

**PRINCE GEORGE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY  
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA  
PRINCE GEORGE CENTRE  
7365 Tedford Road  
Prince George, BC  
V2N 6S2**

**PGC119 Business Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2012**

Date: March 14, 2012

Location: 3323 Hart Highway

Chairperson: Blair Stunder

Recording Secretary: Glen Harris

Executives Present: Glen, Gil, Blair, Wayne, Bob, Jim Van Doren

Members Present: Brian D.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:47 p.m.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Approval of Minutes of PGC118**

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes of PGC118 (Feb 11, 2012) as presented.

Moved: Gil      Seconded: Brian      Carried

**3. Reports of Officers**

**a. President (Blair Stunder)**

- Fort St. James Star party is posted on the Parks Canada Calendar and will include solar viewing starting at 2 pm on Aug 18, 2012.
- UNBC historian and history professor Ted Binnema will conduct a lecture on Venus transit history on Saturday June 2 in one of the UNBC lecture halls. UNBC is responsible for the publicity.
- Space on Connaught Hill has been reserved for the Venus transit on Tuesday June 5. Blair will provide a tent.
- Messier Marathon on Sat. March 17.
- Lunar Marathons on Fri. March 30 and Sat. March 31.

**b. Vice President (Bob Nelson)**

- The spectrograph project is in the design stage. There is a possibility that CNC will fund all or part of the project, with ownership of the final product being shared with RASC PG Centre. The feasibility of using fiber optics is being explored.

**c. Secretary/Recorder (Glen Harris)**

- Canada Post mail was distributed as required.
- \$500 donation receipt was issued to TELUS.

#### **d. Treasurer**

- Regular Account balance: \$6158.85      Gaming Account balance: \$5064.50
- Motion: To accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.  
Moved: Glen      Seconded: Jim      Carried  
A detailed financial report is filed with these minutes.
- \$5000 was deposited to the gaming account in late February. A further \$5000 in grant funding should be deposited by the end of March.
- Grant recipients must acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia in program materials (including any signage used for funded capital projects) by displaying the following written acknowledgement: "We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia".

#### **4. Reports of Committees, including any motions from the Committees**

##### **Website Report - Wayne**

- The web site is up to date.

##### **Tours & Public Outreach Report - Wayne**

- All tours booked to date have been well attended and paid for.
- We will not be participating in Astronomy Day on April 28. The April 27 open house will be the highlight instead.
- Upcoming tour hosted by Blair on Wed. March 28 at 7 pm. Any assistance would be appreciated.
- Upcoming tour hosted by Wayne on Thurs. March 29 at 7 pm. Any assistance would be appreciated.

##### **Computers and AV Equipment Maintenance Report - Glen**

- All computer software is up to date.

##### **Observing and Small Telescopes Maintenance - Blair**

- Collimation of the black 8" Celestron was performed
- The 8" black dobsonian needs to be collimated..

##### **Grants & Funding Committee Report - Gil**

- Gil will author a major project funding proposal, and inquire as to criteria for designating funds to a special account. \*Update\* - Gaming is not accepting major project fund raising requests at this time.

##### **Building Report - Glen**

- Removed snow from the dome and roof.

#### **5. Old Business**

- With the acquisition of gaming funds, purchases of the ST-10 filters, Mallincam camera, 8 port KVM switch, and 4 port VGA splitter can proceed. Purchase of the 12" dob has been deferred because Bob's 10" dob will be returned to service for use on the viewing deck.
- Maurice will research the cost to professionally replace the loose dome room tiles, as well as the stairwell and landing surfaces with an industrial grade vinyl product.

## **6. New Business**

- Motion: approve the purchase of a 2"/1.25 Hotec laser collimator with return beam viewing port. Cost is \$181 + shipping + HST.

Moved: Gil    Seconded: Blair    Carried

- Motion: approve the purchase of the City Dark BluRay disk and external BluRay player. Cost is \$395 + \$150 + shipping + HST.

Moved: Gil    Seconded: Blair    Carried

- Discussion on summer maintenance projects - replacing the dome room door with a solid core door and installing an automatic door closer, refurbishing the classroom tables, installing an automatic door closer on the main observatory door, construction of a lecturn, and replacing the dome floor, stairs, and landing surfaces.

- Motion: Form a committee to oversee the concept, design, costing, funding, permitting, and construction of a secure roll off structure and costing, funding, and acquisition of a 14" – 16" or larger telescope for visual observing. Preliminary report expected at the May business meeting.

Moved: Blair    Seconded: Gil

Committee is comprised of Gil (chairman), Bob, Maurice, and Blair.

- 2012 Science Fair Special Award (1 year RASC membership) was awarded to Kaelan Lobelle for his 'Evaporation of Black Holes' project.

- Directors' Liability Insurance was discussed but no decision was made. Blair will contact his lawyer for more information.

- Discussion about notifying former members about special viewing events in an attempt to rekindle their interest in astronomy and possibly rejoin the Centre.

## **7. Date, Time, and Location of next Board of Directors Meeting**

- The next Board of Directors meeting, PGC120, will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 7:30 pm at Arctic Manufacturing 3323 Hart Hwy. Please submit all agenda items to Blair no later than Saturday, April 7, 2012.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.