

MINUTES

Board of Directors' Meeting
4th Division, PNR, NMRA
February 23, 2013

Attendees: Ken Liesse, Ed Liesse, Jean Melvin, Rob Jones, Alex Brikoff, Frank Dekker, Jim Merriam, Sherman Stevens, Al Lowe, David Yadock, Russ Segner, Ethan (Stu) Rogers, JJ Johnston, Rod Kirsch, John Salzetti.

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

A motion was made to accept the minutes of last meeting; it was seconded and passed.

Officers' Reports

Superintendent. Ken said he would report later in the meeting.

Asst. Superintendent. No report

Secretary. Nothing to report.

Treasurer. Sherm Stevens presented the current budget and bank account report. A motion was made to accept the report; it was seconded and passed.

Committee and Program Reports

Hi-Railers Modular Group. John Salzetti is moving to Arizona. This will leave very few active members of the group, and John proposes to sell his modules. There was a discussion later in the meeting and John gave out a list of all the items included. Questions brought up included where to find buyers and what will happen to the group. Stu said the items might be stored in the same rented space as the library materials.

JJ made a motion that the 4D will buy the modules if the Hi-Railers are a viable group, will commit to going to shows, and will appoint a caretaker for the equipment. The motion is contingent upon a meeting of Ken and the Hi-Railers and their agreement. The motion was seconded and passed.

HO Modular Group. Frank Dekker said they are having regular meetings, which run more smoothly now that they have a good steering committee. They are looking for a place to set up for one day to have an operations (ops) session. Ken suggested they might rent a space for a weekend: one day for ops and one day with the public invited, possibly charging a small entrance fee.

NTrak Modular Group. Al Lowe reported the group ran trains at Puyallup in December, then went directly to the Christmas show in Tacoma from there, followed by the PSC in January and Monroe in February. They realized that the large yard is outdated and they are now thinking of designing an actual yard on the outside of the layout. This would allow prototypical yard operations. They are also rethinking how to store all the current modules in the trailer.

OmNiRail Modular Group. Rob said the new group went to PSC and Monroe. They now have their first module and expect to have six to eight by fall. Jim Merriam said they want to get into the Washington State Home Schoolers show if they can. He also reported that the Northwest United N scale group that sponsors Monroe is looking at possibly changing the date of the show to sometime in April. With so much going on in December and January, the current February date is not optimum, while there is usually not much going on in April and May.

PSC. Frank Dekker said they are working with the Science Center to provide benches for kids to stand on to see the layouts. The small stools don't work well. The center had good parking available again this year. The PlayMobile exhibit returned this year; this is a popular one with kids. David Yadock is transitioning into helping with the PSC show, as Frank is resigning from the committee. The current members, Jeff and Rob, will continue.

Communications Committee. The old name Publications has been changed to better reflect the current electronic society. Ken reported on the use of Constant Contact, which is used by the NMRA to get the same information to all groups. It is now available at the division level and Ken will use it to communicate to the division. Jack Hamilton is already successfully using it for communicating with the Pacific Northwest Region.

Education. Alex Brikoff is considering taking on the position as the new chairman of the Education Committee.

Membership. Rob Jones had nothing to report.

Unfinished Business

Bremerton Northern group is a 100% NMRA membership group, but the president, Rob Benson, did not understand they must also be a modular group, and cannot charge dues if they want to be considered for funding from the 4D. They had previously asked for money from the division.

Russ Segner says the Spring Mini-meet is scheduled for May 18, although the location has not been determined at this time. He is working with Al, Sherm, and Ken on where to hold it and how to attract a larger audience. There will be the annual 4D membership meeting as well as several clinics and layout tours. The scheduling of clinics was discussed, as everyone wants to be able to attend as many as possible. How much to charge the members and the public was debated; possibly \$10 for members and \$15 for the public; this would include a six-month Rail Pass for each non-member.

Ed said the meet needs to be two days: one for clinics and the meeting and one for layout tours. Russ said the clinic presenters may not want to stay for a whole day in order to present their clinic twice. He also said we have the equipment for PowerPoint shows.

Russ was formally appointed chairman of the show. We need a publicity person and someone to co-ordinate the layout tours. Jim volunteered to be part of the DCC panel of presenters and it was suggested Dave Kreidler may be willing to participate also. Alex pointed out that handicap accessibility needs to be mentioned in the program and publicity. Sherm moved to add \$2000 to the Spring Meet budget; the motion was seconded and approved.

Ken adjourned for a break at 2:50p.m. The meeting resumed at 3:02p.m.

Elections. Stu and Al's terms are ending and both agreed to run again. Since Assistant Supt. John Salzetti is moving, that position will be open. Rob Jones will run for the position. Ed will be head of the nominations committee.

New Business

The idea of creating a long-range plan for the division was brought up. It should be five to ten years in scope. We also need a repository and a flume for the ideas members have. Board members need to bring ideas to the next board meeting.

In other business, there was a discussion of the reasons for the general decline in membership from the national to the local level. It was pointed out service organizations across the country have declined in membership. The NMRA president is looking to the regions and divisions for ideas on how to run national.

It was suggested that we might support **SoundRails 2014**, a weekend of operations by the Op-sig group. Tom Enloe heads this.

We might look into virtual railroad groups: how would we incorporate them? How can we use YouTube more? The NMRA has a YouTube channel and we could post clinics but we must pre-plan carefully.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed and the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m. The next meeting is April 27 at 1 p.m. at Mitzel's in Kent.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Melvin, Secretary