

FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY AGENDA REPORT

DATE: October 2, 2003
FROM: Director Vicknair
ITEM: Good of the Order
SUBJECT: Reports

Facilities Report

The new breather pipes on the Shower Car are installed. Thanks to Dave Bergman for volunteering his time and Doug Morgan for his assistance. There are just some minor issues with the plumbing to complete and this item will be done and close out the code corrections list.

The deck access ramp and stairs are also progressing. The plans and permitting have been approved by the city inspector and the first set of footings are in place. The next work session will occur during October 17-19. With luck, at least the stairs and upper part of the ramp can be completed before winter sets in. I really need at least 2 people with some framing experience to assist on this weekend.

Finally, John Walker has been leading a general clean-up of the shop, assisted by several folks over the last few weeks. John and I are discussing ways to handle organization of the shop in general and the tools in particular. We hope to have a final report for the Board soon.

Magnolia Tower Report

The City of Oakland has been given a deadline of Oct. 31 to come to the FRRS with viable plans for restoring Magnolia Tower in Oakland. If they decline or the plans are not acceptable to the Society, the movement of the tower to Portola will begin soon after. It remains in its temporary location and has not received any reported vandalism, thanks mostly to the oversight of Kiewit personnel. The restoration team responsible for the excellent work on the Santa Clara Tower has offered their knowledge and assistance on Magnolia no matter where her final home is. They have been researching the machine in the tower to determine the proper way to remove and restore it and are prepared to help with its removal when the time comes. The machine has been found to be a rare type from US&S.

Zephyr Project Report

Thanks to the assistance of Burt Hermey and Roy Wullich, several issues are moving forward on the Silver Hostel. Freetech Plastics in Fremont, CA is currently evaluating some original dome glass loaned by Mr. Hermey. They are exploring the possibility of making molds for hot forming polycarbonate panes for the Budd cars. Hot forming would reduce many of the issues that currently plague polycarbonate (lexan) dome windows and make them more durable and attractive to use. If they can be made to an acceptable specification, the plan is to use the polycarbonate as the outer pane and tempered glass on the inside. They would allow the Hostel to have double pane windows as it originally did while still meeting FRA glass standards.

Also, we have ordered the proper sized replacement train and car name boards for the Hostel. Thanks to Mr. Hermey for dimensions and Mr. Wullich for the lettering diagram. John Walker also helped with some crucial information. Tom Carter has arranged for high quality vinyl lettering to me made based on diagrams made by myself and Frank Brehm. It is hoped that the new name boards will be ready in time for the next Hostel work weekend being held Oct. 17-19. I already have 4 people signed up to help but could really use 4-5 more.

ACTION: Report