

Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – December 14, 2024 – 1:00 PM
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 13:10

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

Greg Elems - phone	Steve Habeck	Matt Elems - phone
Kerry Cochran - phone	Charlie Spikes – phone - arrived	Bob Sims – phone
Michael Coen – phone	1:14 PM	Eugene Vicknair - phone

8 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Visitors:

David Elems – on phone with Greg Elems

Correspondence

G. Elems

- Letter from Charles Schwab. Introduction to Dawn Hartley, estate specialist. We are beneficiary of estate from Gary Brizzolara. Wants to talk to us about the estate.

Cochran

- Received email from Tom Hervey. Gentleman named Randy Wright has an archives donation for us. Plaque from control tower between SP and WP.

Habeck

- Pretty good week for fundraisers. Took mail to Cheryl on Wednesday. Had close to 20, including one for \$15,000 from Dick Harley for Diesel Shop Roof. Just received another for \$500.
- Working on liability policy with Vivian. Due February 1, 2025.

Consent Calendar

1. Minutes – Minutes of the November 2024 BOD Regular Meeting. – TABLED to January 2025

New Business

Museum Telephones

Review proposal concerning phone lines at the museum.

- In reviewing budget, Kerry noted that we might be able to save a lot of money by removing some lines we are not using and transfer two used landlines to cellular. Service charge would be \$25 a line. Would need to purchase two cel phones.
- Discussed with Eugene. Kerry found our two used numbers can be ported to new cel service.
- Service he has explored is Visible a division of Verizon. Matt Elems reports he has Visible and has good service. Kerry has Verizon and gets good service.
- Noted there would be logistical issues but we can deal with those.
- Discussion of phone service to museum. Low end phones range from \$100 to \$200.
- Unlimited domestic talk and text for \$25 a month.
- General consensus is positive and Board approves.
- The other two phone numbers were used as conference / fax and general use for office car. We would drop these, only keeping 4131 and 4532 (RAL).
- We have annual contract that renews in February. Need to make decision in January 2025.
- Matt noted that Visible is designed for consumer services. Kerry checked and they do service commercial accounts.

- Kerry to review and get back next meeting with more info.
- Charlie Spikes suggested we also look at Consumer Cellular.

2025 Budget

Review draft 2025 operating budget.

- Draft budget provided.
- Review of budget and discussion of things to research.
- Discussion about insurance costs and if there are options for reduction.
- Discussion about Liberty Energy non-profit rate reduction program. Eugene Vicknair trying to find information on this. Eugene Vicknair also working to contact a solar company in Beckwourth that works with Liberty.
- Greg Elems suggested that we zero steam fuel (we have fuel on hand), track work (we have materials on hand) and a few other areas.
- There are also income areas we can increase, such as RAL. We will also be revising the RAL compensation amounts. Also discussion of facilitating group visits.
- Eugene to determine cost to just open the museum for a day.
- Bob Sims had question about movement of steam chemicals. Steve Habeck confirmed steam boxcar they were stored in has been powered down. There is still some paint in the boxcar.
- Discussion about other cut areas.
- Request to send changes, updates, etc. to Eugene for January 2025 review.

Old Business

none

Good of the Order

President's Report

- Has items for closed session.

Financial Reports

- Financial reports provided.
- Fundraiser brought in almost \$25,000 so far, with \$15,000 for Diesel Shop roof.
- Greg and David Elems will be donating funds to cover funds paid for SP GP9 2873 paint.
- Greg Elems paid Kalmbach ad bill for 2024. We will be changing how we deal with Kalmbach and dropping most of the ads.
- Bob Sims asked about recent donations. Bob considering stock transfer for beginning of the year for steam engine, but considering to do a general fund donation instead. Will contact Steve Habeck to work out details.

Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
 - Michael Coen volunteered hosting Planning Meeting at his place.
 - Tentative date being Saturday, February 22. Confirm no later than January BOD Meeting.
 - Discussion about Sexual Harassment Training. Consideration of how to handle volunteers, if we do. Eugene and Janet will look at broader context of SH training and report by April BOD Meeting.

Event Reports

- *2025 Western Pacific Historical Convention* – written report provided
 - Written report provided. Date suggested is September 11-14, 2025. Going to set up next meeting Dec 21.

Department Reports

- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
 - Greg Elems to try and write something on Santa Trains. Michael Coen offered to help on SP 2873.
 - Look at volunteer reporting in Nevada Northern newsletter.

- *Signal* – written report provided.
 - Plan to winterize the wig-wag after Santa Trains.
- *Funding* – written report provided.
 - Noted major increase in new memberships in 2024. Look at how to encourage new volunteers and reach out to new members. Look at volunteer book / onboarding. We do have a volunteer manual and volunteer section on website.
 - Look at having a welcome email with links and volunteer info. Also send info in MailTrain.
 - Grants: BNSF do shop safety equipment. NRHS grant look ar archive.
 - Discussion on county drainage grant.
- *Museum Store* – written report provided.
 - Fix store report.
- *Mechanical*
- *Facilities*
 - Broken toilet seat in Men’s and leaking toilet in Women’s restrooms.
 - Shovel out walkways.

Committee Reports

- *Election* – written report provided.

Legal / Insurance Report

none

Status of Surplus Property Report

none

Safety Committee

none

Notices

- Santa Trains tonight and next Friday and Saturday.

Public Comments

none

Closed Session – requested by President Greg Elems and Director Eugene Vicknair
2:48 PM – 3:017 PM

- *Property Item* – Property Lease

The Board heard a report on a Property Item – Property Lease. No reportable action taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 15:02

Next Meeting: January 11, 2025 – 1:00 PM
Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted
Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary