

Friends of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad

Board of Directors Meeting – Albuquerque

March 17, 2023

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:56 AM MDT by Don Stewart, Chairman

Present: Don Stewart, Chairman; Tim Tennant, President and CEO; Caroline Tower, Vice Chairman; Bill Lock, Founder; John Engs, Project Committee Chair; John Ferrell, Interpretation Committee Chair; Jim Herron, Nominating Committee Chair; Ed Beaudette, Scott Hardy, Ian Kelly, Tom Stewart, Dan Pyzel Collections Committee Chair. Present on Zoom: Bill Kepner, Secretary; Members Danial Dawson, Bill Beaver, Rick Lively, Melissa Sellers, and Kathleen Walser.

Minutes: Bill Kepner, Secretary

President's Report

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

- The Classic Train Membership solicitation number is up to 171, as we bought the mailing list for their readership in states around Colorado and west to California. This year we hope to target approximately 9500 readers in the Midwest and Great Lakes areas.
- The photo charters before the National Narrow Gauge Convention in August are sold out.
- Work Session registrations are starting to come in.
- Audit preparations are beginning.
- We will receive an estate gift from the Barbara Ingersoll Marital Trust in Colorado Springs, for an unknown amount. The Trust has a value of 4.5M being given to the Pikes Peak Community Foundation and we are one of 6 or 7 non-profit organizations that will receive disbursements over the course of the next several years. The foundation will develop procedures on how we would request funds. Tim has about 6 inches of files regarding this topic from the last few years.
- It has been proposed that the October meeting be held in Golden at the Table Mountain Inn, with the banquet being held at the Colorado Railroad Museum.

Finance Committee Report – President Tim Tennant

- Tim handed out a number of reports from the 2022 fiscal year bundled in the 14-page *Financial Report for 2022*.
- We finished up the year in great shape with good revenue and overall net profits.
- Line item 7930 in Other Expenses contains the expenses related to the new storage building in Chama and the CRF improvements in Antonito.

- Net Ordinary Income was \$243,969.
- A set of reports from February 28, 2023 include P/L that shows we are ahead of budget in the new year for revenue and under budget for expenses. At the end of February, net revenue was \$125,388.
- Our cash position at the end of February was \$422,053. For Line Item 1000, the Bank of Albuquerque account will be reduced by \$250K as a new CD at 4.25% was opened (in March) with the Sunflower Bank 1870 for 15 months.
- The SORFA Report shows ending assets of \$533, 092. Part of that, \$100K, came in from Ron Burkhart for the K37 #492 restoration.
- The last reports show the financial trends over the last six years for Total Revenue and Support, Donation Versus Member Dues that are mostly consistent and show how estate gifts affect the revenues. Total Assets versus Cash Balances shows how much of our assets are liquid; when we transferred Tourist Sleeper 470, that account showed a decrease in assets. The Projects Materials/Tools/Supplies Report shows that restoration costs have remained mostly constant over the years.

Development Report – Caroline Tower

- Caroline distributed a report with two charts, the first was campaign proceeds from its beginning to February 28 this year, that is almost \$2M. The report also shows where donations are directed.
- The second chart is Year-to-Date, with little activity because we have done little solicitations so far this year. We will be doing a solicitation in the next month or so and then another one in August.
- Major Restorations Projects is derived from those designated by the Projects Committee, and in the case of the Tourist Sleeper were combined from individual projects. This helps resolve issues with specific projects that were oversubscribed.

Interpretation Committee Report – John Ferrell

- The committee presented a report by Kathleen Walser and Melissa Sellers on the projects they are working on and detailed their mission of Document preparation, Exhibits and Signs, and the creation of an Educational Program.
- The Walking Tour Brochure has been updated. There was an assumption that this was not going to be printed again; as the posts for the locations in the yard are deteriorating. The Chama brochure is only available upon request and not in the information racks in the depot. Apparently, in the past, most of these were found in the trash and had been taken, and were not used.
- Motion: Continue printing and distributing the brochures **MS Lock/Stewart U**
- Signage, the committee will maintain the signs and posts for the brochures. The Projects Committee will create a project number for this.

- The Phone APP (TABB) has Geo Locations in the Chama Yard is available for download, Tours are available for Chama, Cumbres, Osier, Sublette, and Antonito. Testing will continue, especially along the whole railroad. There needs to be Dynamic QR Codes for easy download. Perhaps cards to can be handed out so the app can be downloaded afterwards since cell phone service along the line isn't good, preventing the downloading the app once the train leaves the originating station. Dynamic QR code subscriptions are \$15/month for mid-grade codes.
- The Sign Garden exhibit will contain signs along the railroad, project 1307. Delayed from 2022, it will be installed in Session C of this year.
- The Museum Car is in Chama but will be moved to Antonito. The car will be emptied for transport and be cleaned once in Antonito. Lighting will be improved. Want to make it handicapped accessible. Need to catalog contents.
- Movie Boxcar will have movies with content shot on the C&TS. The car needs to be repaired. We are considering using movie clips from some films. Ian will help obtain permission.
- The Education Program will include Field Trips for local 5th-grade students, a Junior Engineer Program for younger train riders, and a Virtual Education Program about the railroad.
- The Junior Engineer program will include a Scavenger Hunt for kids 5-18; a booklet is being developed containing multiple activities. When completed, the kids will receive a certificate, a patch, and a sticker.
- The Virtual Education Program will have a variety of topics focused on the C&TS. Would be virtual and downloadable. The committee needs to have research volunteers that can research topics of interest and can cite sources. There will be a copyright agreement so the Friends can use the work in the future without conflict. Videos would have non-exclusive rights.
- The railroad has been providing assistance and the docents have been involved in defining these programs.
- These activities will be tracked with Project #1395. and the committee can be contacted at education@fctsr.org.

Collections Committee Report – Dan Pyzel

- The boxcar 3233 is in Antonito and will be evaluated this summer.
- A forklift, built in 1963, that does run has been obtained for use in Antonito. It is being worked on in Alamosa. It can be used for lifting heavy loads but is restricted for use on our property. Should be back by May.
- Th 2629 Project in Albuquerque has the ability to make bearing Brasses for us.

Projects Committee Report – John Engs

- Projects meeting yesterday.

- Dulce Stockcars: An Elder for the Jicarilla Tribe has contacted the railroad about getting help to preserve these cars that have been in Dulce since the tracks were removed. Options have been presented, but no response yet. Three Options: Redo the two cars obtained from Oklahoma and trade for the cars. The second option, move their cars to Antonito, and do the restoration with the participation from the youth in the tribe. Third: Send any existing cars and return their cars to part out. Should the Friends be involved? This is at a standstill, until we get a response from initial contact. There has been contact in the past, but nothing ever came of that.
- Next Chama issue; The Rio Chama Campground won't open in 2023, and the other Chama campgrounds are almost booked. Will offer 3 projects in Antonito during sessions C and D. Bottom Line: We are in really good shape going into the 4th Quarter.
- Utilities to the Chama building are delayed since the Friends' Safety Council has bad ordered the backhoe, and it is not repairable. So we need to rent a backhoe, but the cost would be about \$1500/week.
- Car Inspectors' House at Cumbres: Completed wallboard in the building, fire retardant board needs to be on ceiling. The Beadboard being installed is 1/4" instead of 3/4". After completed the paint crew comes in to paint walls, floors, and ceiling. Then the Interpretive Committee needs to layout the building for visitor exposure. The electrical system will be low voltage for LED lighting. Once the Cumbres master plan is completed and signed by SHPO, then maybe we design and build an apartment for a docent on the upper floor.
- The doors are in place in the Chama storage building. Now we will start the construction of interior wall for the year-round heated paint storage room.
- Several wheelsets need to be replaced on charter train support cars. We will contract with Durango and Silverton to press new wheels on axles and get them to Antonito so they can be replaced before the charter trains in August.
- We have been seeing much more interest from potential new volunteers than in the last few years. Including a volunteer from Germany. Overall numbers seem to be average, but the vast majority of current registrations are for Sessions C and D in Chama.
- Lave Pumphouse: Doors covers have been cut from 1/4" steel and hinges have been attached with carriage bolts so they will appear to be rivets. Planned to be installed in 2024. Also need to install barriers to prevent 4-wheelers to drive into the area around building. Lava Tank will be restored by the railroad. Overall, the existing pipe up the mesa may be usable, but it is to be determined how much pipe needs to be replaced.

Discussion/New Business

- Wayne Huddleston has resigned from the board effective immediately. Our bylaws state we should have between 14 and 20 members on our board. Tim states there should be quality over quantity. There is no consensus on the exact number we should have. After Wayne's resignation, we have 12 numbers on our Board.

Sustainability Task Force

- This committee has consisted of Ed, John, Scott, Wayne, and Caroline. They looked at volunteer numbers over the last 5 years and there is a downward trend. But It doesn't appear there is a problem with getting the volunteers we need in the next 5 years. The more pressing need is leadership, especially during work sessions. Sometimes when a leader resigns, some on the team are no longer interested in coming.

Lunch

Social Media Report – Kathleen Walser

- When the Social Media work was started a little less than a year ago, there were about 1000 Facebook views a month. Now our reach is about 138,000 a month. We now have an Instagram account and those views vary from 20,000 to 62,000. Both focus a lot on „Reels“ (short, 30 second or less videos), and they drive much of our views. YouTube shorts do okay, and do better than long videos. We haven't figured out the algorithm but longer videos are harder to keep highlighted to viewers.
- Getting a lot of interaction and comments to our posts, and we have several members to participate in the discussions. Sometimes we see members joining because of this. We need to have better tracking of our results from all this hard work. We have a question on our membership form that is one source of information. But the overall effort appears to have a great effect on the Friends publicity. It appears we are enhancing our interaction with our members, so that is a good thing.

Membership/Trainshows – Bill Kepner

- The Magic number of current membership is 2185 as of this past Tuesday. The number of new members in last 90 days is 274. One possible reason for seeing a downward volunteer trend is that in the last two years the Social Security Full Retirement Age has gone up significantly, to maybe 66 and 8 months (from the traditional 65). Other organizations are seeing this having a big impact on getting new volunteers. That might seem like '2 years' are being stolen from people's lives.
- Trainshows: The Colorado Springs train show was very successful, and we didn't just throw out brochures; we tried to engage with people and talk about the railroad. Many said they really wanted to ride the railroad. The Denver show is in two weeks, we have a good set of members lined up to help.
- The National Narrow Gauge Convention has been slow in responding to questions; we get one free ticket, and anyone else wanting to help needs a full registration. This convention seems to be focused on modelers. Do modelers want to join the Friends? We have some members that came by that route in the past.

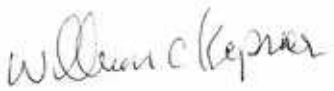
Communications – Ian Kelley

- A few videos have been added to the website, and some have been revised. We've found that sometimes questions are asked and we decide it's worth wild to add that information to the video. The most popular video has been "Volunteer with the Friends" which is linked from the front page of the website, with around 80 views a month and which has been downloaded at least 25,000 times. We need to promote the railroad and have that video is available. Will shoot more video content for that this summer.
- The Dispatch Extra is very well recieved. About 2/3 of those who receive it are opening the email. The hardest part of this newsletter is finding topics to write about. Sources are Commission Report, President's Report, Ian's imagination, etc. The next issue will come out by the end of the month.

Executive Session

The meeting entered the planned Executive Session at 12:30 PM to discuss planning issues.

Bill Kepner, Secretary



William C. Kepner