

Meeting Minutes for 4D Board Meeting (09/21/2024)

Attendees

Lou Davis, Kurt Laidlaw, Russ Segner, Dennis Terpstra, Edwin Ives, Lee Marsh, Byron Osborn, Magnus Christerson, Larry Sloan, Burr Stewart, Mike Stepner, Alex Brikoff, David Yadock

Call to Order: 10:05 AM

The team discussed various topics including the need for an update on accumulated materials, and the challenges of managing a small group with diverse topics. They also discussed the National Convention in Tacoma scheduled for 2027, the declining attendance at conventions, and the potential of offering a discounted membership for a longer period. Lastly, they discussed strategies to engage more people, particularly children, in their activities, the need for new training materials, and the potential of utilizing individual initiative and creating a brochure listing their clinics and events.

Agenda amended to include discussion topic from Magnus and approved.
Minutes of last meeting approved.

Committee Reports:

Office manager: Byron reported we have 448 total members with 3 new members. He sends out welcome letters to each new member.

Layout Tours: Burr Stewart discussed planning of second Saturdays starting again in October with a presentation by Kevin Wills. Lee and Burr discussed potential presenters and layout tours. They considered archiving recorded videos on YouTube due to website size limitations.

Discussion about needing to update the officer list on the 4D website (Action for Anton). Magnus reported that there is now a weekly telecon to keep the calendar updated on the website. Modular group leaders need to ensure that upcoming train shows are added to the calendar as well.

Achievements: Dave Yadock reported things were slow over the summer, but it looks like Bill Cripe is close to getting his MMR.

Clinics

Kurt noted that the Tacoma Clinic has stopped in-person meetings due to lack of participation. There was no September meeting and Kurt hadn't heard from Kevin since he returned from vacation. Russ reported struggling to find a suitable East Side location. Until they can find a venue, clinics will continue as virtual only. Bob Stafford has been video recording the Mt. Vernon clinics.

Modular Groups

Ed Ives reported the High Railers had an issue with the PNWRM in Snoqualmie running trains on the Lionel layout. The museum said they were going to pull out the Lionel layout. High Railers will not be participating in the Washington History Museum train show in December. Too many days and not enough members to run trains. 4D NTRAK plans to attend shows in October and around the holidays. Kurt announced donated modules available for the 4D track group and proposed a wiring workshop.

Freemo is going to have some Canadian members bring modules to the Lynden show. ETE sent in a report that is available on the 4D board io group site. Magnus reported they are working with Robin to become a 4D PNR sponsored group. Mike congratulated Magnus on getting the ETE Achievement Award.

National Convention Planning and Financial Terms

Magnus and Robin have prepared a term sheet for financial details, which the NMRA board has requested. However, the term sheet hasn't been sent to the board yet. There was a detailed discussion among the board members on how to proceed given the apparent lack of response from National. Kurt suggests not proceeding with the convention without the board's acceptance of their terms within the next couple of months due to lack of support and potential financial losses. Magnus believes they would likely proceed if the proposed term sheet is approved by the board. The team agreed to continue moving forward with the term sheet, with Mike being added as a signatory, and highlighted the importance of directors and officers insurance. Russ proposed a future meeting at a local hotel for a lunch and discussion session, emphasizing the need for face-to-face interaction and new participant engagement

MOTION: Magnus & Robin will send the 4D PNR term sheet for the 2027 National Convention the NMRA Board of Directors with a requirement that the national board respond by November 15 or 4D PNR will retract their proposal to host the 2027 convention in Tacoma. Moved by Dennis Terpstra and seconded by Ed Ives

Managing Donated Items and Inventory

The team discussed the management and organization of donated items, particularly those from a recent event at Boeing. Mike suggested selling or repurposing some items, while Russ emphasized the need for organization and pricing before the next event. Mike offered to help with organization, and Kurt pointed out that the issue was not limited to Russ's items. The team agreed on the need to consolidate and manage these items more effectively. They also discussed managing and selling their excess inventory, primarily model trains and related items, considering options like selling to resellers or participating in trade shows. The team decided to meet on October 12th to further discuss the inventory and potential sales strategies.

Regional Modeling Project and Membership Strategies

The board discussed the upcoming regional Modeling with the Masters project, approved by the PNR Board. They agreed on the need to find a venue, instructors, and students for the training sessions. The team also discussed strategies to attract younger people to their organization and retain existing members, with a focus on hands-on experience and interactive elements. The potential of offering a discounted membership for a longer period was also discussed. The team agreed to include these topics in the next board of Directors meeting on May 18th.

Engaging More People in Model Railroad Activities

The team discussed strategies to engage more people, particularly children, in their activities. They considered giving away free items at shows and allowing kids to operate the layouts. The team also discussed the importance of updating the Grab Iron with new information about their projects. They

discussed the need for workshops and mentorship programs for new members in the model railroading community. However, they expressed concerns about the lack of response from members to their initiatives and the difficulty of finding time and suitable locations for these programs. The team agreed on the importance of these initiatives but acknowledged the challenges they face as volunteers. They also discussed the need for strategic planning and focusing on a few marketing issues to make their efforts more effective. The idea of creating brochures for train shows was also discussed.

New Training Materials and Zoom Solutions Discussion

Byron expressed a need for new training materials. Kurt offered to collaborate with Byron on creating a new brochure listing 4D clinics and events. Magnus mentioned potential matching funds from the NRA for retention activities. The group discussed using individual initiative, printing a brochure, and creating a story about the club's activities. Dennis mentioned plans to print 500 brochure copies. The conversation ended with a call for volunteers. Kurt purchased a Zoom account to address difficulties with board meetings. The team discussed a long-term Zoom solution, considering utilizing existing accounts and addressing IP logging concerns. They agreed to have an ad hoc meeting before the Boeing swap meet.

Old Business for next meeting

- Magnus and Robin to update the term sheet with the 30-day condition and send it to the NMRA National Board
- Mike to sign the term sheet once accepted by the NMRA National Board
- Kurt to work with Byron on creating a new 3-fold brochure for the 4th Division
- Dennis to generate a story about the club's activities for the Grab Iron newsletter
- Larry and Mike to meet with Russ on October 12th at 9 AM to sort and price donated items
- Byron to explore options for printing new membership forms
- Kurt to update the NMRA/4th Division banner with current information and a QR code
- Mike to investigate the Lacey Parks facility as a potential venue for Modeling with the Masters
- Byron to continue efforts on setting up airbrushing, weathering, and decal clinics
- Kurt to organize workshops for newcomers in the Tacoma area
- Magnus to pursue the \$200 matching funds from NMRA for retention activities
- Larry to explore selling some donated items to the Electric Train Shop in Burien
- Mike and Dennis to discuss using donated items for teaching programs or giveaways at train shows
- Board members to contribute more content to the Grab Iron newsletter about their activities