the speaker program. Paul Gray has volunteered to organize the BBQ. Melody Hamilton has volunteered to return as Registrar. Chris Young has also volunteered to be a member of the planning group.

160115MN-Act09

Quinn Smith to announce the Nova East planning committee members.

160115MN-Act10

Judy Black will send Quinn Smith the summary of emails regarding Nova East received in the Council distribution list for reference.

10. Sale of Old Dobsonian

The Centre's 17.5" Dobsonian is to be auctioned off as it is difficult to store, had not been in use and the 16" Go-To was now well used.

160115MN-Act11

Chris Young is to draft the plan of action regarding the sale of Dobsonian for presentation at the February meeting.

11. Nova Notes

Members agreed that Nova Notes would be promoted at all Halifax Centre Meetings. A larger discussion regarding improving readership, access and contributors needs to be held at another meeting; a discussion held at the 2015 AGM would be a good starting point. It is important to have an understanding for how much is printed and mailed now and how much is emailed as a PDF.

160115MN-Act12

Tony Schellinck to provide a summary of costs for Nova Notes production and distribution for 2016 to Jim Millar for inclusion in February budget discussions.

12. Library

Andy Hasler reported the library cart has been repaired. Jim Millar had tentatively provided \$600.00 in the 2016 budget for the library. Members noted that additions to the library could include donations from Halifax Centre members' libraries as well as new acquisitions. Donations to SW Nova are on hold until a library inventory has been conducted. Suggestions for new acquisitions were made at the December 2015 AGM; members were directed to the emailed list (from Chris Young) of suggested books as included in Agenda Item 11 of the *Proposed Topics and Description Received* pre-circulated with the agenda.

160115MN-Act13

Andy Hasler is to conduct an inventory of the Halifax Centre Library and forward to the Secretary.

160115MN-Act14

Andy Hasler is to prepare a plan to update the Halifax Centre Library and send it to Jim Millar for inclusion in February budget discussions.

13. National Award Nominations

The Status of the nomination made for the video by Martin Hellmich & Halley Davies for the Simon Newcomb Award is not known.

160115MN-Act15

Paul Gray is to advise of the status of the Hellmich and Davies nomination for the Simon Newcomb Award at a subsequent meeting once the status is known.

14. Hal-Con Panel

Interest is still being shown for participation in this event. Hal-Con is November 4-6, 2015.

160115MN-Act16

The Hal-Con panel discussion is deferred to the June 2016 Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

15. Kejimkujik Dark-Sky Week-end

Dave Chapman lined up Tim Doucette of Deep Sky Eye 2.0 Observatory (Quinan, NS) as tentative keynote speaker, and wishes to make a formal offer, including compensation for petrol and non-camping lodging. Parks Canada has given RASC 8 campsites for the weekend, near the Sky Circle, and they will be assigned to old and new member volunteers. He proposed up to \$250.00 be allotted for Tim Doucette's petrol & accommodation costs, and up to \$400.00 be allotted for petrol costs for 8 volunteers at the event. He noted that by prior motion, RASC compensates those for petrol costs (at \$0.25/km).

160115MN-Mot03

It was moved by David Chapman and seconded by Chris Young That a total budget of \$650.00 be allotted to the Kejimkujik Dark-Sky Week-End.
CARRIED.

David also noted that Keji Campsite booking opens later this month and given how quickly campsites are booked, RASC members should be notified.

160115MN-Act17

Judy Black to send notice to all members regarding the date of Keji DSW, and to contact Keji to book their Campsite later this month when Keji bookings for 2016 are opened.

16. Cape Breton Highlands National Park DSP Application

David Chapman brought members attention to his email of January 7, 2016 in which he explained how Eric LeBel and his staff are working to get Cape Breton Highlands National Park considered a Dark Sky Preserve. He explained what they have done to date, including giving sky hikes as part of their Park presentations. It was suggested that the Park and perhaps National RASC could be approached regarding expenses for Halifax Centre members to travel to Cape Breton when needed to assist with acquiring the DSP designation.

160115MN-Mot04

It was moved by David Chapman and seconded by Chris Young that \$600.00 be set aside in the 2016 Centre Budget to support 2 trips to Cape Breton Highlands National Park in support of their application for Dark-Sky Preserve status, with actual expenses subject to prior approval of the Council.
CARRIED.

17. Awards

David Chapman brought Council's attention to the descriptions of the *Burke Gaffney Award* and the *Murray Cunningham Award for Astrophotography*. Neither of these had been awarded recently. Members agreed the policy and description of the awards required review.

160115MN-Act18

David Chapman and Tony Schellinck will review the policy and propose the future of the *Burke Gaffney Award* and the *Murray Cunningham Award for Astrophotography*.

18. Star Trek 50th Anniversary

160115MN-Act19

Star Trek 50th Anniversary discussion deferred to February Council meeting.

19. Budget

Paul Gray noted that the items listed have been discussed at this meeting, and will be discussed as part of the budget deliberations at the February meeting. Jim Millar provided a budget summary to members for reference when preparing their budget requests for 2016.

Tony Schellinck noted that National RASC required the Annual Reports from Halifax Centre. Some but not all reports have been prepared and forwarded to the Secretary for collation and forwarding to National RASC.

160115MN-Act20

Judy Black, Chris Young and Tony Schellinck will collect the required Annual Reports prior to forwarding to National RASC.

A motion was made to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Black
Secretary

Halifax Centre Agenda

January 15, 2016: 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

SMU - Atrium AT301 (32 in attendance)

Agenda Items				
Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility	Support Documents
7:30 PM	Welcome & Introductions	Information	Paul Gray	N/A
	Special Presentations: a) The Great American Eclipse! b) Video of Total Solar Eclipse	Presentation	a) Paul Gray b) Dave Lane	N/A
	Star Trek: Education Session at Hal-Con	Video Presentation	Tony Schellinck	N/A
	What's Up?	Information	David Chapman	N/A
9:30 PM	Adjournment Refreshments		Paul Gray	N/A