

**Feather River Rail Society**  
**Special Board of Directors Meeting – August 21, 2016 – 5:00 PM**  
**Conference Call and WPRM Meeting Room – Portola, CA**

President Steve Habeck called the meeting to order at 5:38 PM.

The following Directors were present

Eugene Vicknair  
Tom Carter

Charlie Spikes  
Greg Elems

Steve Habeck  
Leisa Wesch

Gail McClure

### Old Business

#### **Pumpkin Patch Trains**

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Special meeting called to review plans, budget and feasibility for Pumpkin Trains

- Written report provided with budget. Report attached to these minutes.
- Eugene Vicknair – Due to various issues with this events planning, Director Vicknair has taken over the planning and has pulled together an event plan, budget and logistics report which was sent to the Directors. He apologized for the last minute approvals, but feels that this event needs to be given a fair look as a potential companion to Santa Train and fundraiser for the FRRS. Waiting beyond this weekend will be too late.
- Gail McClure – Question about fuel cost.
- Answer from Steve Habeck – 4 trains per event would use about 5 gallons an hour, generators use 4-5 gallons of gas. \$82 - \$100 per day. \$320 - \$400 per event.
- Gail McClure – Concern about temperature below freezing and its effect on the pumpkin.
- Eugene Vicknair – Move them into the diesel shop each night. Should do that even without temperature, due to bear issue.
- Gail McClure – Question about 200 vs. 400 pumpkins.
- Eugene Vicknair – We have two other options for pumpkins, second 200 is option if we need them.
- Steve Habeck – Ali Barbota is interested in helping out with decoration of trains. She would like to take a hand in this. Would need to do some work out there to clean up the picnic area and make it ready for use.
- Tom Carter – Concern about fire danger in the picnic area. Very dry and overgrown. Make sure that we have some controls for fire prevention on hand during event.
- Steve Habeck – Agreed. We need to do some weed whacking out there. Has to be done regardless of event. Thinks we can get a crew out there to clean-up.
- Tom Carter – We need to make sure the Water Buffalo filled and tested and available. Suggested we invite the Portola Volunteer Fire Department to have truck on hand on display for kids to see. Would be available if needed.
- Steve Habeck – Water Buffalo is ready to go.
- Eugene Vicknair – Will talk to Robert Meacher about having Fire Truck on display if event approved.
- Steve Habeck – Clean up brush, weeds, ties and other garbage in picnic area.
- Gail McClure – Asked when Daylight Savings time ends. November 6. Asked about sunset. Around 6:30 PM both weekends.
- Steve Habeck – Operation plan is to use diner and baggage car with SN caboose in middle, with possibly 2nd caboose off baggage car. Access would be through SN caboose with step boxes. Can power cars with generator so they have lights. Can set pumpkins in baggage car.
- Eugene Vicknair – Will need to label pumpkins.
- Tom Carter – Concerns about loading pumpkins into Baggage Car. Can we get some pumpkin loader / unloaders for assist? Ask high school.
- Eugene Vicknair – Will talk to Patty Clawson / Big Fish about assistance with loading / unloading during event. Will label pumpkins when they are sold.
- Steve Habeck – We will block road to Picnic Area / Pumpkin Patch (except for emergency lane) with haybales.
- Tom Carter – Asked about food trucks and food service.
- Eugene Vicknair – Gave overview of what Patty Clawson is looking at: food trucks, local service groups selling / giving away food.

- Steve Habeck – Can set up tables / chairs in Diesel Shop. Likes food trucks for Pumpkin and Santa. Look at profit sharing.
- Tom and Steve – Discussion about food trucks for Santa Train.
- Steve Habeck – Pumpkin Train could be dry run for food trucks on Santa Train.
- Tom Carter – Asked if there is any competition for other Pumpkin Patches.
- Steve Habeck – Only knows of one in the area near Quincy on one Saturday right before Halloween. Another up near Susanville.
- Greg Elems – There was one down by river in Reno. Quit doing that last year.
- Leisa Wesch – Works down the street from that event. Not being set up this year.
- Eugene Vicknair – Patty Clawson said there are events in the area around Halloween, but not much going on the weekends we are discussing.
- Greg Elems – Wants to make sure we can build the loading ramps for going between cars.
- Eugene Vicknair – Offered to help build ramps with David Elems.
- Greg Elems – Outlined plan David Elems has for ramps. Feels we can get them done with help.
- Tom Carter – Are pumpkins a variety of sizes? Yes. Should we just price based on size or weight?
- Leisa Wesch and Greg Elems – Should base on size.
- Tom Carter – Offered to make up signs with size and prices.
- Greg Elems and Tom Carter – We can write names on bottom with sharpie
- Steve Habeck – Will talk to Railroad Days about taking their hay bales after event. Will find out if we can have them or where they are getting them.
- Tom Carter – Question about potential revenue.
- Eugene Vicknair – If we sell out all pumpkins, projected income is around \$2,800
- Steve Habeck – Feels this has potential. Feels we should look at doing this. Has good feeling.
- Greg Elems – You have to risk to make it happen.
- Leisa Wesch – Should have advertising around shop.

Motion 08-16-01S

Accept the report as amended and move forward with event as outlined with budget as outlined.

Cost of \$1,860 from Special Events line item – 54090 as outlined in report budget.

(Carter / Spikes) Aye – 6, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1.

Tom Carter asked for signage info as soon as possible.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at: 6:31 PM  
 Next meeting: September 10, 2016 – 4:00 PM  
 Location: WPRM Meeting Room - Portola, CA

Respectfully Submitted, Eugene Vicknair -- Secretary, FRRS