

Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – November 9, 2024 – 1:00 PM
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 13:02

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Greg Elems - phone | Charlie Spikes – arrived 1:09 PM | Eugene Vicknair |
| Kerry Cochran - phone | Bob Sims – phone | |
| Steve Habeck | Janet Steeper - phone | |

7 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Visitors:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Tom Hervey | Matt Shuman – Election Chair – phone |
| Patty Clawson – Big Fish / Marketing | Logan Beers |
| Nicholas Manos – CMO – phone | David Elems – arrived 1:15 PM |

Correspondence

Desmond Powers has sent his resignation as Treasurer effective November 5, 2024.

Habeck

- Two fundraiser donations have come in.

G. Elems

- Sue Daniels from Truckee Coldwell Banker reached out. The lot price has been reduced in price. It is now listed at \$125,000. Stated she has interest from other buyers. Opinion is that we would like to have the property but that is still too high. We need to worry about other things first like the Diesel Shop roof. Will contact her again and let her know we are not going to bite at that price.

Consent Calendar

1. Minutes – Minutes of the October 2024 BOD Regular Meeting.

Motion 24-11-01

Approve the minutes for the October 2024 Regular Meeting as presented.

Vicknair / Spikes. Aye – 7, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

New Business

Membership Dues Review and Recommendations

Review report on membership dues and recommendations for changes.

- Written report provided.
- Review of findings and recommendations.
- Suggestion we put out note that we will no longer offer Life levels in 4 months or whenever.
- Discussion about fully electronic Train Sheet versus print. Suggestion to charge a surcharge for those wanting printed Train Sheet.
- Noted more people have computers and email. Newsletters used to be simpler.
- Discussion about postal rate increases.
- Kerry made suggestion to raise Associate to \$35 and Active to \$65. Also suggested we look at going predominately electronic in 1 year.

- Greg noted that we got more upgraded on the Train Sheet was when we needed to do more on the Headlight. Wondering how many needing printed Train Sheet are Life Members vs. annual dues paying. Noted that those folks are getting fewer and going away. Post office rates keep going up and if may go away or become unfeasible to use.
- Eugene suggested he take the current notes and ideas and talk to Paul Finnegan about Train Sheet costs and changes
- Bob Sims may be interested in being Membership Chair. Will talk to Eugene.
- Kerry suggested that we may look at listing Headlight as extra due item as well. Discussed with White River structure of other organizations that do magazines but do not have museums.
- Consensus to table to December 2025 Meeting.

RAL Gift Certificates and Sales Promotion

Review proposed changes to RAL Gift Certificates and proposal for sales promotion.

- Written report provided.
- Eugene and Patty reviewed idea for Board.
- Greg likes the digital marketing idea. Noted that at \$320 an 1100 for members, 3 RALs sold will cover \$15 a day campaign option. At \$400 for members for 2873, 3 RALs sold will cover more than the \$20 a day campaign option.
- Bob had question about deposit only being paid and we may not see all income before spring.
- Kerry Cochran offered to pay for half of the \$675 campaign cost.
- Eugene clarified how the new Gift Certificates would operate.
- Greg noted it is possible we may not get full amount of campaign before season with just 3-4 sales.
- Eugene discussed how we can stagger free part of campaign first then go paid in a couple of weeks.
- Patty noted that we could also do a Black Friday blast and then push paid campaign to more into December, say December 1 to January 7. Digital is much more flexible.
- Greg thanks Kerry for his offer to donate and thinks we will recover costs with sales.
- Bob likes idea of putting out free campaign first to check response.
- Patty noted that the free campaign will only reach those who are subscribed to linked pages. Paid ads step beyond that. Best approach is to combine the two.
- Bob and Eugene discussed cost and money in budget.
- Greg noted that Gift Certificate will be cheaper as well.
- David asked about doing all digital. We can't handle that yet. Are looking at that for future.

Motion 24-11-02

Accept the RAL Marketing report and go forward with recommendations, using the \$675 / \$15 a day budget and to stagger the paid campaign start date.

Vicknair / Spikes. Aye – 6, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Motion carries.

- Kerry will be sending check for \$350.
- If we do fewer days total cost will be less.

Request to move NB 6 and Good of the Order 6 earlier. Consensus to move.

Proposed Events for Spring 2025

Discuss ideas for events in spring 2025.

- Written report provided.
- Eugene reviewed Kaiser Frazer car meet and idea for outside equipment event.
- Kerry thinks that Kaiser Frazer car meet would be easy. Fire equipment idea might be more of a fit. Could be opportunity to work with local fire district on showing their equipment. In May we must be cognizant of other things going at the museum.
- Question about our fire truck. Needs new rear end, new brakes, new tires, rebuilt engine.
- Steve noted that port o potties would be \$460 for 2 and a wash basin for one weekend.
- David noted that we could ask outside group to help pay for site prep, potties, usage fees.
- Eugene would arrive at 9 AM for Frazer car club to open museum.
- Consensus for Eugene to proceed with Kaiser Frazer club event and investigate options for larger event and report back to Board.

Electricity Usage Reduction Opportunities

Discuss ways to reduce electric bills.

- Last Board Meeting there was discussions about electricity bills.
- Took it upon himself to look at electricity usage around the museum.
- Used watt meters to measure some power usage.
- Oven for welding rod electrodes. Sealed electric oven. Kept at 250 degrees to keep moisture out of the electrodes. Noted that Roger noted that some of the electrodes are bad. Brian Waller noted we can put electrodes into quivers and then bake them to remove any residual moisture. Estimated use when measured was \$70 a month average. Now turned off.
- Have heat pump in the side of the steam department boxcar. Was running at least the fan every day. Was running to store chemicals in the boxcar. Roger identified the chemicals for use in WP 165 boiler. Nick checked on storage requirements and found temperature range. We do need to protect them from freezing, but not heat. We do have to be careful but have other options for protecting the chemicals. Nick moved the chemicals into the Operations Office for now. We may want to look at moving them elsewhere or not protecting them during winter due to value. Estimated usage when measured was \$75 month. Heat pump turned off.
- Bob had questions and comments. Discussed with Nick.
- David noted that he would fine A/C in car on during summer and would turn to fan only. Others would turn on A/C. Also we have persons unknown turning on heaters, A/C, etc. Noted that car was intended to be kept minimum 48 degrees to protect chemicals and also he would go into the car to do work during the winter.
- One problem note that we do have heaters that are kept running constantly during winter. Each oil electric heater costs about \$175 a month to run during winter. We need to keep some rooms heated for specific items, but we don't need them at 72 degrees, we need them at 50 degrees. If someone needs heat when working then they need heat when working. Not when they are not there.
- People are turning on these items and leaving them running.
- Highest bills are December, January, February. If no changes are made, with current rates, we are approaching a \$4,000 power bill.
- Discussion about various power uses and needs. A lower cost space heater can be used in boxcar if needed to heat for example.
- Business car UP 105. Has lights on every day all day. Uses approximately \$275 a month. Need to figure out how to eliminate the batteries and switch car over to being turned on and off when museum is open / closed.
- David noted that we know what needs to be done and what parts are needed to change that over. Nick makes point that we need to change this over from the batteries. David still has all the info on what is needed to change UP 105 over to on off mode.
- Store cold case needs to be looked at. Cold case runs estimated \$90 a month. Old unit that wastes a lot of power.
- Did not go into the lounge car or the caboose with extension cord. Did not look at sleeper, shower car, etc.
- Believes that there is a great deal to save and has to be done. We should spend as little as possible on electricity.
- Nick contends that as long as museum is available we will have this issue. Recommends that we should close down the museum much tighter than we currently do now.
- Kerry has talked to Brian Waller about shutting down lounge, sleeper and shower car for winter. Nick has also talked to Brian.

Budget Challenges

Discuss budget items.

- We need to look at expenses. Shut down everything for winter.
- Need to look at store costs. Don't sell online.
- Discussion about costs and expenses and part history.
- Number one cost is insurance.
- Electric cost is high.
- We need to go through monthly expenses and make some cuts.
- We need to evaluate costs and make some serious business decisions.

- Recommends we review requirements toward budget and liabilities.
- Asking whether we should even do Santa Trains.
- Discussion about income and expenses.
- Discussion about restricting account access or closing them.
- Discussion about expenses to cut. After last Santa Train museum is closed to all personnel until X date.
- Create new sign for Museum Closed For Winter.
- Discussion about Santa Train and its related expenses.
- Plan of action outlined.

Patty Clawson left meeting at 2:19 PM

Election Policy Modification – moved forward in agenda

Approve revision to election policy.

- Moved up.
- Revised policy proposal added.
- Noted that interference policy had no action / consequences.
- Proposing adding actions for interference to the policy.

Motion 24-11-03

Accept proposed changes to the Election Policy.

Cochran / Vicknair. Aye – 7, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Good of the Order 6 – Committee Report

- Unsure who we may get.
- Elections are coming up and committee is gearing up.
- Committee has submitted Train Sheet article.

Matt Shuman left meeting at 2:22 PM

Old Business

Group and Regular Admission Rates

Make correction to Group Admission Policy.

- Plumas County schools have been exempted in past. Do we maintain this.
- We need Group coordinator.
- Consensus is to leave policy in place that Plumas County schools are exempt.

Good of the Order

President's Report

- Verbal report provided.
- Has been talking with UP, city and Congressman Kiley's office concerning Portola sewer project.

Financial Reports

- Financial reports provided.
- Issues with credit card processing company and their deposit policies. Eugene to look at this.
- Eugene following up on financial report requests from Nick and Bob. Some reports need update for July. Need to check on deposits list for July.
- David is reviewing invoices for Industrial Coatings. David is going to reimburse for paint. Greg is also donating to the SP GP9 2873 painting project.

Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
- *Habeck*

- David Elems, Greg Elems, Logan Beers and Armando Epifani helped with teardown and pack away for Pumpkin Train.
- Cabooses still need to be cleaned.
- Armando has cleaned up most of the inflatables.
- Duane was not available for end of Pumpkin train due to shoulder surgery.
- Steve took canned good donations from second weekend to EPCAN.
- Ticket booth is cleaned out.
- Santa Train setup has started. Ethan has baggage car and diner mostly set up.
- Steve will look at minimizing use of heaters in baggage car and Santa Train.

Kerry Cochran left meeting at 4:18 PM

Tom Hervey left meeting at 4:22 PM

Event Reports

- *2025 Western Pacific Historical Convention* – written report provided
 - Committee meeting being held Sunday, November 10 at 6:00 PM
 - Greg has already gotten questions about timing of the convention

Department Reports

- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
- *Signal* – written report provided.
- *Headlight* – written report provided.
- *Funding* – written report provided.
- *Mechanical*
 - David is getting SP GP9 273 ready for winter.
 - Nick made repairs to the Liftall master cylinder. Needs to be bled.
 - David brought over more tools and supplies.
- *Facilities*
 - Steve has charger on batteries for UP 105 business car.
 - Recovered batteries in SP MW snail. Working on batteries in WP 707, Quincy 1100 and SP 2873.

Committee Reports

- *Election* – written report provided.

Legal / Insurance Report

none

Status of Surplus Property Report

none

Safety Committee

none

David Elems left meeting at 4:35 PM

Notices

- Santa Trains next month

Public Comments

none

Closed Session – requested by President Greg Elems, Director Eugene Vicknair and CMO Nick Manos
4:37 PM – 5:27 PM

- *Property Item* – Property Lease
- *Personnel Item* – Abusive Conduct

The Board heard a report on a Property Item – Property Lease. No reportable action taken.
The Board heard a report on a Personnel Item – Abusive Conduct. Consensus direction given. No reportable action taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 17:27

Next Meeting: December 14, 2024 – 1:00 PM
Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted
Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary

PRELIMINARY