

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m., Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, Sandy Springs, GA by Peter Youngblood, MMR, Superintendent. Peter welcomed all officers, board members, committee heads and other Division members. Peter also informed the Board that Matt Coleman, Director of Operations, had submitted his resignation. (see New Business).

Board Members Present (12): Peter Youngblood, MMR, Joe Sullivan, Royal Bruce, Jim Travis, Perry Lamb, Norm Lundin, Brian Sandberg, John Falk, David Gelmini, Charlie Crawford MMR and Chris White.

Board members absent (2): Joe Maiuro & Alan Mole. **Quorum Present**

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (13)*:

Bill Zawacki, MMR, Rick Coble, Howard Goodwin MMR, Gary Jarabek, Tom Banks, Joe Gelmini MMR, Randall Watson, Steve Funsten, Doug Alexander, Martin Gulden, Tyler Gelmini, Del Kittendorf, and Jim Hobbs.

Officer and Director Reports

Administration - Chris White The April 2016 Minutes were approved following a motion by Jim Travis and seconded by Perry Lamb.

Finance – Joe Sullivan Joe submitted the April financial reports by email and also handed out copies. The April financial report was approved by the Board following a motion by Perry Lamb and seconded by Jim Travis. With the approval of Train Show Chairman Joe Gelmini MMR, it was agreed that \$12,000 would be transferred from the Train Show Account to the Piedmont General account. This should permit the Train Show to be self-sufficient prior to the next Train Show in March 2017 because the majority of expenditures occur prior to the actual show.

Operations—Matt Coleman Matt had submitted a brief April report by email prior to his unexpected resignation.

Personnel/Membership - Royal Bruce – Royal presented his April report by email. There were 113 attendees at the April meeting including four visitors. The 12-month rolling average attendance increased to 103. Royal also presented to the Board a list of members who had not yet renewed their NMRA membership. Total membership in the Piedmont division as of April 2016 was 416. There was a discussion regarding the success of the Rail Passes and there were apparently few reliable statistics regarding the renewal of Rail Pass members.

Committee Reports These reports had been emailed to all Board members. These committee reports were accepted on a motion by Joe Sullivan and seconded by Perry Lamb.

Website - Scott Povlot – Scott submitted a report by email. There were 2456 page views on the Division website during April.

Pilgrimage, Advertising, and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek - Gary submitted a report by email. Gary summarized the Company Store inventory and also listed the advertising for the Monthly Division Meetings.

Achievement Program – Randall Watson We have three (3) outstanding certificates from National for the month of April. Randall would be making a number of presentations at the meeting – mainly from the AP contest in March.

Good and Welfare –Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch – No letters was sent out during April.

2017 Model train Show – Joe Gelmini MMR We have already sold 36% of vendor tables and collected \$4562 in advance payments. We have new committee members for 2017. Joe took this opportunity to thank Bill Zawacki MMR and Charlie Crawford MMR for their outstanding contributions on the Train Show Committee for many years. The new Train Show Committee met in April and the major topic was the change in advertising philosophy to a more social media approach. Company sponsorships were also discussed.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth and Kennesaw) – Howard Goodwin. Nothing new to report for the month of April.

Audio-Visual Production & Promotion Committee-Peter Youngblood, MMR Peter would be bringing the Piedmont Division AV-system to the SER Convention in Huntsville in June.

Name Badges & Photography - James Bando – James made one Division name badge during April.

Division Video Library - David Gelmini – David reported that he had nothing new to report.

Division Book Library - Stephen Leydon – Nothing to report.

Model Railroad & Division Help – Ovidiu Trifanescu – Nothing to report.

Outreach Committee – Brian Sandberg Brian submitted his April report by email. He has been in contact with Todd Williamson with the Roswell Public Library to coordinate an event in October in conjunction with the new modular group Country Railroads. He is still attempting to solicit additional member recruits to his committee.

Old Business

Payments to the Division – Joe Sullivan Joe was continuing to review an application for a PayPal account. There were some complications with bank accounts and the number of email addresses permitted and he will continue to work on this project.

Test Track for Division Peter Youngblood Peter reported that Brian Glock had made excellent progress on this project – the construction being essentially completed. Brian was awaiting donations of various power packs for the different gauge systems.

Division Survey – Joe Sullivan Joe was still working on preparation of the proposed survey.

Action List - Peter Youngblood Peter had submitted his updated Action Plan by email and reviewed some changes.

New Business

Appointment of Director of Operations – Peter Youngblood Following the sudden and unexpected resignation of Matt Coleman as Director of Operations, Peter had asked Walt Liles if he would fill this position. Walt had agreed to accept to fill this position through the remainder of the year. Peter therefore formally informed the Board of this new appointment. Peter also informed the Board that he would leave the decision of the remaining one year of the Director of Operation's two-year term to the newly elected 2017 Superintendent.

Approval of Funds for AP contest – Peter Youngblood Although Peter has the authority to approve expenditures up to \$100, he wished to formally inform the Board that he proposed that the Division approve additional funds for an additional prize for the recent photo entries requested by Walt Liles. This request was formally noted.

Garden Railway Society Request – Peter Youngblood Peter reported to the Board that he had received a request from Mr. Dan Alvero, Convention Chair of the Garden Railway Society, to use portions of the 2013 Peachtree Express tri-fold for promotional purposes. This was submitted as a motion by Norm Lundin and seconded by Alan Mole and was approved by the Board.

Timetable Deadline – Doug Alexander Doug informed those present that the deadline for submissions for the next episode of the Timetable was Friday June 10th.

Meeting Adjournment Jim Travis proposed and Perry Lamb seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Confirmed by acclamation and the **Meeting was adjourned at 6.40 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White, Director of Administration