

Friends of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad
Board of Directors Meeting – Colorado Springs

October 27, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:29 AM MDT by Don Stewart, Chairman

Present: Don Stewart, Chairman; Tim Tennant, President and CEO; Caroline Tower, Vice Chairman; Bill Kepner, Secretary, John Engs, Project Committee Chair; John Ferrell, Interpretation Committee Chair; Jim Herron, Nominating Committee Chair; Ed Beaudette, Scott Hardy, Bill Kepner, Ian Kelly, Tom Stewart, Dan Pyzel, and Wayne Huddleston. Not present Bill Lock, Founder. Members attending, Don Atkinson and Glen Bucher.

Minutes: Bill Kepner, Secretary

Previous Minutes

M/S Pyzel/Engs to approve the minutes for June BOD Minutes, and July, August, and September Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (**U**).

President's Report

Tim distributed a full report, but the following items were specifically discussed during the meeting

- The next Commission Meeting will be November 12 in Chama.
- Ed Beaudette reports it was a down year, ridership-wise. The delayed opening due to the fire danger was an impact, but then the Chama water problems really hurt the chance of a speedy recovery. After the weak start, things went pretty much on par. Financially, the railroad will be okay. Now transitioning to Capital Projects that are funded by state appropriations. The staff is working on next year's schedule that should resemble pre-COVID years.
- The recent railfan charter went well, and planning for another railfan trip in conjunction with the 2023 National Narrow Gauge Convention has begun.
- Simply Design produced a report of sources of recent membership joins that Tim supplied.
- Classic Trains members solicitation is now going out to approximately 5300 subscribers; the mailing contractor mixed up the materials with another mailing. They will be resending with corrections immediately.
- Tim has reserved two tables at the National Narrow Gauge Convention in September 2023 and Scott Gibs has committed that the railroad would be present. Looking to do some sort of presentation or seminar.
- The Dispatch Extra newsletter has proven to be popular, thanks to Ian Kelly.
- The Docents are to be thanked and provided a total 2400 hours worth of time. There were 40 total, with a couple of new ones this year. They spend the time at the railroad on their own dime.

- We will be staffing train show booths at Loveland in October, and at Plano, Texas in January.

Membership Report – Bill Kepner

- In the past year, we have 99 new members. We need to understand what attracted them to join. But in the past year, we lost 187 members, which seems to be a result of inflation, COVID, and general economic downturn.
- The new monthly newsletter should help keep us in there minds of our members. We will also try to restart the monthly Zoom presentations. Other organizations now offer sustaining memberships that automatically renew. Should we look at doing this? Other organizations have higher rates, but some offer free memberships to active volunteers.

Finance Committee Report – President Tim Tennant

- Bottom Line: We are in really good shape going into the 4th Quarter.
- Support/Revenues is \$47,514 over budget.
- Dues are down by \$28,755. Tim prepared a graph that shows dues in the 3rd quarter over the last 5 years, and this shows this year we are off by about \$20K. When renewing online, members now renew at the standard amount instead of adding extra as done in years past. But now they may make separate donations instead, and this year we are up substantially over the last two years.
- Expenses are under budget by \$82,968. Project-related items are under budget. At \$139,372 in the black at the end of the 3rd quarter.
- Cash balances with \$296,919 in Unrestricted and an overall balance of \$1,850,614. Typically we dip down in the 3rd quarter, after an active summer of projects. Then, in the 4th quarter, we come back up as members renew. This year seems to be stronger because of many generous donations throughout the year, going into the 4th quarter, we are in good shape.

Development Report – Caroline Tower

- Two graphs showing PNGPF donations from inception to present, and January 1, 2022, to September 30 were distributed.
- Since inception, \$1.8M brought in used for Major Restorations and Structures.

Interpretation Committee Report – John Ferrell

- HIC discovered a document by Nan Clark outlining education of the appreciation of the history railroad for school students. The committee would like to revive that in some fashion, perhaps promoting field trips for 5th graders in the local areas. Would include Docent-led tours to teach the history and impact of the railroad. Also working with Operation Lifesaver to present safety. Would make this is clear this is a Friends outreach-led initiative with support from the railroad. The railroad is in favor of this, and wants to balance this between Chama and Antonito, and have the proper amount of supervision of the

children. The hard part is communicating with the right people in the school districts.

- We will try to revive the Junior Engineer Program that will encourage pay attention and learn about the railroad instead play games on their the phone. Previously this program stalled because it was more of a load on the docents.
- The committee will also start a Virtual Education Program that could be available to schools across the county.

Collections Committee Report – Dan Pyzel

- The boxcar in Olathe, CO, D&RGW 3223, will be moved once the ground dries up enough to get a crane to it. The complete body is in excellent condition, but missing trucks, couplers, and everything else underneath. The owner donated it to the Friends since we will restore it to operating condition.
- The committee will do an inventory of all the cars on the railroad, and that will enable us to determine the long-term goal for a formal collection.

Projects Committee Report – John Engs

- Next year the work sessions will not be held in both Chama and Antonito concurrently; A, B, E, F, and G will only be in Antonito, and C and D will only be held in Chama. The 2023 draft schedule is available.
- This year we were able to work with the Boy Scouts for them to work on the trail projects. Next year, they want to come back, and planning for that has started.
- The work session online registration program should be completed and ready for use next year. We are currently working to integrate credit card payments, and once ready, we will have a testing period.
- Sharon McGee will be retiring from the Chronicling Charman position at the end of 2023. We will be looking for her replacement, and we will be upgrading the equipment to perform automatic uploading to the cloud.
- The footings for the Antonito CRF extension have been poured, and currently curing. After 60 days, construction can begin, depending on the weather. The completion is expected to be by May 1, 2023.
- The fall protection rails in the CRF will need a 10,000 lb load rating, which is too much to attach to the existing CRF structure. This will require a new plan to support the rails in the building, which the contractor is investigating.
- The proposal for the 163 Reefer to be painted in the Orange scheme is in progress, and it is desired for the Interpretation Committee to review the plan.

Executive Session

The meeting entered the planned Executive Session at 10:59 AM to discuss the ground rules for the Planning Session.

Bill Kepner, Secretary

William C Kepner