



RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, March 26, 2024: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Via Zoom - Meeting ID: 815 3416 9547

Agenda Items				
Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility	Support Documents / Notes
7:00 PM	1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Agenda Review Action List Approval of Previous Minutes of Meeting 	Information Approval	Tony McGrath	Pre-circulated: Agenda: March 26, 2024 Minutes: February 27, 2024
ONGOING ITEMS				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2024 Member's Meeting Date Confirmation and Format b. Confirm Member's Meeting agenda c. Zoom/SMU Bookings d. Guest Speakers & Ideas for Future Presentations 	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Tony McGrath Judy Black	<i>Refer to Agenda Notes #1: Speakers & Approved 2024 Member Meeting Dates</i> <i>Refer to Agenda Notes #2: 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Dates</i>
	3. Report from National Council Representative	Information Discussion	Judy Black	
	4. RASC Halifax Centre Website & YouTube	Discussion	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	5. Financial Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Status 	Discussion	Gregg Dill	<i>n/a</i>
	6. Member Welcome Package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status Update: Survey review 	Discussion	Tony McGrath	<i>n/a</i>
	7. Education & Public Outreach (EPO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Requests Update: Distribution of eclipse glasses Eclipse plans 	Discussion	David Hoskin	<i>n/a</i>
RASC HALIFAX CENTRE – GOALS & OBJECTIVES				
	8. 2024 Goals & Objectives	Ongoing Discussion	Tony McGrath	
UPDATES / REPORTS				
	9. SCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Members observing night 	Discussion	John Liddard	
	10. GLP certificates and training	Discussion	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
NEW BUSINESS				
Adjournment				
9:00 PM	11. Adjournment <i>(Next meeting: Apr 30/24)</i>			

RASC, Halifax Centre – Member’s Meeting
 Saturday, May 4, 2024 – 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
 Via Zoom – Meeting ID 896 0218 8976

Agenda Items		
Time*	Item	Responsibility
1:00 PM	Welcome & Introductions Photo Montage EtU guides for sale	David Hoskin (MC)
	Presentation: Members Eclipse stories	
	Social Break	
	Food for the Soul:	Paul Heath
	What’s Up? (May)	David Hoskin
	News from the Board	Tony McGrath Judy Black
	Astroimaging Contest	Judy Black
4:00 PM	Adjournment	

* Times are for Board of Director information only and for informing presenters of the length of their presentations; they will not be published on the Halifax Centre website. Times will be adjusted for each meeting.

AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)
Agenda Note #1 re: Speakers & 2024 Member Meeting Dates	<p>2024 Approved Members Meeting Dates and Events Members’ Meeting dates were approved at the November 2023 Board of Directors meeting. They have been posted on the RASC(HC) website.</p> <p>Confirmed Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 6, 2024 – CANCELLED, eclipse chasing • May 4, 2024 – Members’ eclipse stories • June 1, 2024 – Tiffany Fields (What it's like to be a BGO Astronomy Technician); Blair MacDonald (Changes in Astroimaging) • September 7, 2024 - BBQ in lieu of meeting • October 5, 2024 – Luigi Gallo (<i>JAXA’s XRISM satellite</i>) • November 2, 2024 – TBD • AGM December 7, 2024 – Lisa Ann Fanning (Stereoscopy) <p>Suggested Speakers / Special Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Badowski • Dave Chapman • Kaja Rotermund (formation of a high-redshift galaxy cluster) • Dr. Samantha Lawler: New to the U of R and very busy rebuilding the astronomy program. She also has her core research and took on a leadership role in the StarLink issues and lobbying the federal government about it. Samantha.Lawler@uregina.ca • SMU Astronomy and Physics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grad students • Tiffany Fields • Rob Thacker • https://rasc.ca/find-speaker

<p>Agenda Note #2 re: Approved 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Dates</p>	<p>2024 Approved Board Meeting Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 30 • May 28 • June 25 (if required) • September 3 • October 1 • October 29 • December 3
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Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting
March 26, 2024 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
held via Zoom - Meeting ID 815 3416 9547

Present: Judy Black, Gregg Dill (joined 7:30pm), Jeff Donaldson (until 8:10pm), Matt Dyer, David Hoskin, Peter Hurley, Tony McGrath (President), Dave Robertson, Mary Lou Whitehorne

Regrets: Lisa Ann Fanning, John Liddard, John Nangreaves, Jaime Whynot

1. Welcome & Introductions

Tony called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and welcomed Board members. He welcomed Jeff Donaldson who was attending the meeting as a guest because he had expressed interest in joining the Board.

Mary Lou informed members of the passing of Dave Lane on Sunday March 24, 2024. She told us of Michelle Lane's wishes and plans. Mary Lou reminded us of Dave's enormous contributions to RASC, both to the Centre and at the National level. She let us know with whom the news had been shared and asked that we wait to share the news further until the obituary was published on Thursday. It was agreed that Mary Lou and Judy would send an email to Michelle on behalf of the Board expressing our condolences and to send flowers when Michelle returned from Cape Breton. Two celebrations of life are planned, one to happen at SCO. A moment of silence was observed by the Board to remember our friend and colleague Dave Lane. Tony thanked Mary Lou. Mary Lou indicated that the National Board would want to observe a moment of silence at the GA also.

Tony asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda which had been circulated by email by Peter on March 26, 2024. Judy asked that Board Membership be added under New Business to discuss Jaime Whynot's email of resignation and the situation with John Nangreaves.

240326MN-Mot01

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the March 26, 2024 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda, as amended.
CARRIED.

The Action List, which was attached to the minutes of the previous meeting circulated by Peter on March 24, 2024, was reviewed.

From January 10, 2023

Action 10: Open.

From May 2, 2023

Action 4: Open.

From September 5, 2023

Action 1,4,5: Open.

From January 2, 2024

Action 10: Open.

From January 30, 2024

Action 1: Closed.

From February 27, 2024

Action 1: Open.

Judy indicated that the minutes of the previous Board meeting held on February 27, 2024 which had been circulated by email by Peter on March 24, 2024, needed to be approved.

240326MN-Mot02

It was moved by Dave Robertson and seconded by Judy Black to approve the February 27, 2024 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes, as circulated.
CARRIED

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

Tony reviewed dates and speakers for upcoming meetings as presented in Agenda Note #1. It was agreed that all looked good.

Tony indicated that following a discussion with Peter about telescopes being displayed at the end of Members meetings, there was now a plan to display a variety of telescopes after the end of the Members meeting to help encourage social interaction at meetings. It was suggested that a quick primer on the types of telescopes would be appreciated by new members and non-members attending. David volunteered to put something together. It was also suggested that questions from Zoom participants would help. It was agreed that the May 4 Members meeting would be a good time to start. And that it could be an ongoing activity of Members meetings if it was successful. David and Peter agreed to coordinate getting telescopes volunteered.

240326MN-Act01

David Hoskin and Peter Hurley to coordinate a display of a variety of telescope types for the end of Members meetings starting with the May 4, 2024 meeting.

During review of the agenda for the Members meeting on May 4 (April 6 meeting cancelled due to eclipse travel), Judy asked that her name be removed from the Astroimaging Contest. David indicated that he could do the reminder, as emcee. David suggested doing a more detailed presentation at the October Members meeting to focus attention on the contest. Judy also asked that the name responsible for News from the Board be changed to Tony.

3. Report from National Council Representative

Judy indicated there was nothing new to report. She had asked Michael Watson if the National Council Terms of Reference had been addressed by the Board, but it had been moved to the next meeting on April 21, 2024. She also indicated we should hear from her soon that the new Centre Operations Manual had been posted. Gregg asked if any sense had been made of the Budget and Judy indicated that it had been approved by the Board. She noted that a new Treasurer, Stu Heggie, had been appointed from the current Board membership. Gregg noted that the National Board hadn't involved the National Finance Committee in any of their deliberations of the Budget. Judy suggested that it was time for the Finance Committee to speak up, but Gregg indicated he didn't want to take it on as an issue, he just wanted to make a note of it.

4. RASC Halifax Centre Website and YouTube

Judy indicated there was nothing new to report.

5. Financial Update

Gregg reported that there was presently a bank balance of approximately \$8700. Tony mentioned that Blair MacDonald had asked regarding funds raised to provide a bunk or rest station at SCO, through the sale of astroimages. Judy indicated that the terms of the lease stipulate that there will be no overnight stays, but Tony indicated that these were rest stations for astroimagers not for overnight stays. Consensus was that the fundraising had been for general upgrades associated with the connection to the AC power line, not bunks specifically. It was also suggested that bunks or a rest station was just one of a number of ideas of how to use surplus upgrade fundraising, but Gregg indicated that the funds raised had been pretty much consumed by the upgrades.

6. Member Welcome Package

Tony indicated that the package was just about complete but that he had used the National logo and needed to change it to the Centre logo. Judy indicated that the logos are all stored on the National website.

240326MN-Act02

Judy Black to share the link to the RASC logos stored on the National website.

7. Education and Public Outreach

David indicated that Peter, Judy and Jerry had shared solar observing with 10 campers (plus 2 members of the public) at a successful Space Camp Day at Discovery Centre. Peter indicated they had learned that it was Japna

Sidhu-Brar's last week with the Discovery Centre and that a replacement for Japna had not been made at the time. In response to a question of how many eclipse glasses we still had remaining, David indicated we still had about 300 - 350 might be left over, lots for solar viewing at outreach events in the future. Peter mentioned that we should advertise on the Announce List that we would need volunteers for an Astronomy Day event at the Discovery Centre on May 18, 2024 and for observing that evening on the boardwalk on the waterfront behind the Discovery Centre.

240326MN-Act03

David Hoskin to post on the Centre Announce list that we need volunteers for an Astronomy Day event at the Discovery Centre on May 18, 2024 and for observing that evening.

There was a brief discussion of what we know of eclipse plans at the Discovery Centre and at SMU.

240326MN-Act04

Peter Hurley to ask Tiffany for a contact at SMU and then post on the Centre Announce list that members interested in volunteering to help with eclipse plans at SMU should reach out to that contact.

RASC Halifax Centre Goals and Objectives

8. 2024 Goals and Objectives

Tony explained that he was drafting a plan to address what we had learned in the members survey and had sent it to Dave and Peter, and they planned to meet to review it the week after the eclipse. Tony would send a revised plan to the Board before the next meeting. He indicated his biggest concern was where we were going to find volunteers. Dave asked how many members we have from which to draw volunteers. Tony indicated our present membership was 154, and that 30% of those who responded to the survey had indicated they were interested in volunteering. There was discussion of ways to find and engage volunteers. Tony indicated that he thought we would have a better chance finding volunteers if we could improve the social aspect of membership in the Centre.

Updates/Reports

9. SCO

This item was deferred as John wasn't present.

10. GLP certificates and training

Tony announced that he had completed the training and passed the GLP user exam administered by Peter. Judy indicated she hadn't been able to attend the planning meeting at the National level but would ask for an update. There was discussion about the procedures, and it was agreed that we were working on a plan for our next Board meeting.

240326MN-Act05

Judy Black to ask Jenna for an update on progress by the National GLP task team.

New Business

Mary Lou indicated she had been in discussion with Michael Watson and had asked if National had a succession plan, in particular with regard to the RASC Observers Calendar and the Observers Handbook, given the volunteer deficit everyone is experiencing and the age of the core group that National relies upon. Michael had responded affirmatively and indicated they hoped to make real progress once they had dealt with the financial situation.

11. Board Membership

Jeff confirmed that he is interested in becoming a Board member and there was discussion of the process. It was agreed that we could deal with it once the meeting went in-camera after his departure from the meeting.

Judy indicated that Jaime Whynot had resigned from the Board by email earlier in the day. There was a brief discussion of reasons, and it was agreed that an email should be sent to Jaime thanking her for her work on the Board.

240326MN-Act06

Tony McGrath to send a message to Jaime Whynot thanking her for her time on the Board.

240326MN-Mot03

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Dave Robertson that the meeting move to in-camera so that

the situation with John Nangreaves as a Director could be discussed.
CARRIED.

240326MN-Mot04

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Dave Robertson to end the in-camera session.
CARRIED.

There was further brief discussion of accepting Jeff to the Board and it was agreed unanimously.

240326MN-Mot05

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to accept Jeff Donaldson as a member of the Halifax Centre Board of Directors.
CARRIED.

240326MN-Act07

Tony McGrath to send a message to Jeff Donaldson welcoming him to the Halifax Centre Board of Directors effective immediately.

Adjournment

There being no other business, Tony adjourned the meeting at 8:26pm. He reminded us that our next meeting was scheduled for April 30, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Hurley, Secretary

ACTION LIST (March 26, 2024):

From January 10, 2023		
230110MN-Act10	Peter Hurley to work with David Hoskin to create a list of volunteers to help with observing and outreach requests that are remote to the HRM area.	Open
From May 2, 2023		
230502MN-Act04	Peter Hurley to explore with National office how member statistics are generated from the Driven database.	Open
From September 5, 2023		
230905MN-Act01	Gregg Dill and John Liddard to review SCO inventory and confirm items still exist and assign value to assets.	Open
230905MN-Act04	Gregg Dill to provide an update on SCO upgrade fundraising budget.	Open
230905MN-Act05	The Governance Committee to provide a recommendation to the Board regarding retention and disposal of historical documents.	Open
From January 2, 2024		
240102MN-Act010	Peter Hurley and Tony McGrath to put together a proposal how to proceed with training and certifying other members for GLP use.	Open
From February 27, 2024		
240227MN-Act01	Judy Black to contact Charles Ennis about presenting on the asterisms project at our November 2, 2024 Members meeting.	Open
From March 26, 2024		
240326MN-Act01	David Hoskin and Peter Hurley to coordinate a display of a variety of telescope types for the end of Members meetings starting with the May 4, 2024 meeting.	Open

240326MN-Act02	Judy Black to share the link to the RASC logos stored on the National website.	Open
240326MN-Act03	David Hoskin to post on the Centre Announce list that we need volunteers for an Astronomy Day event at the Discovery Centre on May 18, 2024 and for observing that evening.	Open
240326MN-Act04	Peter Hurley to ask Tiffany for a contact at SMU and then post on the Centre Announce list that members interested in volunteering to help with eclipse plans at SMU should reach out to that contact.	Open
240326MN-Act05	Judy Black to ask Jenna for an update on progress by the National GLP task team.	Open
240326MN-Act06	Tony McGrath to send a message to Jaime Whynot thanking her for her time on the Board.	Open
240326MN-Act07	Tony McGrath to send a message to Jeff Donaldson welcoming him to the Halifax Centre Board of Directors effective immediately.	Open

MOTION LIST (March 26, 2024):

240326MN-Mot01	It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the March 26, 2024 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda, as amended. CARRIED.
240326MN-Mot02	It was moved by Dave Robertson and seconded by Judy Black to approve the February 27, 2024 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes, as circulated. CARRIED
240326MN-Mot03	It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Dave Robertson that the meeting move to in-camera so that the situation with John Nangreaves as a Director could be discussed. CARRIED.
240326MN-Mot04	It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Dave Robertson to end the in-camera session. CARRIED.
240326MN-Mot05	It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to accept Jeff Donaldson as a member of the Halifax Centre Board of Directors. CARRIED.