

**Feather River Rail Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting – October 17, 2015 – 4:00 PM**  
**WPRM Meeting Room – Portola, CA**

Vice-President Steve Habeck called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

The following Directors were present

Eugene Vicknair  
Tom Carter

Kirk Baer  
Greg Elems

Charlie Spikes

Steve Habeck

**Attendance**

Mike Clawson – Big Fish Creations (left at 4:45 PM)  
Patty Clawson – Big Fish Creations (left at 4:45 PM)  
David Epling  
Bil Jackson (arrived at 4:10 PM)

Chris Allan – phone (item before Board) (left at 6:21 PM)  
Bart Hanson (arrived at 4:22 PM)  
David Elems (arrived at 4:22 PM)

**Correspondence**

- Received invitation to Winterail sales event. Since event has moved to Corvallis, OR, we will decline participation.
- Arch Insurance has served notice that they are no longer underwriting excursion insurance. This covered us on off-site rail operations. If / When we are allowed to do off-site trips again, we will need to source new insurance.
- Jay Headrick sent a handwritten letter praising Bart Hanson who gave his group a tour of the grounds.
- A-Bomb, regular canine volunteer and Furry Road Foreman of Engines has passed away.
- On behalf of Portola City Manager Robert Meacher, Patty Clawson reported that Mr. Meacher would like to assist with restoration of the Silver Plate and would like to provide his famous clam chowder during Santa Trains to benefit Portola Hungry Families / EPCANN.

**Consent Calendar**

Minutes of the September 2015 General BOD Meeting.

“Ken Finnegan” has been changed to Kenneth in the minutes.

Motion 15-10-01

Motion to approve minutes of September 2015 BOD Meeting.  
Spikes / Vicknair. Aye - 6, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0. Motion carries.

**Appointment of Department Heads and Committee Chairs**

Tabled to November.

**Old Business**

**Proposed Marketing Agreement**

Review proposal from Big Fish Productions for FRRS marketing.  
Continued from previous month.

Presentation by Mike and Patty Clawson of Big Fish Creations.

Reviewed marketing offer that was presented last month and additions to their offer.

Would like to start with a meeting with relevant persons to discuss plans and what the Society feels it needs, as well as suggestions from Big Fish.

Noted that upcoming events such as Santa Train and crossmarketing piece with City of Portola.

Document prepared by Harvard Community Partners was also reviewed by BFC.

Discussion among directors about goals and what marketing efforts would mean.

Vicknair, Carter and Habeck expressed support for this proposal.

Concerns about expenses over winter shutdown.

Discussed things we have done / tried in the past.

Elems expressed that the contacts and “footwork” that Big Fish could provide would be very valuable.

Noted that Big Fish is local company, has vested interest in the area and have the local contacts and knowledge.

Contract is a month to month, 10 hours per month at \$120 per hour. 30 day termination.

Question if we need to pause the contract if winter months are lean financially. Yes, it is in the contract that we can pause the contract and that will not affect relationship.

Meeting to kick-off the planning and marketing needs to happen soon and will be important.

Motion 15-10-02

Motion to approve the proposal by Big Fish Creations as presented last month.

Vicknair / Carter. Aye - 5, Nay - 0, Abstain - 1. Motion carries.

### **Proposed 2016 Events**

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Review proposals for fundraising events in 2016.

Chili Cook-Off

Preliminary budget and event overview provided for Chili and Beer Event proposed for May 2016.

Concern about alcohol consumption on property with running equipment.

Discussion of time limiting system with measured amounts of alcohol.

Pointed out that we pulled out of Dunsmuir Railroad Days in 2009 due to beer booth sales.

What is proposed here is tasting samples, not beer garden and sales.

Concerns with UP insurance and perception.

We have had wine tasting on property before with UP permission.

Suggestion to separate operations from beer tasting in time. Could stop train operations at 3 PM.

We would get Union Pacific's blessing on this.

Consensus direction given to further pursue the event and come back with detailed plans. Approval to work with Big Fish, microbreweries and chili teams on more detailed plan.

Pumpkin Trains

Found there are places that will provide free / discount pumpkins and places that will sell on site.

Suggestion we talk more about Pumpkin Trains after this Halloween.

Ideas about what to do for Halloween / Pumpkin trains.

Rail Events Inc. is doing Peanuts / Great Pumpkin trains.

Concerns about pumpkins out overnight to protect from bears and animals.

Car Convention visit in August 2016 is still in preliminary planning.

### **New Business**

#### **2016 Calendar Expenses**

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Approve printing cost for 2016 Historic Calendar.

Written plan presented.

Motion 15-10-03

Motion to approve expenditure of up to \$1000 from line item 53010 – Gift Shop Merchandise for historic calendar printing and shipping supplies.

Carter / Elems. Aye - 6, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0. Motion carries.

#### **Off-Site Board Meetings**

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Review continuation of off-site Board Meetings.

Discussion of future of off-site Board Meetings.

Suggestion that we have 1 per year.

Suggestion to locate them just in Roseville / Sacramento area.

Concerns about expenses for off-site meetings.

Original intent was to give members a chance to attend the meetings.

We are not getting the attendance at the most recent.

Suggestion that we put them on hiatus for 1-2 years.

Consensus to not have off-site meetings in 2016, tabled to September 2016 to reconsider for 2017.

#### **2016 Event Calendar Approval**

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Preliminary calendar presented.

Changes / additions requested.

Motion 15-10-04

Motion to approve 2016 calendar as presented.

Carter / Spikes. Aye - 6, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0. Motion carries.

## **Good of the Order**

### **Vice-President's Report**

- Written report provided
- Habeck has been talking to Union Pacific Special Agent about equipment privately owned by former member Doug Morgan stored in Union Pacific Yard.
  - Legal agreement that gave UP GP30 locomotive 849 to Morgan in exchange for Charles O. Sweetwood gives us ownership of equipment if he does not move it.
  - UP legal is now reviewing a last ditch proposal from Morgan to move equipment.
  - FRRS Legal Counsel has given opinion that equipment reversion to our ownership would be legal and solid.
  - UP will follow up with us on Monday concerning issue and we may need to move equipment onto property. Once on property, we are legal to cut locks off boxcar and secure all materials.
- Habeck met up with members of Truckee-Donner Rail Society concerning snowplow that they would like to store at our museum if they get donation. Concerns about height and width for high wide load.
  - Discussed storage agreement with them.
  - May allow plow to be open to public. We would discuss if that would mitigate storage fees.
  - TDRS would need to provide insurance.
  - Plow is equipped with archbar trucks and plain bearing axles. Will not move on rail.
- On September 3, we had a couple from Southern California use a credit card for RAL. 2 weeks later, the card was used illegally in Sacramento. One of our gift shop workers was suspected and an issue ensued between our two gift shop workers due to this. Worker was cleared by police, but due to issue with other worker, the one cleared has quit voluntarily. The other worker was reprimanded for their conduct.
  - Worker who quit has had frequent complaints against them for their attitude.
  - Opinion expressed that there are concerns with current staff in the gift shop concerning attitude and issues.
  - Gift Shop staffing to be placed on agenda for November for Closed Session.

### **Financial Reports**

- Reports and Financial summary provided.
- Financial reports provided.
- Review expenses for end of year: Building Payment, Legal Expense, Restoration Projects
- Discussion about need to pay off \$16,000 to attorney Dick Boyle for Silver Hostel litigation.
- Habeck and Treasurer McClure of opinion that we need to clear this expense.

Motion 15-10-05

Motion to approve \$16,000 to complete payment to Dick Boyle's former firm.

Spikes / Vicknair. Aye - 5, Nay - 0, Abstain - 1. Motion carries.

- Table discussion on building payment and 165 funds until November.

### **Director's Reports**

*none*

### **Event Reports**

*none*

### **Department Reports**

- *Mechanical* – verbal report. David Elems asked about status of operating equipment while he was done. Discussion about condition paperwork not being done properly. Is talking to supplier about traction motor brushes for Fairbanks–Morse loco. Working with Golden Gate Railroad Museum on bulk buy. GGRM is also looking to buy other motor brushes, recommended that we join them on purchase of some brushes we do not have spares for. Noted some old brushes he found in our stocks were removed with 80% life left. Also seeking other parts for F-M. F-M loco needs to move out of building by end of month to make room for welding work on WP 165.

- *Operations / Trackwork* – Slow order on balloon track due to needed tie replacement. Ethan Doty has volunteered to start working on that soon. FRA inspectors will be coming in spring to review the property with our track crew.
- *Steam / WP 165* – Welder will be coming November 1 to work on WP 165. He will be able to get into lounge and shower car. Report from Chris Allan: Steve Lee brought in crew from Wasatch Rail to do required TIG welding. That is now all done. David Elems and Bart Hanson made it back to museum during meeting with shop equipment donated by Chris Allan. Thanks to Bart and David. Boiler is getting further along. Welder coming Nov. 1 will be working on boiler and tube sheets. Will be on property for 2 weeks. Steve Lee is securing some needed parts for us. Eugene Vicknair is working on funds for 165 restoration. Golden Gate RR Museum volunteers will likely be busy in 2016 moving their collection. Lots of good work done this year. Looking to get tender sandblasted in 2016. Lumber for tender deck has been ordered and will be ready for pick-up soon. Would like another \$10,000 going into beginning of 2016. Gail McClure will be speaking to foundation in Reno about donation to the 165. Asked that 165 be moved over pit for welding work. Board thanked Chris for donation of the shop equipment.
- *Website and Marketing* – written report provided by Director Vicknair and new webmaster Paul Finnegan. Website management change, proposal for Marketing Department. Tom Carter has had discussions with Paul and Kenneth Finnegan and Eugene Vicknair to transfer website work to the Finnegans. He no longer has time to address the website directly. Board thanks Director Carter for all his work on the website over the years. Santa Trains has been added to iVolunteer software. Discussion of need to change POS and on-line store backbone software.
- *Fundraising* – written report provided. Grant update. Looking at grants for improving safety equipment.

### **Committee Reports**

*none*

### **Legal / Insurance Report**

*none*

### **Status of Surplus Property Report**

*none*

### **Safety Report**

- We now have two new pieces of shop equipment, people must NOT touch them until they are trained.

### **Public Comments**

- *David Epling* – asked if we are going to seek ways to recoup expenses incurred due to “frivolous” lawsuit over the election. Also, he and Bart Hansen removed equipment that was blocking handicapped parking and reset the signs.
- *David Elems* – He and Bart Hansen just completed trip to move shop equipment from Los Angeles. Swapped brochures with Laws Railroad Museum. Discussion about reimbursement for expenses for travel to get the equipment. Greg Elems will donate to cover any expenses over \$500 for the trip.

### **Notices**

*none*

### **Closed Session**

*none requested*

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at: 6:39 PM  
 Next meeting: November 14, 2015 – 1:00 PM  
 Location: WPRM Meeting Room - Portola, CA

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Eugene Vicknair  
 Secretary, FRRS