

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

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

**PGC155 Business Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 2016**

Date: May 11, 2016

Location: 3323 Hart Hwy.

Chairperson: Blair Stunder

Recording Secretary: Glen Harris

Executives Present: Blair, Glen, Bob

Members Present: Dave, Maurice, Mark, Corey, Brad

Meeting Called to Order at 7:35 p.m.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Approval of Minutes of PGC154**

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes of PGC154 March 9, 2016

Moved: Glen

Seconded: Bob

Carried

**3. Reports of Officers**

**a. President (Blair Stunder)**

- It may be possible to meet some members from the new Yukon Centre as they pass through Prince George next week.
- AJ Forsyth will be donating the rebar for the viewing deck surface.

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

- Excellent images are being obtained from the ST10 camera at the Newtonian focus and autoguiding works properly. Flats and darks are required to improve the image. The camera dessicant needs to be revitalized.
- The spectrograph should be in service before the observatory reopens in August.

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

- - Sent a reconsideration letter to the Gaming Branch contesting their classification of the viewing deck replacement and parking lot expansion as 'capital projects' and thus disqualifying gaming funds being used for their construction. A response is expected by the end of May.
- Received several completed Criminal Record checks.
- Received an email from teacher Heather Tandy regarding Planetarium support.
- Received envelope addressed to Jim Van Doren.
- Quorum was not reached for the April business meeting, so no meeting was held.

#### **d. Treasurer (Glen Harris)**

Account balances as of 2016/04/30

- Club Account Balance       \$6695.11
- Gaming Account Balance   \$11,266.34
- Prepaid Account             \$499.72

A detailed financial report is filed with the minutes.

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

Moved: Mark                Seconded: Corey                Carried

- Detailed financial information is filed with the minutes.

#### **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**

- Two connectors were removed and replaced with soldered connections to eliminate a problem with Right Ascension movement.

##### **Observing and Small Scopes Maintenance Report - Glen**

- SB1 has a stiff focuser and was lubricated. The red dot finder battery was replaced.
- The 4.5" Starblaster telescopes are being loaned out on a regular basis.
- Intermittent Red Dot finder intensity controls continue to be troublesome and require constant maintenance.

##### **Media Relations Report – Maurice**

- 'Our Night Sky' radio segments for May are created on a weekly basis.
- CKPGTV and the Citizen provided media coverage at the Mercury transit event.

##### **Building and Grounds Report – Glen**

- Replaced the obsolete exit signs in the classroom and entrance hall with battery backed up new ones. Covered the new signs with red cellophane.
- Due to the increase in open house attendance, the water tanks were refilled and the sewage holding tank was pumped out.
- Brush has been cleared and piled in preparation for expanding the parking lot to the west and east.

##### **Computers and A/V Equipment Report – Glen**

- Put the B&W Mallincam monitor back in service. The colour monitor screen was emitting too much light and adversely affecting the Mallincam camera.

##### **Tours and Public Outreach**

- March open house attendance was 277 visitors despite some evenings being cloudy or rainy. Bob, Glen, and Malhar shared the presentation duties.
- Two tours in March netted \$140. 31 kids and 10 adults were served. A total of ten members volunteered their time, of which three were NOVA students.
- April open house attendance was 310 visitors. Corey, Glen, Shannon, and Malhar shared the presentation duties.

- RASC president James Edgar visited the observatory on April 23 and presented his talk 'Synthesis of Elements in Stars' to an audience of 11 members and 4 visitors.

## **5. Old Business**

- The brush was removed for the driveway expansion and will be chipped and hauled away by UHLS Tree Service on Friday, May 20, 2016.
- The current constitution and bylaws need to be re-written to comply with the new Society Act that goes into effect in November 2016. We will have 24 months from November to become compliant.
- Spring Work Bee to include:
  - Vinyl siding installation on gable ends
  - Re-paint brick grouting
  - Basement clean up and general observatory decluttering
  - Driveway and viewing deck repair
  - Parking lot expansion
- Business case writer required to prepare proposals that can be used in grant applications.
- Bob will set up an inflatable planetarium committee meeting.
- Maurice provided plans and cost estimate for the stand alone handicapped access building.
- Sent 100 planispheres to Williams Lake for the Capling's outreach programs.

## **6. New Business**

- Installation of hard wired smoke and CO detectors required.
- Installation of an emergency exit sign/light in the dome required.
- Source a supplier for Geotech fabric to be used for the observing deck and parking lot expansion.
- Remove the dead brush to the west of the driveway.
- Check insurance to see if sleeping over at the observatory after a late viewing session is covered.
- Arrange a date for Keith to give a talk on advanced image processing in the fall.
- A surveying profile was created for drainage trench construction.
- Blair to arrange for equipment to work on the parking lot expansion.
- TeamViewer is available for classroom/control room operation of the dome computer and telescope.
- Dave was issued a building key.
- Replace the red dot finders with better quality units. Blair to investigate the cost.
- Bob to draft a letter inviting Shirley Bond to a September open house.
- Discussed the construction of a light barrier to the east of the observing deck.

## **7. Upcoming events**

- Wind up pot luck barbeque at the observatory Saturday June 4, 2016 at 5 pm.
- Northwood Wellness Day Thursday June 30, 2016 from 9 am until 3 pm.
- Canada Day July 1, 2016 at Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park from 10 am until 5 pm.
- Pine Centre Active Living Market Saturday Sept 10 from 9:30 am until 6 pm and Sunday Sept 12 from 11:30 am until 5 pm.

## **8. Date, Time, and Location of the next Business Meeting**

The next business meeting, PGC156, will be held on Wednesday August 10, 2016 at Arctic Manufacturing 3323 Hart Hwy. Start time is 7:30 pm. Please submit all agenda items to Blair no later than Saturday August 6, 2016.

## **9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.