

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

**January 17, 1997.**

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Present: Ian Anderson, Dave Chapman, Robin Clayton, Paul Gray, Dave Lane, Blair MacDonald, Shawn Mitchell, Clint Shannon, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Pat Kelly, Dave Turner, Doug Pitcairn, Sue Murcheson, Celine Bettos

The meeting convened at 19h05 at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, Halifax.

**1 )Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda for the meeting was adopted.

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

The minutes for the November meeting were approved.

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

DL has submitted Heather Cameron's nomination for the Ken Chilton Prize to NO.

**4) Reports from the Executive**

a) President (DC)

We'll likely do the Science Connections at the Halifax Shopping Centre 14 & 15 March 1997 with Stanet - Blair to coordinate. We'll also do the Boardwalk astronomy thing in the summer behind the MMA, as per summer 1996, again Blait to coordinate this event, hopefully in conjunction with the jazz festival.

b) First Vice-President (BM)

No report.

c) Second Vice-President (CS)

National publications have arrived and will go on sale this evening. DL produced and mailed out to his US ECU customers an RASC publications promotional flyer - a Canadian version will follow for distribution in Canada.

d) Secretary (MLW)

Certain useful documents were distributed to the exec., list of new 1997 exec prepared and ready to go to NSMNH, NO, Reg. Joint Stocks. Minute of 1996 being prepared for NS Archives.

e) Treasurer (IA)

Many difficulties dealing with U of T Press, leading to tight financial position for the present. We are waiting for our membership fees to be sent to us from U of T Press - having problems getting responses from them - many errors in their membership database leading to further difficulties for members.

f) NOVA NOTES Editor (DL)

NN mailed out last week, next deadline end of Feb. - Ed. wants reports from SM & IA, DL will print minutes from annual mtng. DL will be flogging Tuk T-shirts - profits to go to observatory.

g) National Council Representative (PK)

Sky News went out with last national mailing, new JRASC is on schedule so far, with normal, expected screw-ups happening and being dealt with. Nat'l Pub. C'ttee isn't publishing the Annual Report this year - we don't know who is going to do it. Next Nat'l Council mtng is March 1997 in London, ON.

**Motion** - That DL go to NC mtng in March as Alternate Nat. Rep. Moved by BM, seconded by PK, vote carried.

h) Observing Chairman (SM)

DL has keys for keeners to the observatory. RLB has researched the insurance issue and has quotes from 3 companies that cover \$15,000 theft, fire, flood, vandalism, & \$1 million liability. Quotes range: \$400, \$ 500, \$750. RLB recommends that we act quickly and go for the \$500 offer.

**Motion** - That the Centre go with the \$500 offer as recommended by RLB. Moved by DL, seconded by SM, vote carried.

i) Librarian (GS) librarian absent, ergo no report.

#### **5) Tonight's Meeting**

DT will be the meeting reporter. DL continued to monopolize the floor on various topics to the amazement and amusement of all present. Could he possibly want to return to the President's Chair???

#### **6) John Martin Jr. High volunteer request**

Unfortunately, no one is available to help this noteworthy teacher - bad timing - everyone is away at conferences, cruises etc. DC will reply to school request via SITS/Stinet.

#### **7) Science Connections**

Dealt with in item 4(a) above.

#### **8) Comet Hale-Bopp**

SMU is preparing comet info sheet handouts and planning public events as per Comet Hyakutake of last year. RASC will be involved as we were last year.

#### **9) Astronomy Day**

Because of our involvement in both the Hale-Bopp and Science Connections events in the spring, the Centre will not be doing any special events on April 12 Astronomy Day.

**10) Banquet** - deferred until Feb.

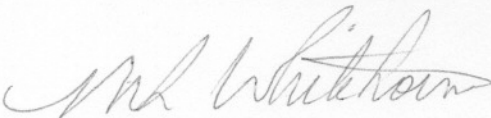
**11) Burke- Gaffney Award** - deferred until Feb.

**12) Other business** - there was no other business except Dave Lane's oral ramblings.

#### **Upcoming meetings & Events**

Meghan Gray will be our guest speaker from Mount A. U. in March, Centre to pay her train fare and take her to dinner; possibly offer her an honorarium.

The meeting was adjourned at 20h00.



M. L. Whitehorne  
Secretary