

MINUTES

Board of Directors' Meeting

4th Division, PNR, NMRA

March 03, 2012

Attendees: Jeannie Melvin, Stu Rogers, Ed Ives, Ed Liesse, Ken Liesse, Walt Huston, Jim Merriam, Rob Jones, Rod Kirsch, Sherman Stevens, John Salzetti, Frank Dekker, JJ Johnston, Al Lowe.

Supt. Ken Liesse called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by the attendees and a motion to accept them as amended was seconded and approved. The minutes of the eMeeting were read and a motion to accept them as written was seconded and approved.

Treasurer Sherman Stevens gave his report. A motion to accept the report as written was seconded and approved.

Committee Reports

Pacific Science Center Show

Frank Dekker reported on the Pacific Science Center Show (PSC). The PSC reserved some on-street parking this year for trailers for the groups. This generally worked well. The snow storm on Saturday affected the Sunday and Monday attendance, and he will get a breakdown from the PSC on attendance figures for each day from past years. The load-in/out went very well. We received \$10,000 for the show and there were about 12,000 in attendance.

Next year's show may be affected by the King Tut exhibit but dates are uncertain. Frank said he will talk to the PSC people to get a better handle on future planning in general and next year in particular. Some of our exhibitors come from a distance and many need to plan well in advance.

Hi-Railers

Their next show will be the Washington Home Schoolers convention at Puyallup in June. They went to Portland on February 25 and reported good attendance with lots of kids, who were allowed to run trains. They did not have the planned membership promotion module yet, as the video viewer was broken.

N Scale

The Monroe show went well, with joint operations with the Mt. Rainier group. The layout was about 40' x 70'. The 4DNtrak will go to the Freighthouse Square show in Tacoma in May.

Video Library

Stu Rogers reported that quite a few more people have been checking out videos.

Spring Meet

Al Lowe has a proposal prepared for the basic time schedule for the day. The meet is going to be on June 2-3 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Issaquah. Cost will be \$20 per person, which includes morning coffee and afternoon snacks. Lunch will be on your own, and there will not be a banquet. Saturday will be clinics and the annual 4th Division general membership meeting. There will be photo and module contests also. Sunday will be open houses for layouts around the area. More details will be posted on the 4D website.

HO Group

The group has formed an executive committee to conduct the business of the group. This means the Saturday meetings can be devoted to trains and learning rather than discussion and decision-making by the entire group. This is working well so far.

New Business

New group

Rob Jones proposed supporting a new N scale group that has been formed. It will be called OmNi-Rail and will have different standards from the current NMRA N scale. All members will be required to be NMRA members and the group would like to be funded by the 4D. They have already had one meeting and have will set up standards and by-laws in the future meetings.

Comments on the proposal included being more up-to-date and in line with today's technology and equipment. Standards for realism can be higher. Because of the module requirements being simpler, it will be easier for new modelers to join.

Some attendees were concerned about supporting the group 100% financially, and others said if they were given the same financial support the current 4dNtrak group receives they would be okay with that. There was feeling that a new group might be divisive and not a good thing. Other attendees felt that the expansion would be good for the division, and would potentially increase membership.

Ken asked if it could be a subdivision of the current N scale group, but Rob said no, it is a totally new group with different standards. Sherman moved to recognize OmNi-Rail as a new group and include them in the budget for next year. The motion was tabled, and the group will put together a budget request which they will present at the next meeting.

New idea

An idea to help needy kids with their modules was presented. It has already been implemented in Tacoma. There is a collection can on the counter of the participating hobby shop(s) and all the funds are distributed by the owner of the store to kids they have identified as being in need and being interested in model railroading. The money is disbursed in the form of store credit, so each donation stays in the store. George, of Tacoma Trains, has already gotten \$165 and given it to five kids. The kids are required to write a Thank You note, and he sent us two.

Rob said he will talk to Wanda at Seattle Train Center, JJ will talk to the Inside Gateway, and Stu will contact Olympic Models. Any member can recruit a hobby shop to participate.

It was thought that the 4D should contribute also, and it should be a line item in the budget.

Unfinished Business

New Members Welcome Packet

Ken said the new packet will be emailed to each new member first; if there is no email address the packet will be sent via US Mail.

By-laws and Executive Handbook

Ken said this document is now finished and will be voted on at the general membership meeting in June. It will be posted on the website and will also be sent to group leaders for review with their groups.

Miscellaneous

JJ noted that Max Maginess has recently had an article published nationally, and thinks we need a way to publicize such efforts. Al said just let him know and he will put in the Grab Iron (GI).

The Narrow Gauge convention being held this fall wants to be covered by NMRA insurance. Ken said he will check with NMRA for more information, but he believed the principles who are running the convention must be NMRA members to be insured.

We were reminded to sign up for the joint regional convention being held in Medford in May, Siskiyou Summit.

Ken said we need a nomination committee and a ballot committee, since there are two board positions that are open this year. JJ Johnston is up for re-election and is being opposed by Bob Beise and Ken Liesse is also up and is being opposed by Rob Jones.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m. The next meeting is June 2 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Issaquah at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie Melvin, Secretary