

PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
May 11, 2010

Meeting called to order May 11, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Old Hickory House by Howard Goodwin, Superintendent.

Board Members Present as taken from the sign-in sheet (12): David Gelmini, Gary Jarabek, Howard Goodwin, Rick Coble, David Gilly, Scott Chatfield, Mike Deaton, Bill Zawacki, Charlie Crawford, Chris White, Bob McIntyre, Ovidiu Trifanescu

Absent (2): Scott Povlot, Joe Sullivan

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present as taken from the sign-in sheet (17): Perry Lamb, I.D. Jackson, Walt Liles, Ron Gough, Del Kittendorf, Diane Kittendorf, James Deaton, John Stevens, Jim Brown, Tom Banks, Jim Travis, William Smith, Joe Gelmini, Tyler Gelmini, Ed Laity, John Travis, Paul Voelker

Officer and Director Reports

Administration—Rick Coble

The April Minutes was approved.

Rick sent the revised set of proposed bylaws changes to the BOD for review and discussion. See *Old Business*.

In April Rick proposed BOD meeting minutes on the web. See *Old Business*.

Finance—Chris White

The April Financial Report was approved.

Chris distributed a copy of the April 2010 Financial report prior to the BOD meeting and included the following comments:

We received reservations and payments for Table Rentals at the 2011 Train Show.

We have purchased our third run of division layout DVDs. Chris recommended that the division designate a point person to take ownership of the DVDs and account for sales and expenses.

We incurred expenses for apparel, the Timetable, and the AV equipment used during the monthly division meetings.

Chris reports that the interest earned on division CDs remains very low.

As requested at last month's Board meeting Chris and Gary Jarabek recommend the immediate establishment of a "Building Reserve Fund." See *Old Business*.

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Operations—Charlie Crawford

Clinics are set for the remainder of 2010. Home layouts need one or two fill-ins to complete the year.

Norman Lundin's May clinic is on Burlington Northern diesels, not Norfolk Southern diesels as previously published.

Membership – David Gilly

April 2010 attendance was 111, including 2 visitors. 12-month meeting attendance average is 98; 24 month is 94.

New Members – 5, none with SouthErneR subscriptions. Four were Rail Pass memberships.

David distributed a copy of meeting attendance prior to the BOD meeting.

Committee Reports

Achievement Program—Bob McIntyre

Currently waiting on Bob Wheelers' Volunteer Certificate (have not received approval from National yet)

Charlie Millar, Submitted his SOQ for Structures

Peachtree Express— Bob McIntyre

Received approval for the updated Logo, received National's approval for Green Frog to have two booths at the National Train Show.

Member Aid— Bob McIntyre

No inquiries during April.

Advertising and Promotion/Division Apparel—Gary Jarabek

Advertising:

Monthly Meetings

Scale Rails submitted through October Issue

Railroad Model Craftsman submitted through October Issue.

Trains.com submitted through October 2010

Auction

Trains.com

Scales Rails: August

Railroad Model Craftsman: August

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Advertising and Promotion/Division Apparel—(continued)

Company Store:

There are only med and XL of old style short sleeve polo shirts left to sell. These will be sold at \$28.00.

New polo shirts in stock at the price of \$33.00, complete size range when new order of shirts is received.

Complete size range of long sleeve denim shirts. A new order has been placed.

There is 1 vest left.

Caps are also in stock.

Mugs will be distributed to new NMRA members.

Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini

Contract signed with Galleria for March 19-20, 2011, plus first deposit made.

Good and Welfare –Joe Gelmini

Congratulations - sent a card to Ovidiu Trifanescu on the birth of his baby girl.

Timetable-Rick Coble

Q3 Timetable deadline (June 9) has been sent to regular contributors via e-mail.

Rick asked committee chairs interested in promoting their committee to prepare an article for the Timetable.

Asked that requests of additional copies for division events be sent prior to the deadline. This will enable us to have an adequate supply on hand.

Website-Scott Povlot

April 2010 Total page requests: 8,074

Scott included a document showing web trends back to January 2008.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program-John Stevens

On April 17th, the division held a Railroading Merit Badge Program at the Southeastern Railway Museum.

33 scouts earned their merit badge during this session, with 412 to date.

John has ordered replacement locomotives and will order new freight cars before the next session.

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Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (continued)

The fall session is scheduled for September 25th.

James Deaton spoke to the BOD concerning his Eagle Scout project, the construction of a storage shed at the Southeastern Railway Museum in Duluth for the Division switching modules used during BSA merit badge clinics. Because the division holds two clinics each year at the museum, the storage shed will eliminate the need to haul the modules to the museum.

Construction is scheduled for July.

Project paperwork has been submitted to the council for review and is expected back soon.

James asked the BOD to assist with funding for the project. He will also make a request for funds at the general meeting. James is just beginning the fund raising portion of the project. To date, he has raised approximately 10% of the total from personal funds.

David Gelmini made a motion for the BOD to provide financial assistance to James to build the shed. Bob McIntyre suggested that the BOD makes up any difference after other funding sources, including the general membership, are exhausted. James can come back to the BOD next month for additional funds, based on the outcome of this month's fund raising efforts.

David Gemini's motion was seconded and passed by the BOD. The Piedmont Division Board of Directors will provide funding towards the construction of the storage shed at the Southeastern Railway Museum.

Name Badges-Bill Lyons

We expect to deliver thirteen additional badges at the May meeting. There will also be a more complete request form available at the meeting for members who have not requested badges.

Hopefully soon we can work out a web presence and request process. Elsewhere suggestions for a lanyard are being considered.

Facilities - Alan Mole

Alan Mole has received a breakdown of membership by city and zip and is working on a visual presentation of member location and concentration.

Chris White and John Travis will assist Alan on the committee.

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Old Business

Marketing DVD Video - Peter Youngblood/Bob McIntyre

Peter Youngblood has been working with Green Frog Productions on a Marketing DVD/Video which promotes the 2013 Convention. Green Frog Productions agreed to assist with the production of the DVDs for two booth spaces at the 2013 National Train Show.

Bob McIntyre reports that National has approved two booths for Green Frog Productions at the National Train Show. Bob has sent a follow up letter to Green Frog Productions concerning the booths.

Division Layout DVDs - Alan Mole

Chris White recommended that an individual take ownership of the sale of layout DVDs. As a follow up, Howard Goodwin reported that Alan Mole has agreed to assume this responsibility. Alan will market the DVDs and account for all sales and expenses.

Wireless Microphone System - Charlie Crawford/Bob Wood

Both a handheld microphone and a headset with microphone are available.

The Board of Directors approved the purchase of the Shure Wireless Microphone System with a handheld microphone to be used at the division meetings.

Ovidiu Trifanescu will investigate other options, including lapel and hands held microphones. In addition to a requirement of compatibility with our existing system, it must not be affected by interference from the radio tower outside of the Elk's Lodge.

Division Assets - Chris White

Chris White spoke with our accountant concerning division assets. We are required to list all assets. Chris will begin the process of identifying and cataloging all division assets.

Raffle Layouts 2011 and Beyond - Howard Goodwin

The Division is looking for groups to commit to building the raffle layout in coming years. The goal is to have a group commit more than one year out, hopefully minimizing last minute push to complete the layout.

The Board of Directors approved the purchase of Steve Berkheimer's HOG layout to be raffled at our 2011 Model Train Show.

The layout will be complete, with the exception of the Digitrax command system. Digitrax has generously donated systems used on previous raffle layouts. The Division will approach Digitrax about donating another system.

The completed layout will enable the division to begin selling tickets well before the Train Show.

The Chattahoochee Express operating group will build the 2012 layout.

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Bylaws Changes - Rick Coble

Rick Coble sent the next set of proposed bylaws changes to the BOD for review and discussion prior to the May BOD meeting.

Rick Coble and Howard Goodwin were contacted about adding a policy concerning "guests" to the bylaws.

The Board of Directors agreed that we should discuss the addition of a policy to our bylaws. Rick will draft three example policies, solicit feedback, and introduce one to the BOD next month.

Because of the addition of the guest policy, the BOD is scheduled to vote on all proposed changes in June.

Facilities - Chris White/Gary Jarabek

As introduced in April, Gary Jarabek and Chris White introduced a resolution to establish a reserve fund for the facilities committee:

- The Board of Directors of the Piedmont Division of the NMRA hereby resolves that the Division will establish a Reserve for the lease, construction, or purchase of a facility to accommodate the growing needs of the Piedmont Division.
- This Facility Reserve will be included as a line item on the Division's balance sheet. The Board of Directors will periodically review this Line Item and may make changes to the reserve amount as they deem necessary.
- This resolution represents general approval by the Board for the concept that the Division needs a new facility in order to provide for potential membership growth and additional membership benefits that may be provided by a new facility.
- This resolution does not approve any expenditures or the commitment of any expenditures by the Facilities Committee without prior approval of the Board of Directors, but does give the Facilities Committee the general intent of the Division in order to assist the Committee in its preliminary studies and negotiations.
- This resolution is a natural follow-up of the Piedmont Division Long Range Plan dated September 2008, and the Revised Mission Statement approved by the Board in early 2009, which clearly directs the Piedmont Division's long-term objective to acquire a new facility for its members.
- Another important purpose of this resolution at this time is to provide impetus to the process of obtaining a new facility, which has clearly been lacking since the publication of the Long Range Plan in 2008, and during a period when the price of commercial real estate in the Atlanta area has been at an all time low.

Mike Deaton questioned the timing and need for the resolution. No money is being spent, only reported as a separate line item on our financials.

Scott Chatfield said that the change in our financials will help our division in the eyes of the IRS.

David Gelmini seconded the resolution. The resolution was passed establishing a reserve for the lease, construction, or purchase of a facility to accommodate the growing needs of the Piedmont Division.

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BOD Minutes on the website - Rick Coble

Rick Coble proposed posting abbreviated BOD minutes on the website. Rick received feedback concerning posting BOD meeting minutes on the web, specifically especially financial and the depth of detail.

Rick will distribute a set of website minutes for the May 2010 meeting to the BOD for comment and revision. He will work with the web team to publish the final version on the website and announce the change to the general membership.

Boy Scout Program - John Stevens/Howard Goodwin

Continued from the April meeting. John Stevens has been contacted by the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw about conducting a merit badge program at the museum.

At this time, John does not have the time to manage additional programs at a new site. He has volunteered to work with the individual managing the second program until any kinks have been worked out.

The BOD discussed the opportunity to expand our program and needs additional details before proceeding.

Howard Goodwin will contact the museum concerning the program.

New Business

Contribution to National

Tom Banks addressed the BOD about making a financial contribution to the NMRA.

The Board did not choose to make a contribution to the NMRA. This matter may be visited again at any time.

The Meeting Adjourned 6:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Coble, Director of Administration