

**Feather River Rail Society  
Board of Directors Meeting – June 1, 2019 – 1:00 PM  
WPRM Meeting Room – Portola, CA**

Secretary Eugene Vicknair called the meeting to order at 1:36 PM

**Attendance**

**The following Directors were present:**

Steve Habeck – arrived 1:49 PM

Charlie Spikes

Janet Steeper

Kerry Cochran

Matt Elems – phone

Bob Sims - phone

Roger Stabler - phone

Eugene Vicknair - phone

7 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

**Guests present:**

Paul Finnegan - Webmaster

David Elems – Asst. CMO

Bart Hansen - Treasurer

Matt Shuman – Election Committee

Debbie Shuman – Election Committee

**Correspondence**

none

**Consent Calendar**

Approval of the minutes of the May 2019 BOD Meeting.

Motion 19-06-01

Approve the minutes of the May 2019 Board Meeting as presented.

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

**Old Business**

none

**New Business**

**Membership Electronic Contact**

Discuss changing procedure for using on file email addresses for member contact.

- Written report provided.
- Janet Steeper – proposal is good one.
- Paul Finnegan – Train Sheet email list is very specific thing. Feels that it is quite different than getting emails from Society. If emails come that people do not want, then they may drop.
- Matt Elems – agrees with Paul.
- Put request to opt in on info / Board list into next Train Sheet email.
- Question about Big Fish email blast system.
- Paul Finnegan strongly suggests maintaining two lists.
- Paul will check online tool to create two opt-in options. Eugene will update paper.
- Consensus to have two email lists and provide two opt ins on documents and website.

Steve Habeck arrived at 1:49 PM.

## **2020 Western Pacific Historical Convention**

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Begin search for new Convention Chair and propose locations for 2020 Convention.

- Need to replace Eugene Vicknair as Convention Chair and need to determine location for 2020.
- Kerry Cochran has had conversations with Scott McAllister about possibly sharing or co-chairing.
- Eugene is willing to help, but cannot handle a majority of the planning as he has done for the last several years.
- Kerry has been pulling together a Convention Guidebook. He also received copy of Pacific Coast Region convention guide.
- Noted that Pacific Coast Region NMRA already has info out for their 2020 Convention.
- Kerry feels we should start planning 2020 and 2021.
- Scott McAllister suggesting some place local.
- Eugene suggested heading to Marysville – Yuba City, Oroville or Chico.
- Need to approve a date. April 2-4, April 16-18 suggested. Will start with those dates as targets.
- Eugene discussed why conventions have been over 3-4 days (Thursday – Saturday / Sunday) and how scheduling works.
- Kerry will talk with Scott McAllister on convention planning.
- Discussion about attendance numbers. Salt Lake City was about 75-85 people final count. 47 FRRS members attended the Sacramento joint convention in 2019.

## **Whitcomb Display Engine**

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Review issues around Whitcomb display locomotive being placed at Williams House.

- Background on Whitcomb engine reviewed.
- Locomotive had been acquired and placed at request of previous City Manager and City Council. Was a gift to the city from the Society. We were to place and city was to handle display.
- Current city manager objected to placement and condition and demanded locomotive be removed.
- Locomotive has been removed from location and placed at museum.
- Position of the FRRS is that locomotive will now remain at the museum.
- We are very unhappy with how city treated our volunteers and members about this. There was no attempt to discuss or find resolution.

## **Good of the Order**

### **President's Report**

- Written report provided.
- "Magnolia Grove" and VIA lounge have left the property.
- We have received another OSHA complaint letter. This repeats many false accusations and things that do not exist. It starting to feel like harassment and OSHA is agreeing.
  - David Elems is responding to OSHA letter.
  - Worked with Kerry Cochran and Paul Finnegan recently to craft full response letter.
- There is now a work list up in the Ops Office for things that need to get done.
  - Kerry and Paul tackled some already.
  - Much involves cleaning.
  - We must be mindful of visitors all the time.
  - Phil Schmierrer has been at the museum for the last several weeks working on a variety of projects.

## Financial Reports

- Financial reports provided.
- Noted that we need to ensure report summary is labeled "Treasurer's Report".
- Discussion about things we need to follow up on.
- Noted that \$1,150 was charged to Headlight Publications for 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Publications.

## Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
  - Assisting with WP SW1500 1503 painting. Plan is that July 22 will be putting lettering on WP SW1500 1503, will shoot green on July 23.

## Event Reports

- *2019 Convention* – written report provided.
- *Graeagle Independence Day Festival* – written report provided.
- *Western Pacific Celebration* – written report provided.
  - Concerns about insurance on motor car rides.
  - Outside volunteers would need safety class.
  - Need budget for advertising costs.
  - Suggestion to have call in Board Meeting on June 15 at 5:00 PM to review and confirm items for event.
  - Discussion about having event on Labor Day Weekend.
  - Suggestion to lease personal motorcars for event to get insurance coverage.
    - Discussion about insurance issues on motor car operations.
    - May have Model T in operation next weekend.
  - Keep date on August 2-4 and start putting out date and basic event info.

## Department Reports

- *Webmaster* – written report provided. CZ 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary publication is selling in store and PayPal.
  - Steam work session July 24-28 to go on calendar.
  - Discussed sales page for FRRS merchandise on XX.com.
  - Showed proof for welcome brochure to be given to visitors. Opinion is to proceed and print some test examples for this season.

Matt Elems had to leave the meeting. – 2:57 PM

- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
  - Roger Stabler brought up concept of looking at going fully electronic in the future. Suggested that we may have to consider this.
  - Noted that we are working to increase number of email Train Sheet deliveries. Right now we have over 150 people getting email version.
  - Roger wants us to emphasize that this saves the Society money. Asked that we keep pushing this.
  - Bob Sims brought up idea of reducing page count to also reduce cost.
  - Paul Finnegan shared info that cost savings is not linear with page count. Reducing 4 pages saves about \$100 out of \$1,000. Also, common practice is to go no smaller than 12 point type.
- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
  - Background check numbers are improving.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
  - John Ryczkowski dropped off a bunch of archives materials.
  - Edna Brown is sending materials donation to museum.
  - Rain has delayed outside electrical work on Archives Car.
  - HVAC system has been ordered for Archives Car.

- Kenneth Finnegan got archives computer donated by Eugene Vicknair running.
- Kerry Cochran and Paul Finnegan have been at the museum for whole week and doing a lot of cleaning and work.
- *Funding* – written report provided.
  - Have 3-4 people volunteering to work on grants for us.
- *Marketing* – written report provided.
  - Going to reengage Big Fish Creations on marketing for RAL and August event.
- *RAL Operations* – written report provided.
- *Mechanical* – written report provided.
  - Thank you to Phil Schmierrer for all his work and assistance.
  - Caboose center plates inspected and lubed.
  - Getting ready to do injectors on WP GP7 707.
  - All operating locos have fire extinguishers in them.

### **Committee Reports**

- *Election* – written report provided.
  - Official certification of election by Matt Shuman.
  - Election was “white ballot”, only incumbents were nominated.

### **Legal / Insurance Report**

none

### **Status of Surplus Property Report**

- Steve Lee donated tarps have started going onto the domes. Bob Sims went above and beyond to get the first car, “Silver Hostel”, tarped.

### **Safety Report**

- Almost all fire extinguishers on property have either been serviced or replaced. Additional extinguishers and location signs have gone up around property. David Elems purchased 6 new extinguishers. All forklifts have extinguishers.
  - David Elems leading this.
  - Looking at doing extinguisher reviews twice during the year.
  - Cost was a little over \$1,100. Phil Schmierrer donated \$200 toward fire extinguisher fund.
- David Elems has been adding microbes to oil separator. Noted duck weed needs to be trimmed back away from the separator.
- Update on OSHA letter response. 7 of the 12 on the letter were repeats of last letter and were items that do not exist or are not issues.
  - Will be talking to Redding OSHA office about possible harassment via these letters.
- Wants to minimize and / or eliminate parking on north side of shop. Will be enforcing the Fire Lane.
  - Need to keep vehicles 35 ft away from fire hydrant and propane tank.
  - North side of shop will be temporary parking and work zones.
- Will be adding more No Smoking signs.
- There is a new evacuation plan posted in various location at the museum. (Ops Office, Radio Locker, Museum Store, near Electrical Panel and nead West End of Shop building)

### **Public Comments**

- *Paul Finnegan* – Feels that trying to do an event by beginning of August strikes him as an exercise in futility. Would like to see us focus on RAL fleet. Keeps excel spreadsheet on volunteer hours. For year to date, he has crossed 500 hours of volunteer time for the Society. Most is on the website. Has also been working on IT projects. This shows that things can be done to support the Society from away from Portola.

## **Notices**

- Tonight is Membership Dinner and Meeting.

## **Closed Session** – requested by Director Vicknair – 3:35 PM – 3:58 PM

- Legal Issue – FRRS vs. Kasten / ITAC / Gateway
- Legal Issue – Meeker vs. FRRS and Vicknair
- Business Issue – Future Business Possibility
- Business Issue – Steam Locomotive Home Port

The Board heard a report on a legal issue – FRRS vs. Kasten / ITAC / Gateway. No reportable action taken.

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

The Board heard a report on a business issue – Future Business Possibility. Consensus direction given. No reportable action taken.

The Board heard a report on a business issue – Steam Locomotive Home Port. Consensus direction given. No reportable action taken.

Charlie Spikes had to leave meeting at 3:57 PM.

Matt Elems returned to meeting at 3:58 PM.

## **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at: 4:00 PM (Vicknair / Steeper)

Next Meeting: July 13, 2019 – 4:30 PM

Location: WPRM Meeting Room - Western Pacific Railroad Museum - Portola, CA

Respectfully Submitted, Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary