

**MINUTES: FRIENDS OF THE FRIENDS OF THE CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC RAILWAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2018 AT THE TABLE MOUNTAIN INN, GOLDEN, COLORADO**

**Meeting called to order at 8:30AM MDT, Bob Ross, Chair.**

Present: Bob Ross, Tim Tennant, Don Stewart, Warren Smalley, John Eng, Scott Hardy, Russ Hanscom, Bill Lock, Dan Pyzel, Caroline Tower.

Absent: Ed Beaudette, Jim Herron, David Ferro

Guests: Bob Reib, Bill Kepler, Tom Stuart, Craig McMullen

**Approval of Minutes:** June BOD and July, August and September EC Minutes. **M/S lock/Pyzel (U).**

**President's Report, Tim Tennant, President:**

Railroad/Commission

- The next Commission Meeting will take place on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> starting at the Chama village Offices. The normal HPCC meeting will take place on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> also in Chama.
- We're seeing a very robust fall color season and the weekend of September 29/30 was extremely busy with the Friends photo freight, the Galloping Goose, double headers plus preparing for an engineer/fireman school. Stephen Flowers served over 600 meals on Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup> and ridership is about 20% above 2017!

Friends Items

- Following up on the fall colors photo freight charter on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 30 and October 1<sup>st</sup>, comments above, went extremely well. The weather was excellent with 65 passengers riding on Saturday, 51 on Sunday and 46 on Monday. One hiccup on Monday was that K463 which was numbered #453 was taken out of the lineup due to its grates had fused together due to excessive firebox heat. K36 #484 doubled up the hill with #315; then #315 pulled the eastbound train to Antonito. We anticipate the Friends had a net profit of \$10,000 from the three-day event. Many thanks to Don Atkinson, Michael Allen, Bill Kepler and all our volunteers who made this a big success.
- We are exploring operation of a winter/spring Flanger/Jordan Spreader photo freight out of Antonito for the weekend of March 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This would be a high-end event with a capacity of 45 riders. We're working with Ed Beaudette on the logistics.
- November is the **Heritage Rail Alliance Conference** in Santa Fe. The dates are: November 7<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>. Friends have a booth at the conference in addition to our participation in a couple of seminars. It will be held at the LaFonda Hotel in Santa Fe. It appears the Friends will receive a *Significant Achievement Award* at the conference. Aaron Isaacs, who is the editor of the Alliance's newsletter mentioned he is assembling a slideshow to highlight some of our projects. We supplied him with a good batch of photos.

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- Albuquerque's annual model railroad show *Rails along the Rio Grande* will be held Saturday and Sunday November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at Balloon Fiesta Park in Albuquerque. The Friends will have table with Judy and Tim staffing it for the weekend. We hand out literature and have great success selling donated books and merchandise.
- Bob Ross and Tim Tennant are making plans for a Texas Member Meeting on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Cedar Park, Texas followed by a ride on the Austin steam Train. Friends member Bob Schoen is President of the Austin steam Train association and Ben Sargent is Chairman of the Board.
- Special thanks to Caroline Tower for drafting an excellent PNGPF letter which has been mailed to those members who did not contribute when the first letter was sent last spring.
- Speaking of spring, our annual Spring Board Meeting will be at Courtyard Marriot Journal Center in Albuquerque on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The banquet will be Friday evening March 15<sup>th</sup> with the Board Meeting on Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8:30AM.
- Our Dorman photo book "*Rails along the San Juan*" is selling well with a sales insert being placed in the upcoming Dispatch promoting the book just in time for Christmas shoppers! The price is \$40/each or \$45 if mailed to U.S. members if mailed from the office. We had 1,000 copies printed so we stand to earn approximately \$15,000 from these sales.
- WEBCAMS: Over time we've lost all of our advertisers, but we've taken in approximately \$4,000 to support them from individuals. We are more than keeping our head above water relative to revenue vs. expense. We post a gentle reminder from time to time on the forum asking people to contribute if they enjoy the cameras as there is a cost associated with streaming and hosting. The Brown/Rice report shows 23,600 views and 6,323 unique viewers!

Tim closed out his report by thanking everyone for their hard work and support throughout the past year. Three quarters of the way through the year we have had a very good year with a great deal of work being accomplished. Although we face challenges, we strongly address them and move on.

### **M/S Pyzel/Hanscom to accept (U)**

**Finance Committee Report:** President Tennant and Director Lock:

- Support and Revenue exceeds budget by \$101,647. This indicates giving and income has been strong through the first three quarters. Donations, Members Dues and Campaign Proceeds are the three main line items where we have exceeded budget.
- Expenses are under budget by \$40,260 which is very positive. Materials, tools and supplies make up \$28,466 of this. Thanks to John Engs and the Projects Committee for their good stewardship.

### **P.3 BOD Minutes October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Overall, we are in the red by \$71,872 as the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter begins.

#### **Impacts on third quarter financials:**

- Cost of goods (merchandise) in the amount of \$38,846 of which \$20,000 was the cost of the book "Rails across the San Juans" which we will get back as we sell the book, particularly with Christmas season coming up.
- Under Other Expenses- Equipment purchases and Construction/Renovation total \$34,300 which are currently expensed but will be capitalized at the end of the year.

Last year we entered the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter with a \$61,504 deficit but ended the year 12-31-17 with a profit of \$101,372. So, this is not unusual and based on historical tracking the friends will have a solid quarter to finish up 2018.

SORFA remains strong with an ending balance of \$429,329 but unfortunately our unrestricted cash position is \$69,903 in the red. As stated above, heightened membership renewals, the second PNGPF solicitation and end-of-year appeal will remedy this situation as it has in the past.

#### **M/S Stewart/Tower to accept (U).**

**Development Report:** Director Caroline Tower:

PNGPF- since inception contributions to the general operating category have been much greater than Major Restoration Projects by a factor of two to one (\$445,284 vs. \$220,274). That may be changing since donations to Major Restoration Projects from January of this year thru September are just the reverse at \$53,796 vs. \$22,998! In any event these represent excellent results.

Foundations and Grants: Foundations have been moving more and more to supporting social projects rather than bricks and mortar type restoration. We do have some prospects from two foundations; but no immediate results.

#### **M/S Stewart/Pyzel to approve (U).**

**Interpretation Report:** Director Ferro- no report; however, it was mentioned that there is a new sign on Terrace Ave. above the Chama yard that looks really great.

**Docent Report:** Chairman Bob Ross: We were successful in having a docent on every train. There are 40 docent volunteers signed up, and often overcame logistical challenges such as when the busses couldn't run because of weather, but the railroad did! Nevertheless, the docents were there. Consistency is the key. Many thanks are due to volunteer coordinators Rex Fockler, Joe Hartigan and Hank Morris. We also discussed ONCEL, the GPS cellphone guide used by the Railroad to reveal points of interest.

#### **M/S to accept Lock/Tower (U).**

#### **P.4 BOD Minutes October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

##### **Collections Committee Report:** Director Dan Pyzel:

The flatcar at Sandia High School will be returned to Chama. A crane has been lined up for the move and Russom Trucking has been retained for the move. Railroad trucks and new wood are on site.

We have found a source for the ¾ size Sharon couplers and knuckles.

##### **M/S to accept, Stewart, Tower (U).**

##### **Projects Committee Report:** Director John Eng:

The review of 2018 showed a big drop in attendance at the work sessions compared to 2017. This made us shorthanded for many session leaders and team leaders. There were 127 fewer registrations. Many of the reasons involved medical issues. Weather was a factor in some sessions and several people could not work multiple sessions as in previous years. Nevertheless 50 projects were completed or substantial progress achieved. A small sampling of ongoing and completed projects:

- Restoring 0252/470 Tourist Sleeper
- Stabilizing and repairing the Coal Tipple and Car Inspectors House
- Restoring Lava Pump House
- Restore GRAMPS Oil Loading Platform
- Reconstruct Drop Bottom Gondola Car
- Construction of "Lean to" Addition to Antonito CRF
- Restore/Reconstruct Period Cab for Engine 168 from Period Plans

John presented the draft 2019 projects list, which includes completion of a lot of projects, rolling stock, work at Cumbres Pass such as Cumbres Section House, roof on Lava Pump House, provide 12' walkway between trains at Osier, among many others.

##### **M/S Pyzel/Stewart to accept(U).**

##### **M/S Smalley/Lock to move into Executive Session 10:45 AM (U)- M/S Lock/Stewart to come out of Executive Session at 11:30 AM.**

Two personnel issues were discussed.

##### **New Business:** Directors Caroline Tower and John Eng:

Cook car Staffing: John Eng indicated that a problem is generating interest in finding someone to take overall responsibility. We're looking for someone to be present to receive bulk supplies from distributors on Thursdays before work sessions, organizing menus and cleaning out refrigerators before sessions. The difficulty is finding people willing to come in a few days before work sessions to organize.

## **P.5 BOD Minutes, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

Night Watchman's Shack: The Friends have refurbished and repaired it so it's available for two volunteers of limited means to reside in during work sessions. The discussion was on how to fairly choose people to stay in it. There was general consensus that Tim Tennant would draft a procedure to do this and the Board will review and approve at the March, 2019 meeting.

### **Planning session:**

Work sessions: General discussion on how to increase attendance at work sessions membership beyond all that we are doing now.

Some ideas Presented were:

- Waive the fee for young people and first-time attendees to register.
- Give certificates of achievement to participants
- Reach out to people in the building trades who are about to retire or just retired that would like to continue contributing their skills as participants in work sessions.

**M/S Lock/Pyzel to reduce first timer work session membership to \$25 and waive registration fee, via coupon given out by Docent's or Board Members (U).**

### **Vision and long-term plan for the Chama Facilities Discussion:**

- I. **What is our purpose and mission in Chama? How do we decide that! We know that:**
  - We are the museum arm of the Railroad i.e. interpretation, restoration, preservation agency.
  - Restoration of the Historic Fleet; rolling stock and structures including maintaining them.
  - Interpreters of physical assets thru-
    1. Preserving rolling stock and structures
    2. Docents
    3. Interpreting and explaining the lives of the people who lived it- their life styles of different occupations i.e. those who lived in section houses, etc.
- II. **What can we best do that would attract more members and attendees at work Sessions to support the Friends?**
  - A. Further discussion determined that a committee would be appointed to, among other things, develop a poll of all our stakeholders; Friends, RR Employees, Railroad Commission/Operator, residents of Chama and visitors/customers.
  - B. The Committee would determine what is needed in the way of equipment, facilities, infrastructure, personnel, and the best use of them.

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**III. Committee members selected were: Don Stewart, Chair; Ed Beaudette, John Engs, Tom Stuart, Bill Kerner, Mark Jennings, and Bill Lock. The Purpose of the Committee is to make preliminary recommendations to the Board of Directors, beginning with the March Board Meeting.**

This concluded the Board Meeting.

**M/S Lock/ Stewart to Adjourn, 2:30PM (U).**

Respectfully submitted

Warren Smalley, Secretary