

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
4<sup>th</sup> Division, PNR, NMRA  
February 14, 2010

*Attendees:* Jim Byerley, Supt. Dennis Hill, Ed Liesse, Jeannie Melvin, Doug Bulger, Mike Slease, JJ Johnston, Walt Huston, Cliff Green, Sherman Stevens, Al Lowe, Frank Dekker, Ed Ives.

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Supt. Dennis Hill. There being no additions or corrections to the minutes of the last meeting, a motion was made to approve them. Motion Carried.

Sherman Stevens gave the treasurer's report, and after some discussion a motion was made to approve it. Motion Carried.

The results of the Pacific Science Center show were given by Frank Dekker. Attendance was down a bit from last year, being a little over 14,000 people in three days. He described the train display case he now is storing, and suggested cutting it in half for ease of carrying. He also wants a place to store it permanently. The case is open, but Frank said for about \$250 we could get Plexiglas for the front. If the 4<sup>th</sup> Division wants to keep the case it should be covered. Everyone agreed we need to keep it, as it is a great place to showcase trains. The PSC is also discussing the possibility of the 4D having a permanent display there, and the case would be good for that purpose.

Dennis said we signed up eight new members at the show, including two students. He also signed up Rob Jones who will be the new membership chairman.

We currently are storing about 20 concrete piers, left over from the Trains, Trains and More Trains show, in the PSC, and they would like us to move them. They are made to hold signposts. Frank wanted permission to sell them, and the board agreed. There are also some signs left from the TT&MT show, and they can be used at the regional convention next September. (The 4D is hosting the Pacific Northwest Region convention in Lynnwood in September.)

Frank also suggested that the modular groups might like a place to set up, store, and work on their modules. He pointed out the number of malls with lots of vacancies, including Totem Lake, Crossroads and Factoria.

Group reports were led off by Ed Ives of the Hi-Railers Group. They were at the United Northwest Show at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe and were voted the Children's Favorite Layout. They plan to show in Portland later this year, and at the Washington Homeschool Association (WHO) show at Puyallup in June.

Al Lowe reported for the 4dNTRAK group, who also attended the Monroe show, running point-to-point operations rather than a closed loop. Adults seemed enthusiastic about it and three people are interested in membership. The group also displayed the layout at the Washington State

History Museum for eight days at Christmas and New Year's, where the yard held a record 740 cars and 79 locomotives. 4nNTRAK also plans to attend the WHO show in June.

JJ Johnston reported the last Eastside Get-Together featured Todd Gamble with a demonstration of how to model water. The attendance was a record 58 people. The group also raised \$670.00 which they donated to the church where they meet, to be used for needy families.

The HO Group was represented by Mike Slease, who said they were at Tacoma over Christmas and Monroe in February. They got a new yard last summer, and he said it works great.

At the PSC show, two members were involved in an accident near the loading dock, and there was discussion as to whether the 4D/NMRA insurance should cover it or the insurance of the individual drivers.

Cascadian International 2010, the PNR convention this fall, has already got 30 people signed up to give clinics, and about 15 more are considering it, according to Jack Hamilton, clinic chairman. This information was passed on by Dennis, who also said Jack wants a second room for clinics. There will also be a model contest, a photo contest, and a display (diorama) contest.

Al Lowe, with the assistance of Cliff Green, Doug Bulger, and Mike Slease, gave a presentation regarding the future of the Grab Iron. At this point we have less than 50 people in the division who subscribe to the printed GI, and we lose about \$16.00 on each copy we send. Al proposed that we make the GI available as a blog, pointing out that then it would be kept in real time, rather than news being a month or so old. He said the four of them would go to groups and clinics to show them how to set up and use their own blogs. The advantages of presenting the GI this way include saving about \$2700.00 a year on printing and mailing costs; we could potentially attract a larger group of younger people interested in becoming members, news would always be fresh, and there is no cost for a blog.

Discussion of the suggestion included pointing out that the yearly ballot for board member positions would still need to be mailed to every member of the division. Also, the by-laws would need to be appraised and revised. The hope is to be ready by September. Sherman made a motion to proceed with what is needed for implementation of a web-based electronic GI. Motion Carried.

Dennis said we will have a Spring Meet in 2011 and we should all be thinking about when and where.

The ballots to vote on two board positions will be mailed by April 1<sup>st</sup>, and will include a vote on whether the GI should become an online publication.

The date of the next meeting was changed to May 15<sup>th</sup>, one week later than originally scheduled. It will be at 1:00 p.m. at the Yankee Grill in Renton.

A motion was made to adjourn at 3:16 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Melvin, secretary, 4<sup>th</sup> Division