

FOR REVIEW @ AGM 2022:

**Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Toronto Centre
MINUTES Annual General Meeting
Conducted On-Line
December 7, 2022**

Call to Order: A quorum declared by the President @ 8:53pm.

Adoption of the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting

(AGM 2022-1: Ralph Chou /Andrew Reid) MOTION to approve Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting. **CARRIED**

Business Arising from the Minutes:

None

President's Report:

President Luton commenced by reading our statement of Indigenous Land Acknowledgement.

He then highlighted the important events which occurred during 2022.

He stated that after 2 years of pandemic restrictions, Council voted early in 2022 to re-start in-person outdoor activities beginning on April 1, 2022. He thanked the Durham group of volunteers for organizing this activity which continued throughout the summer, attracting good crowds on the first Friday of each month.

He thanked and acknowledged the Durham group and City Star party members for organizing their respective star parties. He also acknowledged our AV committee for their consistency in running online operations and activities from the DDO during the pandemic and expressed thanks to the DDO committee for their work. Council voted to restart the remainder of in-person activities for commencement on October 1, 2022.

Activities at the EC Carr Observatory restarted gradually. The CAO committee ended its vaccine mandate in July 2022. Mr. Luton thanked supervisors and members of the CAO committee in maintaining the grounds and equipment at the site over the course of the pandemic.

The DDO has restarted multiple lectures and monthly events.

Mr. Luton reported that Toronto Centre membership now comprises 682 members, a decline of 27% since 2015. We gained 154 new members but 225 members decided not to renew. Council will look into what can be done as Mr. Luton recognized this as a serious problem.

Bhairavi Shankar will be stepping down from Council.

Mr. Luton thanked Council members, Committee members, and all volunteers in the past few years for their dedication and hard work in helping to keep Toronto Centre activities running.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Adrian Aberdeen reviewed the audited financial reports for current year-end September 30, 2022. He explained how to read the report, now posted on our website at 'Centre Documents'. He explained what a qualified opinion is and said that it is important to note that RASC TC is a 'not-for-profit organization' and is audited as such, according to Canadian accounting standards.

Mr. Aberdeen explained that TC management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of financial statements to the auditor who runs a variety of tests to see if our September year-end 2022 results are stated fairly and to see if management operates TC in a manner such that TC is reasonably able to continue its operations.

The auditor found that our statements and presentation met these conditions.

Mr. Aberdeen highlighted growth for year-end 2022 (v. year-end 2021), pointing out that the overall increase in revenue this year is about \$4500, due to an increase in donations and event fees. There were additional expenses at the CAO and in other areas to result in a \$4000 increase in expenses, and there was an increase in audit costs. The year-end deficit was \$20300 (v. \$16100 in 2021).

Capital assets on the Balance Sheet have decreased mainly from accumulated depreciation (over the life of each unit of equipment) resulting in the significant decrease in assets on the 2022 Balance sheet.

He briefly explained the audit footnotes, such as depreciation policy and deferred memberships, which are often prorated over two-year financial statements, since most members do not wait for a new year-end to join. He mentioned the current issue regarding donations with the Helm Fund.

Mr. Aberdeen talked about our internally restricted fund for \$20000 which had not been used since it is designated for emergency use only. As well, he mentioned \$100000 credit facility which is available to Council, but we have had no need to borrow any money from this. Both of these sources of potential funds remain untapped and in place.

Discussion continued by members. One suggested we survey current members to see if we could ascertain the reason for losing 225 members, making reference to the President's report at the beginning of this meeting.

(AGM 2022-2: Tony Horvatin /Lucy Winnicki) Motion to accept the auditor's report for year-end Sept 30, 2022.

CARRIED

Secretary's Report:

The details of this report are posted on-line. It is lengthy due to acknowledgement and gratitude stated about efforts and hard work of individual members and volunteers in service to RASC Toronto Centre during 2022.

All activities and events are described with all individuals acknowledged in the online report.

(AGM 2022-3: Reza Mohammed/Eric Briggs) Motion to accept Secretary's report.

CARRIED

New Members of Council:

Mr. Luton presented reiterated the names of the current members and introduced the names that will compose the new Council beginning in 2023.

Council for 2022 to 2023:

Honorary Pres: Dr. Roberto Abraham

President: Tom Luton

1st VP: Scott Masterton

2nd VP: Dr. Elaina Hyde

Secretary: Lucy Winnicki

Treasurer: Adrian Aberdeen

Recorder: Marc Teitelbaum

Immediate Past President: Dr. B. Ralph Chou

Past President: Tony Horvatin

Councilors:

Term to 2023-

Doug Carman, Tanya Oleksuik, Frank Dempsey

Term to 2024-

Reza Mohamed, Kirsten Vanstone, Ed Treijs

Term to 2025-

Charles Darrow, Diana Salerno, Charles Yung

Honorary Councilor: Dietmar Kupke

(AGM 2022-4: Elaina Hyde/Louis Rifkin) Motion to acclaim candidates on slate.

CARRIED

Selection of Auditor:

Our current auditor, Tinkham LLP, was put forth as auditor candidate for year-end 2023. Mr. Aberdeen did mention that the cost of auditing has risen but also said that it would be good to keep Tinkham because they know us. In response to a member's question, Mr. Aberdeen said that according to our by-laws, Toronto Centre needs to audit each year. In response to another member's question, Mr. Aberdeen stated he also tried to negotiate cost with auditor but was not successful.

(AGM 2022-5: Tim Hunter/Ralph Chou) Motion to retain Tinkham LLP as Toronto Centre auditor.

CARRIED

Other Business:

None

Adjournment:

(AGM 2022-6: Elaina Hyde/Ralph Chou) Motion to adjourn @ 10:05.

CARRIED

***-submitted by Marc Teitelbaum, recorder and member of Council,
January 2, 2023***