

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA - HALIFAX CENTRE

March 6, 1996

Present: Ian Anderson, Dave Chapman, Tom Harp, Pat Kelly, Dave Lane, Blair MacDonald, Shawn Mitchell, Doug Pitcairn, Clint Shannon, Dave Turner, Mary Lou Whitehorne

The meeting convened at 19h10 at the home of Doug Pitcairn, Dartmouth.

1) **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda for the meeting was adopted.

2) **Approval of the Minutes of the February Meeting**

Approval of the February minutes was moved by DT/SM.....Motion Carried.

3) **Business Arising from the Minutes of the February Meeting**

Further to item 6) the sign will be made on March 8 and the Mall display at the Halifax Shopping Centre is confirmed.

4) **Reports from Members of the Executive**

a) President (DC) No Report.

b) First Vice-President (BM) No Report.

c) Second Vice-President (SM)

The Centre is eight Handbooks short for members. The easiest remedy would be to reclaim some of the Handbooks on consignment at the Discovery Centre. The possibility of ordering up to 10 additional Handbooks was agreed to should this prove necessary.

d) Secretary (TH)

The question of who should be named as the Centre's agent (re Incorporation) was raised. It was agreed that DL would remain as agent since changing would involve Government "red tape".

e) Treasurer (IA)

The Centre's cash balance is \$ 8,288.93 ^{including} plus over \$ 1,100 in Observatory donations.

Expense projections for the next phase of the Observatory construction were discussed. Based on these projections, IA's recommendation was that the Centre should maintain a liquidity of \$ 5,000 and invest \$ 4,000 in a one year GIC (or equivalent).

A motion to this effect was made by IA/PK..... Motion Carried.

f) **NOVA NOTES Editor (DL)**

The next issue of NN will be prepared towards the end of March. As always, articles are needed. The deadline for submissions is 25 March/96.

It is expected that C/1996 B2, Comet Hyakutake, should be in the news by about March 15. A finder chart will be available for the next meeting. A special mailing to members is planned and will be co-ordinated with BM.

g) **National Council Representative (PK)**

It was moved that DL represent the Centre at the March 23 National Council meeting in place of PK.

Motion made by PK/MLW.....Motion Carried.

The Secretary was requested to inform the National Council Secretary (brooks@fox.nstn.ca).

Following the motion there was a lengthy discussion of the topics to be discussed at the National Council meeting. The issues of bundling Astronomy Canada with Sky News and the reorganization of National Head Office were the major topics. DL is in favor of these proposals but is unsure of the financial ramifications of a reorganization under the University of Toronto Press.

The comments made by the Council members were generally positive. If there be any further thoughts, these should be discussed with DL or DT prior to March 23. It is likely that reorganization will be voted on at the National Council meeting.

h) **Observing Chairman (DL for PG)**

No formal advance plans will be made for Comet Hyakutake observation.

5) Observatory Committee (SM)

A meeting will be held in about one month to kick off the building season. A roll off roof has been selected as the design for the member's observing area. A building permit will be applied for in April. Consideration has been given to a name for the Observatory but no decisions have been made yet.

6) Nova East Committee (DL for PG)

PG's evening work schedule is causing some difficulty with preliminary arrangements for Nova East. Some alternate arrangements for the event itself may be required.

It has been decided that the fees of \$10 and \$15 will be reduced to \$5 and \$10 to offset the fact that camping fees will be charged by the park.

A meeting of the Committee will be held in April.

7) Lunar Eclipse (DC)

There was a discussion of the details of the public observing plans for the eclipse at Shubie and Point Pleasant Parks.

8) Burke-Gaffney Award (DC)

The short list of finalists was passed on to DC by DL. The judges will be contacted and a winner chosen prior to the "Social Event".

9) Review of Executive Committee Job Descriptions (DC)

The discussion was deferred.

9a) Alternate Social Activity

The Council discussed possible alternatives to the Annual Banquet including a hike and picnic, a picnic only and a barbeque prior to one of the public observing sessions. No conclusions were arrived at and the matter will be considered further.

Two points were generally agreed on: there will be no banquet this year and there would be some social event during the summer.

10) Proposal from the Museum re: planetarium (DC)

The Nova Scotia Museum has offered the Halifax Centre an opportunity to "take over" the running of the planetarium. The Centre would essentially take over responsibility for day to day operation of the planetarium and would be able to charge for shows.

This proposal was not well received by the Council. It was generally felt that this would rapidly become a full time job. The Centre is more than willing to continue its weekly planetarium show.

In view of the past dealings which TASSF has had with the Museum regarding the planetarium it was felt that the relationship between the Halifax Centre RASC and TASSF be formalized and that this be communicated to the Museum at an appropriate and in an appropriate fashion.

Motion 1: The Halifax Centre of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada resolves to endorse and support the mandate and objectives of The Atlantic Space Sciences Foundation.

Motion 2: The Halifax Centre of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada resolves to automatically forward to The Atlantic Space Sciences Foundation any planetarium related issues and/or inquiries brought to the Centre.

Motions made by MLW/CS

Discussion on Motions: - is there a possibility of purchasing the planetarium ?

- Museum is unwilling to sell

Motion to Amend by accepting motion 1 and modifying motion 2.

Motion to amend by DL/PK.....Motion Carried.

Vote on Motion 1.....Motion Carried.

Modification to Motion 2: Be it resolved that the Halifax Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada supports and encourages The Atlantic Space Sciences Foundation in an arrangement with the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History for the operation of and/or the provision of programming for the Halifax Planetarium.

Modification to Motion 2 by DL/SM.....Motion Carried.

11) March Meeting

Blair MacDonald will be the MC and dinner host (All exec have the option to attend)

Meeting reporter will be Pat Kelly.

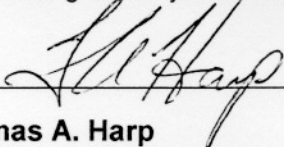
The order of service will be Announcements (no banquet, lunar eclipse), What's Up (comet, eclipse etc),

Main Speaker: **Gretchen Harris**, Observer's Handbook Talk (SM) and Coffee & Cookies.

11) Other Business

Purchase of "Pale Blue Dot" for the Library was approved. MLW reminded the Council that the nominal annual budget for the Library is \$ 200. Comment: doesn't sound like Council needs to approve purchases within budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 21h55 on a motion by DT.



Thomas A. Harp
Secretary