

**Feather River Rail Society  
Board of Directors Meeting – August 11, 2018 – 6:00 PM  
WPRM Meeting Room – Portola, CA**

President Steve Habeck called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM

**Attendance**

**The following Directors were present:**

Charlie Spikes  
Matt Elems – phone  
Kerry Cochran - phone  
Greg Elems  
Steve Habeck  
Bob Sims  
Janet Steeper  
Eugene Vicknair - phone  
8 directors present, 1 absent – Quorum achieved.

Guests present:

Patty Clawson – Big Fish Creations / Public Relations  
Ethan Doty – RAL Coordinator  
Bart Hansen - Treasurer  
Ali Doty  
Bil Jackson  
David Elems – mechanical and safety

**Election of Officers**

- President                      Nominations opened.  
   Spikes nominates Habeck. Second by Cochran.  
   No further nominations.  
   Vicknair moves to close nominations. Second by Steeper.

Steve Habeck is only candidate and accepts nomination.  
Steve Habeck elected by acclamation.

- Vice-President                Nominations opened.  
   Cochran nominates Greg Elems. Second by Vicknair.  
   No further nominations.  
   Spikes moves to close nominations. Second by Vicknair.

Greg Elems is only candidate and accepts nomination.  
Greg Elems elected by acclamation.

- Secretary                      Nominations opened.  
   Greg Elems nominates Vicknair. Second by Spikes.  
   No further nominations.  
   Habeck moves to close nominations. Second by Greg Elems.

Eugene Vicknair is only candidate and accepts nomination.  
Eugene Vicknair elected by acclamation.

- Treasurer                      Nominations opened.  
Spikes nominates Bart Hansen. Second by Steeper.  
No further nominations.  
Greg Elems moves to close nominations. Second by Habeck.

Bart Hansen is only candidate and accepts nomination.  
Bart Hansen elected by acclamation.

### **Appointment of Department and Committee Heads**

- Current slate of department and committee heads stands as is, with exception of CMO.
- Currently do not have CMO position filled.
- We are adequately covering department, so we will operate as is for now.
- Bob Sims has questions about Model Railroad Committee. Suggested that it be recreated and renewed. Offered to become chairman of the committee and plans to poll modeling members for their ideas.
- Kerry Cochran clarified that President can appoint the head of the committee and appointed Bob Sims to head of committee.
- Sims will look for members from each scale. Will work with Headlight and Kerry Cochran on looking at articles for the Headlight.
- Ethan Doty is member of the Model Railroad Committee.
- David Elems had question about his role as Acting CMO.
- Reminder that organizational chart is on the website.

### **Correspondence**

*Vicknair* – Discussed reviews on Yelp, Facebook and Google. Had a small number of anonymous poor reviews early last month, now back to getting 4-5 star reviews and comments.

### **Consent Calendar**

Approval of the minutes of the July 2018.

Bob Sims has 4 small corrections. Corrections entered

Motion 08-18-01

Approve the minutes of the July 2018 regular BOD Meeting as amended.  
Vicknair / Spikes. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

### **Old Business:**

*none*

### **New Business**

#### **NB1 – Pumpkin Train Improvements (Vicknair)**

Review proposal to add a Farmer's Market on Sundays for the Pumpkin Trains.

- Written report provided.
- Discussion about idea about vendors and other ideas for Pumpkin Patch Trains.
- Ali Doty and KC Dunn are coordinators for the event.

- Eugene offered to work under and with Ali and KC on this if Board chooses to advance ideas.
- Steve Habeck recommended that this be decided by event coordinators.
- Patty Clawson discussed how she has assisted with coordinating parts of the event in the past 2 years. Discussed issues with getting food vendors in the past and possibilities with local vendors she has discussed coming to Pumpkin Patch and Santa Trains for this year. Vendors she talked to yesterday include craft, pottery and woodwork vendors.
- Discussion of issues with teen volunteers last year. Ali Doty suggested a list of rules and guidelines for behavior.
- Patty Clawson agreed this is a good idea, but if we have a better idea for extra volunteers, then we should look at that.
- Greg Elems had questions about night train operations and how that impacts volunteer needs.
- More discussion of vendor mix and handling. Patty Clawson has leads on vendors that she will share with coordinators. Described Sierra Valley Farmer's Market vendor mix.
- Patty Clawson suggested that building event around harvest image.
- Discussion of permits needs and possible issues. Ali Doty checked and private organization events do not need permits the way public events need.
- Noted that charging a booth fee validates certain aspects of our insurance. Vendors must have their own insurance as well.
- NRHS chapter will be coming on first Sunday of Pumpkin train. Train crew needs to be present at 8 AM after running night trains until 10 PM. Question about what fees NRHS group will be paying for admission and train ride. Last time they paid admission, ride fees and donation.
- Discussion about timing and when vendors would be present. Rules could be that vendors must clear up their space at end of day, not leave stuff overnight. Meal seating will be in Silver Plate diner.
- Change engine on Pumpkin Patch poster to WP 2001.
- Report turned over to coordinators to be acted upon.

## **NB2 – RAL Promotions (Vicknair)**

Discuss proposals for expanded RAL promotions.

- Written report provided.
- Discussion of having WP GP20 2001 running for Railroad Days and Pumpkin Trains. Will consider it for special RAL operations. Discussion of other engines, including Army H-12-44 1857 and O&NW AS-616 4. O&NW 3 may be better chance for getting running. Need batteries, fresh oil.
- Steve Habeck feels that discounts are not getting us anything.
- David Elems suggested that the AS-616 in RAL service be a special rate. Steve Habeck stated they handled balloon well.
- Eugene Vicknair stated that if discounts do not seem to be working, we do not need to do them. Wants to maintain option for 5% discount while setting up room package deals with local resorts.
- Eugene and Patty will work with resorts to explore package deal options.
- Greg Elems posted on Facebook that cab rides are available on caboose trains and we are seeing more cab rides now.
- If WP 2001 can be running soon, we should look at using it as special RAL offer.
- Discussion of store products that apply to specific RAL locomotives as a way to drive more add-on sales.
- Ethan Doty provided RAL sales numbers back through 2011.
- Discussion of mechanical needs for RAL fleet. Noted that lower RAL levels correlate with less engines available.

- Discussion that based on engine availability issue means we need to change advertising strategy.
- Greg Elems discussed doing brochure swap with other venues.
- Janet Steeper asked about stocking brochures in hotel brochure racks. Most hotels use a brochure service that charges a fee. Discussed past efforts in this area.
- Eugene Vicknair suggested we look into costs and options for brochure service and update our information.
- Greg Elems offered to handle brochure distribution and swapping.
- Bob Sims offered to distribute some along his travel route. There are 5-6 places where he thinks he can put brochures. Patty Clawson discussed how we need to get sense of where people are seeing the brochures so we can track where we are getting traction. Discussion about tracking who is taking brochures where. Janet Steeper offered to take some to various places. Clipboard will be kept with brochures so people can list where they are taking them.
- Janet Steeper asked about ads in local papers. Eugene Vicknair stated that we are in local event guides and RV park ads. We did do local papers in the past but dropped them due to cost. Patty Clawson to discuss costs for advertising with local papers and see what deals may be possible.
- Patty and Eugene will proceed with resort discussion, switch up radio ads, Facebook campaign, free articles in papers in new geographic.
- Greg Elems shared that he got a lot of notice from our stories on Sacramento Channel 10.

### **NB3 – Minor Mechanical Department (Spikes)**

Request to create a new department for restoration and care of small motorized artifacts.

- Charlie Spikes has idea to have new department to focus on small mechanical items and artifacts.
- This department will focus on smaller items, tools, etc.
- Suggested that this could be put under Facilities.
- Discussion that we should emphasize that departments need to take care of all tools.
- Pointed out that small equipment like Fairmonts do not fall under Facilities.
- Steve Habeck discussed how museum Ford Truck was broken into and vandalized. Bill Jackson handling repairs.
- Suggestion that we have small equipment handled as subdepartment of Mechanical.
- Charlie Spikes volunteering to be point person on this.
- Matt Elems suggested having a list of who is specialist in each area.
- Greg Elems suggested tabling this to next meeting.
- Eugene Vicknair clarified that we could have subdepartment under Mechanical and Charlie could be coordinator, lead, whatever title decided.
- Tabled for next meeting.

### **Good of the Order**

#### **President's Report**

- Written report provided.
- Western Rail opted not to send mechanic out again. Asked for us to do work. Plan is to hire Fritz and Ethan to do work and bill Western Rail.
- We hired another person for Museum Store. She has been training with KC. She did her first solo time yesterday and did good job. Seems really excited about her new job. KC will be spending some Saturdays off to spend with her husband. Gives us more flexibility on scheduling and allows KC to help handle more events and planning.

## Financial Reports

- Financial reports and summary provided.
- Steve Habeck commented that he liked tone Bart took with this month's summary.
- Donation of \$1,000 from Bart Hansen for Light the Fire.

## Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided. Light the Fire video update. Discussion about locomotive swap and display.
- *Sims* – written report provided. Everyone enjoying new swamp coolers in board room. Bob Sims discussed maintenance ideas for them. Window film proceeding. Museum Store alone if 95 panes that need to be applied.

## Event Reports

- *2019 WP – PCR Convention* – written report provided. Discussion about handling transport for special guests.

## Department Reports

- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
- *Mechanical* – written report provided. Detailed report on locomotive status provided. Thoughts that WP 2001 should not take a lot of work to get running. A lot of work has been done on WP F7A 917. WP GP7 707 needs injector work. Need about \$2,400 for new set of injectors. If we do injectors soon, could have 707 for Pumpkin Patch Train. David Elems willing to donate \$1,100 toward injector work. WP 707 will not run until we get new injectors. David and Greg Elems and Bart Hansen will donate money to cover injector parts, museum will cover shipping. Clarified that WP 707 and 2001 are premium rentals. Discussion that we are low on fuel. Bob Sims offered to do stock transfer and donation to help repair WP 917 and 707. David Elems is developing work plan for 917. Discussion about mechanical training classes for volunteers.
- *RAL Ops* – written report provided. Discussion of RAL sales trends over the last 6 years.

## Committee Reports

- *Safety* – Last month had safety committee meeting. Have 9 new fire extinguishers mounted and inspected in shop. Fire extinguishers in locos still need to be done. Making progress. Janet Steeper mentioned Kidde fire extinguisher recall is occurring and we might want to check out smaller ones for recall possibilities.

## Legal / Insurance Report

- Renewal for D&O and accident policies are due. D&O will be going up, don't know cost yet, but around 25%.

## Status of Surplus Property Report

*none*

## Safety Report

- David Elems has items he would like Paul Finnegan to remove from website wish list as we need to manage what those items are (cleansers, chemical items).
- Still working on locomotive fire extinguishers. Going to have two fire extinguisher renewal / certification dates during year. Reminder to keep yellow zones around electrical panels free.
- Question about distance from door for smoking to be allowed.
- Discussion of brush clearing. Bart Hansen offered to bring a brush hog and help with the brush clearing. Charlie Spikes to help with fire watch during that work.

## **Public Comments**

- *Bart Hansen* – Discussed offer of use of billboard on his family's property. Discussion of potential costs. Eugene and Bart discussed and explored last year. Board feels there is value in exploring this. Eugene to work with Bart on cost and logistics and report back to Board next month.

## **Notices**

*none*

**Closed Session** – requested by Director Vicknair – 9:11 PM – 9:16 PM

- Legal Issue – Meeker vs. FRRS and Vicknair

The Board heard a report on a Legal Issue – Meeker vs. FRRS and Vicknair. No reportable action taken.

## **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at: 9:16 PM (Vicknair / Steeper)

Next Meeting: September 8, 2018 – 6:00 PM

Location: WPRM Meeting Room – Portola, CA

Respectfully Submitted, Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary