

**PRINCE GEORGE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
PRINCE GEORGE CENTRE**

**7365 Tedford Road
Prince George, BC
V2N 6S2**

**PGC154 Business Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2016**

Date: March 9, 2016

Location: 3323 Hart Hwy.

Chairperson: Blair Stunder

Recording Secretary: Glen Harris

Executives Present: Blair, Glen, Bob

Members Present: Dave, Maurice, Mark, Corey

Meeting Called to Order at 7:32 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of Minutes of PGC153

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes of PGC153 February 10, 2016

Moved: Glen

Seconded: Bob

Carried

3. Reports of Officers

a. President (Blair Stunder)

- The new open house format is working well. 240 visitors attended the Centre booth at Teen Fest on Saturday, March 5, 2016

b. Vice President (Bob Nelson)

- Spectrograph fabrication continues. Auto guiding function requires testing. Polar alignment required on the 24" scope.

c. Secretary/Recorder (Glen Harris)

- Canada Post mail has been dealt with as required.

- Submitted the PG Centre annual report to RASC National for inclusion in their annual report.

- Attended the New Societies Act seminar at the Native Friendship Centre.

- Deann Hunt and Adriana Billings have completed the Explore the Universe Certificate program and will be presented with their certificates.

- Conducted two members viewing nights with a total of 8 NOVA members attending.

- Open house volunteer training is going well with 9 members becoming more involved.

- Criminal Record Check forms and cover letter are available at the sign in desk. Anyone volunteering at tours, open houses, and special events that involve interaction with the public is required to fill the forms out and have the local RCMP process them. Your fingerprints will be recorded as well.

- A blow dryer was purchased to keep eyepieces dew free. It is stored in the hall closet locker.

d. Treasurer (Glen Harris)

Account balances as of 2016/02/29

- Club Account Balance \$6334.44
- Gaming Account Balance \$12,124.08
- Prepaid Account Balance \$825.96

Motion: To accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

Moved: Glen Seconded: Bob Carried

- Detailed financial information is filed with the minutes.
- The gaming grant of \$12,000 was deposited on February 28, 2016
- Centre funds will need to be re-allocated to allow for capital project spending. Gaming funds can only be used for costs directly relating to ongoing program delivery.

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

Webmaster Report – Glen

- The website is updated to the latest software version.
- The volunteer list is current.

Telescope Maintenance Report – Glen

- No outstanding issues.

Observing and Small Scopes Maintenance Report - Glen

- The 6" reflector was collimated.
- The red dot finders were checked for intermittent intensity controls and serviced as required. Dead or weak batteries were replaced.

Media Relations Report – Maurice

- 'Our Night Sky' radio segments for March are created on a weekly basis.
- Maurice was interviewed on CFIS radio about current observatory activity.

Building and Grounds Report – Glen

- Defective exit lamp lights were replaced. New LED equipped, battery backup units are on order.
- The southwest area of the parking lot is too soft for vehicular traffic. Traffic cones are used to restrict access when the observatory is in use.
- Reflective tape was applied to the portable light screen and the red tables.

Computers and A/V Equipment Report – Glen

- No outstanding issues.

Tours and Public Outreach

- Four tours in February and March netted \$318 with 116 people attending. Many volunteers assisted.
- February open house attendance was 90 visitors despite all evenings being clouded out. There were 62 visitors at the March 4 open house. Lots of volunteers on hand.
- Williams Lake members Steve and Lynn Capling's outreach report follows:
Lynn & I did a presentation to the local Young Naturalist's community group on March 5th at the Scout Island Nature Center in Williams Lake. The group consisted of over 55 people - about half were kids.
Had two 8" dobs set up and one 3" spotting scope.

Sky started off clearish with high overcast. We got about 30 to 40 minutes of viewing in before it hazed over. Viewed Jupiter, M42, numerous stars (kids like the difference between Sirius & Betelgeuse) & the Pleiades. Thanks to Jim Hilton & Bob Irwin for helping out with the spotting scope and show. Lynn took the group inside and did the presentation. I joined her and did the meteorite part. Samples of the NWA 869 meteorite were given out.

We presented a large 3D image of the Barringer crater (thanks to Ray Watts for his donation of the poster, 3D glasses & meteorite samples!) along with a Canyon Diablo meteorite & samples of pulverized Coconino sandstone.

Steve & Lynn Capling,
Williams Lake.

5. Old Business

- Lunar Marathon Saturday, April 16, 2016
- James Edgar on Saturday, April 23, 2016. Billeting is requested. Anyone??

6. New Business

- Southwest area of the parking lot requires attention once it dries out.
- Spring Work Bee to include:
 - Vinyl siding installation on gable ends
 - Re-paint brick grouting
 - Basement clean up and general observatory decluttering.
 - Driveway, parking lot, and viewing deck repair.
- Discussion about partnering with Canfor on the portable planetarium project.
- Maurice to provide plans and cost estimate for the stand alone handicapped access building and telescope.
- Business case writer required to prepare proposals that can be used in grant applications.
- The current bylaws need to be rewritten to comply with the new Society Act that goes into effect in November 2016. We will have 18 months from November to become compliant.
- Ship 200 planispheres to Williams Lake for the Capling's outreach programs.

7. Date, Time, and Location of the next Business and AGM Meeting

The next business meeting, PGC155, will be held on Wednesday April 13, 2016. Location to be determined. Start time is 7:30 pm. Please submit all agenda items to Blair no later than Saturday April 9, 2016.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.