

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

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

**PGC223 Business Meeting Minutes  
November 8, 2023**

Date: November 8, 2023

Location: Zoom meeting

Chairperson: Malhar Kendurkar

Recording Secretary: Glen Harris

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

Members Present: Dave, Calen

Meeting Called to Order at 7:37 pm.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Approval of Minutes of PGC222**

Motion: To accept the business meeting minutes of October 11, 2023.

Moved: Gil                      Seconded: Rebecca                      Carried

**3. Reports of Officers**

**a. President (Malhar)**

- Continuing to resurrect the spectrograph.
- Urban star park on hold due to weather.

**b. Vice President (Gil)**

- Discussion on NOVA program.

**c. Secretary (Glen)**

- Processed mail as required.
- Calendar sales are doing well.
- Submitted the Gaming Account Summary report.
- Submitted the Statement of Directors report.
- Working on the gaming fund request.

**d. Treasurer (Glen)**

- CWB account balances as of 2023-10-31
  - General Account Balance    \$1097.95
  - Gaming Account Balance    \$49.36
- Submitted the charitable Organization Income Tax return.

Motion: To accept the Treasurer's report of September 30, 2023.

Moved: Glen                      Seconded: Gil                      Carried

#### **e. National Representative (Rob)**

- The objective of the RASC board is to work towards a break-even year financially for 2023. We still expect a shortfall as in the budget, but the objective is to work towards zero deficit.
- Fee increases – are being discussed again, but no decisions, just looking at ways to balance the budget. Future discussion on the observer’s handbook is being contemplated
- Multiple corrections have been made in the accounting due to the way things were previously coded. We now have a person on staff looking after the accounting, and are transitioning away from hiring a second company. This may make the books look like there are additional costs in specific months as to what we expected. In the long run, this will make things much better.
- Budget process for 2024 has started, expect to be completed and signed off in January, once the final numbers are in for 2023.
- Observers’ handbook was sent out for mailing on Friday.
- There was a loss to the number of members after the closure of sky news, but it seems to have bounced back now. Approximately 1000 people are new each year, and approx. 1000 no dot renew each year. (RW) I think it is too early to look at this number at this time.
- The current expenses sent out last week do not include the costs for printing and mailing the observers handbook.
- RASC has repaid \$40,000.00 of the COVID loan. The original loan was \$60,000, if repaid by the end of the year, the society only has to pay \$40,000. The same for Skynews. Both have been repaid ahead of schedule
- Up until now the directors have been concentrating on reducing costs. We are now at a place where there are minimal reductions available, the organization is now looking at ways to increase revenue including donations.
- Significant changes are being made to the procedures and processes at the office. This will provide better controls on spending and what/who is allowed to spend
- Some changes have been made to the National Council Terms and References. No changes to voting for members. Still one voting member per 200 members. Quorum is still at 50% of the centres wishing to send representatives +1.
- There are some questions as to how the Observers Handbook will be done in the future. Expect a survey to the presidents soon.

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

##### **Webmaster Report - Glen**

- Website is being updated regularly.

##### **0.6m Telescope Maintenance Report - Glen**

- No current issues.

##### **Grounds and Building Report - Glen**

- Repaired the vacuum cleaner.

##### **Media Relations Report - Gil**

- The Night Sky features being recorded remotely and MP3 files e-mailed to CFIS, for Monday 10:30 am broadcast.

## **Outreach - Glen**

- 349 visitors at the observatory in October, 181.25 manhours accumulated.
- Events included open houses, school tour, solar eclipse viewing (clouded out), NASA observe the moon event.

## **Grants and Funding Committee Report – Glen**

- Working on the gaming grant request.

## **Computer and AV Equipment Report – Rob**

- Working on remote access and control of the power bars.

## **5. Old Business**

- Tabor observatory has been demolished. Awaiting word from Ministry of Forests re acceptance of the work.
- Tabled the discussion of telescope loans and telescope sales.
- Look into collaborating with UNBC astronomy instructor.
- Partial Solar Eclipse event at the observatory on Saturday, October 14 starting at 8 am.
- NASA 2023 International Lunar Observing event at the observatory on Saturday, October 21 at 7:30 pm.

## **6. New Business**

### **- Members, friends and family Christmas pot luck on Saturday, December 2 starting at 5 pm at the observatory.**

- Schedule tours into early December.
- Wait for National to have NOVA material available before determining Centre action.

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

- The next business meeting PGC224 will be held on Wednesday January 10, 2024 starting at 7:30pm via Zoom.
- Please submit all agenda items to Malhar no later than Sunday January 7, 2024.

## **8. Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.