

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

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

**PGC217 Business Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2023**

Date: March 8, 2023

Location: Zoom Meeting

Chairperson: Malhar Kendurkar

Recording Secretary: Glen Harris

Executives Present: Malhar, Glen, Gil, Maurice, Rob

Members Present: Mike, Mark, Pat, Adriana, Dave

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of Minutes of PGC216

Motion: To accept the business meeting minutes of February 8, 2023.

Moved: Glen Seconded: Gil Carried

3. Reports of Officers

a. President (Malhar)

- The National organization enacted several cost cutting measures to address their budget shortfall. Actions included cancelling the SkyNews magazine, discontinuing the use of the robotic telescope located in California, and lowering staffing levels.

b. Vice President (Maurice)

- See Media relations report.

c. Secretary (Glen)

- Processed mail as required.

- 2022-2023 Gaming grant of \$10,000 was received. This was \$3000 less than we applied for. The budget will be adjusted accordingly.

d. Treasurer (Glen)

- CWB account balances as of 2023-02-28

 General Account Balance \$4,377.40

 Internally Restricted Fund Account \$6000.00 (Tabor Mtn. Observatory removal)

 Gaming Account Balance \$10,507.03

- Received rebate of \$600 from RoofMart for return of unused materials. This amount was transferred to the internally restricted fund account.

Motion: To accept the treasurer's report of March 8, 2023.

Moved: Rob Seconded: Adriana Carried

e. National Representative Report (Rob)

- The next National board meeting will be held in early April via Zoom. Malhar will also attend. My report will be available at the April 12, 2023 business meeting.

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

Webmaster Report - Glen

- Website is being updated regularly.
- Will update the website with recovered data from the original hacked website as time permits.
- Require a working Tour Reservation App.

Computers and A/V Equipment Report - Rob

- Problematic 16 port hub was replaced with a 24 port gigaswitch. Data loggers can now be accessed via computer.
- Problems accessing our website host, CPanel app, and email configuration.
- A number of CAT5 cables are defective and will be repaired.

0.6m Telescope Maintenance Report - Glen

- The primary and secondary mirrors require cleaning. Awaiting warm weather. The main telescope is working well considering how dirty the primary and secondary mirrors are.

Grounds and Building Report - Glen

- The phone system is working properly.
- The roof and dome were cleared of snow. The basement door no longer binds.

Media Relations Report - Maurice and Malhar

- Our Night Sky features being recorded remotely and MP3 file e-mailed to CFIS, for Monday 10:30 am broadcast.
- CKPGToday interviewed Malhar on February 6th.

Outreach - Glen

- 67 visitors at February Open Houses (Activity summary attached)
- Introduction to Astronomy courses for March are full. An additional course for Parent and Child for April 16 is sold out.
- The April 2, 2023 Introduction to Astronomy for Adults has 7 registrants to date.
- The events are advertised on social media (Proudly PG, Hell Yeah Prince George! Events in PG, What's Happening Prince George? and the Prince George Astronomical Society.
- Vanderhoof Home Schooling Tour rescheduled for Monday, March 6.
- Ordered 1500 Starfinders and 1000 Moon Gazers' Guide for Outreach handouts. Also ordered were 10 Nightwatch books for sale to members.

Grants and Funding - Glen

- \$10,000 in gaming funds received.

Observatory Store – Glen

- NightWatch books are available at cost to members.
- Three styles of red-light flashlights are available to members.
- Two 2023 RASC calendars are available for the unbelievably low cost of \$5 each.

5. Old Business

- Portable water tank required. Attempting to source one locally. Filling tanks using multiple small containers for now.
- Malhar to contact Vikki Zsohar regarding her availability to give a presentation in March or April on the Aurora Borealis.
- Requesting personnel to present awards and/or judge at the Central Interior Science Exhibition on March 4. Police Record Check required.
- Clean the primary and secondary mirrors and re-collimate the primary mirror prior to the mirror cover assembly installation.
- Rob to check the fire extinguishers.
- Invite Ben Dorman to the next business meeting.
- Malhar to approach the PG Symphony to see if some of them would be interested in playing music in the dome during the Perseid Meteor shower in August.
- The PeGaSuS newsletter has been put on hold indefinitely.
- Maurice followed up with RoofMart regarding reimbursement for unused materials.

6. New Business

- **Motion:** Authorize the spending of up to \$250 for additional robotic telescope control equipment.
Moved: Rob Seconded: Glen Carried
- **Motion:** Suspend preliminary discussion on what Prince George Centre Centre has to gain or lose by leaving RASC National until after the National board meeting on April 9. Cancellation of SkyNews as a resource is the primary mover of this discussion. Members will be canvassed before any decision is made.
Moved: Rob Seconded: Maurice Carried
- Rob is working on a PGAS and Prince George Educational Collaboration with the aim to create a program for teachers and professors to use for teaching astronomy to different levels of education.
- Malhar to pursue NRC funding through Ben Dorman (Friends of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory Society chairman) and Don Moffat on Monday March 13, 2023.
- Discussed purchasing an inflatable portable planetarium for use in the local community. Minutes etc. from an attempt to implement this project back in 2016 were forwarded to the executive for analysis.

7. Date, Time, and Location of the next Business meeting

- The next business meeting PGC217 will be held on Wednesday April 12, 2023 starting at 7:30 pm using Zoom.
- Please submit all agenda items to Malhar no later than Sunday April 9, 2023.

8. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.