

Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – January 9, 2021 –1:00 PM
Conference Call due to COVID-19 Shelter Protocols

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 1:09 PM. All attendance by phone.

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

Kerry Cochran	Charlie Spikes – arrived 1:25PM	Matt Elems
Bob Sims	Greg Elems	
Steve Habeck	Eugene Vicknair	

6 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Guests present:

David Elems – Asst. CMO, Safety Officer
Bart Hansen - Treasurer

Correspondence

- *G. Elems* – D&D Roofing had COVID-19 issues and could not get out to work on roof earlier. Will be in the area next week and are planning to do repairs on north lean-to. Have not heard back from fence guy. Eugene Vicknair will follow up. Greg still needs to contact guy with WP 705 numberboard.
- *D. Elems* – Been trying to get contact with place in Ohio on locomotive parts. Going to have Phil Schmierrer contact for Quincy 1100 load regulator.
- *Habeck* – Still getting mail for Ken Chapin at museum. Includes a lawsuit settlement check. Received letter from lady in town last month with no check but note how we are good for the community. Two days ago, she sent letter with check for \$25. Thank you to her! Still getting some fundraisers trickling in along with a few memberships.

Consent Calendar

Approval of the minutes of the December 2020 Regular and Special Meetings.

Motion 21-01-01

Approve the minutes of the December 2020 Regular and Special Meetings as presented.
Vicknair / G. Elems. Aye – 6, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Old Business

Revision to 2021 Budget

Revise budget to account for SBA COVID-19 Disaster Assistance Loan.

- Budget worksheet presented.
- Discussion about leaving enough safety and cushion to cover possible lower income this year.
- Steve Habeck feels highlighted changes are in line with what we talked about. Wants to adjust mechanical amounts.
- Going to look at 2 sets of used batteries from Western Rail. Funds shifted to equipment maintenance and parts.
- David Elems has concerns about needing to have mechanical department credit card. There are things he needs that do not make sense for setting up accounts.
- Steve Habeck feels we need a mechanical department credit card.
- Discussion about switching credit card to another bank from BofA.
- Bart Hansen said that they use Chase for their business cards. Would recommend Chase.
- Bart supports getting mechanical department a credit card.
- There are also new security protocols with businesses that make it difficult to use a card that does not have buyers name.

- Suggestion to move away from BofA. Kerry Cochran suggests transitioning between. Consensus to proceed with starting with mechanical department card with Chase and then transition away from BofA.

Motion 21-01-02

Approve opening FRRS credit card account with Chase Bank. Director Vicknair authorized to open and sign. Cochran/Habeck. Aye – 7, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

- Bob Sims questions and discussion about income / restricted fund use and clarifications on expenses.
- Concerns about when we will reopen.
- Eugene Vicknair suggested we approve and revisit budget in March when the COVID-19 situation becomes clearer.
- Steve Habeck has been looking at income numbers vs. open days numbers. Total income through Museum Store in 2018 was \$87,000 and in 2019 was \$91,000 except for Pumpkin and Santa Trains.
- Discussion about COVID-19 possible impacts on travel and reopening.

Motion 21-01-03

Approve revised 2021 Budget as amended and revisit in March at the Board Meeting for revision. Vicknair / Spikes. Aye – 7, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

New Business

Review 2021 Calendar and Scheduling

Review the following items:

- 2021 Museum Hours (based upon the virus issue)
- 2021 Museum Caboose Train Opening date (based upon the virus issue)
- 2021 WP Convention (Date and Location)
- 2021 WP Celebration (Date and Times)
- 2021 RAL Engineers (Availability and Scheduling)
- Open day analysis provided by Steve Habeck and Ethan Doty.
- Kerry Cochran provided overview of items that need to be discussed.
- Suggested that Convention and WP Celebration be moved to August to September.
- Changed note concerning hours and dates changing due to COVID and public health conditions.
- Discussion about crew and volunteer availability.
- Discussion about when to do crew training.
- David Elems suggested more crew training days with smaller groups.
- Greg Elems and Steve Habeck stated that they can support training days.
- Changes to proposed opening and event days.
- Discussion about how to handle operations, public access.
- Eugene Vicknair suggested that we have off-line discussions about crew training and revisit format in February Board Meeting.
- Steve Habeck reviewed analysis of income / expense vs. days open. Mondays some days had good income due to tour groups. Many days we did not make enough to cover costs of being open.
- Most weekends when we did not make money were in May and September.
- Discussion about limiting open days, not open 7 days a week.
- Noted that a lot of railroad museums are NOT open 7 days a week.
- Noted that Western Railway Museum even in summer is not open Monday and Tuesday. Rest of open season, only open Saturday and Sunday.
- Reviewed calendar. We will only be open for general public Thursday-Sunday. This does not include tour groups.
- Noted that new insurance prohibits us from doing switching when public is around, so this will leave Monday-Wednesday for switching and heavy mechanical work.

Motion 21-01-04

Approve revised 2021 Calendar as amended in the meeting.

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

Good of the Order

President's Report

- Written report provided.
- We are now sold out of the 2021 Western Pacific Calendars.

Financial Reports

- Reports provided.
- Discussion about possibility moving some funds into an interest bearing account temporarily.
- Considering we are setting funds aside for protecting payback on the SBA loan, that could be set aside, possibility into a Money Market account.
- Concern that cost of having Susan / bookkeeper manage such transfers could outweigh benefit.
- Suggestion that we advise Treasurer Bart Hansen discuss this option with Susan.
- Steve Habeck discussed idea with Susan when we received Kasten settlement. Her opinion was it would not be worth it.
- Bob Sims had opinion that it depends on the rates we receive. Suggesting we look into it.
- Eugene will discuss with Bart Hansen.
- Consensus direction from Board to investigate this option.

Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.

Event Reports

none

Department Reports

- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
 - Discussion about getting stuff from John Ryskowski
- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
 - Discussion about using MailTrain email contact system. Paul Finnegan did test send to about 116 people who had requested info. 4 bounced. 82 were opened and read. 0 unsubscribes. This is free to us and part of the new website server. Requested to approve this as a system to send things to our members. Use it for information, not just fundraising.

Motion 21-01-05

Make MailTrain tool a new information system for the public and members.

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

- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
 - Train Sheet issue went out. Current email version got zero bouncebacks. One person who had been having issues got his issue perfectly.
- *Funding* – written report provided.
 - Question about COVID state grant timeline.

BREAK – 3:35 PM – 3:40 PM

- *Mechanical*
 - David still recovering from computer failure. Was not able to generate report.
 - Still working on cutting shoes down on Quincy TR6A 1100. No coolant leaks but needs a couple hoses changes. Has work plan for the spring. Going to have Phil Schmierrer contact Larry's Truck and Electric for load regulator for 1100. Estimated cost is \$3,000. Plans for working on WP F9B 925, WP FP7 805, WP GP7 707. WP 925 needs oil and

batteries. Needs about \$4,000 for oil and a set of batteries. Radiator work on SP GP9 2873 and WP GP20 2001. Not sure of expenditure yet.

Committee Reports

- *Election* – written report provided.
 - Revised report provided and update on candidate nominations.
 - No nominations as of Saturday AM. Greg Elems nominates Matt Elems for the 2021 Board Election. Charlie Spikes nominates Steve Habeck and Eugene Vicknair for the 2021 Board Election. Greg and Charlie noted that they will be sending emails to Election Committee.
 - Steve Habeck notes that under election calendar there is a typo saying “no late ballots will be rejected”. Needs to be “no late ballots will be accepted”.

Legal / Insurance Report

- Liability policy renewed. No changes or adjustments, even though we were closed.

Status of Surplus Property Report

none

Safety Report

- Only a handful of folks on property. North side is icy. Weather is cold.
- Steve Habeck updated on Amerigas issues since they closed local office. First week local office closed, had 78 people in the area close their accounts. Last Tuesday, High Sierra gas came in and removed Amerigas tanks and put in their own tanks. Amerigas tanks are now by the front gate. Slightly higher price, but they are local company.

Public Comments

- *Spikes* – Considering training sessions discussed previously, Charlie volunteers to help with training whenever needed. Noted that VA is offering vaccine soon and he will get shot as soon as available to allow him to run RALs. Has friend in hospital right now with COVID and they are probably not going to make it. Willing to stay at museum and do RALs when needed in June.

Notices

none

Closed Session – 4:03 PM – 4:23 PM

The Board heard a report on a Collection Item – Potential Equipment Donation. Consensus direction given, no reportable action taken.

The Board heard a report on a Legal Item – Meeker v. FRRS and Vicknair. Consensus direction given, no reportable action taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at: 4:25 PM (Vicknair / M. Elems)
Next Meeting: February 13, 2021 – 1:00 PM
Location: Conference Call – COVID-19 Protocols

Respectfully Submitted, Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary