

RASC Kingston Centre Executive Meeting Minutes - February 9, 2002

Here are the minutes for the exec meeting held at Peggy & John's on Feb 9. called to order somewhere around 7:30pm

- Telescope insurance:
 - Our policy is with national and covers the public at RASC sponsored events. We could get a rider on their policy, or we might need our own policy to protect our equipment. We need to talk to Michael Watson or Rajiv Gupta about a rider on National's policy.
 - Kevin will ask Mark Kaye about Hamilton Centre's insurance policy and Kim will ask her local radio group about theirs.
- Charity Status
 - Our earlier paperwork to obtain charity status seems to have died. Paul will try to find out what happened to our file (insider stuff), then John will try to get it moving again.
- Observatory Location
 - We are looking to find property within an hour of the University: south of highway 7, west of Gan and east of Napanee.
 - Kevin is working on a letter to ask other centres with observatories how far their members are willing to travel, how much use they get from their observatory etc.
- Fall 'n' Stars
 - This year it will be Sept 6/7 at the boy scout camp it was at last year. The BBQ will be included in the price of the ticket. More details will follow.
- ATM stuff
 - Still need to spend another \$500 on electronics etc. Sylvain Gagne is looking into finding a gear box for us. The scope controls from St. Lawrence won't be available until April. We are not paying for software from St. Lawrence, but hardware only. We may be able to get the software done at Queen's (and any finishing of the hardware not done) for approx \$200 plus whatever other parts are necessary. Doug is donating a Laptop 486 that has a dead battery.
 - We could be done in a couple of months. We would like to have the first light ceremony when David Levy is in town, so Paul will contact him to see if he is available.
 - Laura will write to Mrs. Venor to invite her to the first light ceremony and echo the original agreement in the invitation letter to let here know that we have fulfilled our bargain re the donation

- of the mirror. Laura will contact Susan for a copy of the original agreement made with Ron Pow, and for an address for Mrs. Venor.
- Kim is having heaters/fans built by one of her friends from her radio group to prevent dew on the 24".
- We need to get an adapter for the 2" eyepiece so we can use our current collection of 1 1/4" eyepieces with the new scope. We also need a telrad.
- Easels
 - Peggy purchased an easel from Ikea for \$40. Doug thinks we can produce our own if he can get some help. We will look into this project in the summer. We can use them for Astronomy day, public events etc.
 - Kim submitted her budget for a total of \$300 for the phone line, newspaper ads and publicity (pamphlets). **Moved** by Paul to accept her budget, seconded by Peggy.....carried
- Light Pollution
 - Cobra lights in Kingston are being replaced by full cut-off fixtures. Kim is trying to get one of the old cobra lights for a light pollution display.
- Proposal for Science Fair
 - Heather Angle has asked for \$100 grant to produce a project about light pollution. We decided not to make it a policy to sponsor science fair projects, but Laura **moved** that we include the funding in the light pollution committee's budget and have Heather do the work under our auspices. The project will be part of our displays. Seconded by Paul. Carried.
- Education
 - Teachers would like to have our books/slides in CD format. We can also do quicktime movies. The new package will need to be priced differently for the current book/slides.
 - Mary Lou Whitehorne has produced a book that will compete with our grade 6 book. She is asking National to produce it. Peggy will bring it up at the GA. We don't want to compete with National for our centre publications. It is not fair to the centres that National produces similar products.
- Committees
 - Next meeting we will make a presentation of committees. Laura will have committee chairs explain what their committees do and ask for volunteers.
 - Current committee chairs are:
 - Awards: Peggy Hurley
 - LPA: Kim Hay
 - Publicity: Kim Hay

- Education: Laura Gagne
- ATM: Doug Angle
- CCD: Jan Wisniewsky
- Observing: Tom Dean
- Fall 'n' Stars: Kevin Kell
- Youth:
- Member coordinator: Kim Hay
- Astronomy Day: Kim Hay
- Meeting Format
 - Kevin will produce a computer presentation slide with the meeting format on it to help us to stay on time.

Meeting Adjourned 10:30pm