

**Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Inc.**  
**Executive Committee Meeting - Virtual**  
**Thursday, July 18, 2024**

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**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM MDT by Don Stewart, Chairman.

**Present:**

Don Stewart - Chairman	Bill Lock	John Ferrell
Tim Tennant - Ex-officio, non-voting	John Engs	Melissa Sellers
Caroline Tower		

**Absent:** none

**Minutes:** Melissa Sellers, Secretary

**II. President's Report – Tim Tennant**

- Next commission meeting is Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> in Antonito.
- Moonlight train will be on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, in just a couple days. Approximately 90 tickets sold.
- A variety of financial gifts were given during the last month.
- August 3<sup>rd</sup> has 52 people on the photo charter. There are 8 seats available.
- Tim will be out of the office July 19<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Fall meeting will be at the Radisson Colorado Springs Airport.
- Simply Design sent out an e-blast around July 4<sup>th</sup> to try to obtain a few more members. We have 2,533 email subscribers but 1,985 members. Are those other 500 emails part of family memberships (two emails for one family membership)? Are we losing members because some people have two individual memberships and then transition into one family membership? When people register, they sometimes change their email address and a new address may be added but the old one not removed. Three possibilities for multiple emails within the membership that may account for the difference in email subscriber vs member numbers.
- June's online memberships total 29, with 16 of them being renewals.
- Membership has dropped to 1985 members.
- Tim put an ad in the "Cowcatcher Magazine" to try to recruit more members.

**III. Financial Report – Tim Tennant**

A. Budget vs Actual:

- We have brought in more income Y-T-D than expected and we are under-budget on expenses, but we are now \$35k in the red overall (due to the fact that we budgeted to spend more this year than we expected to take in.)
- Donations are \$17k under what we expect Y-T-D, but campaign proceeds are \$10k more and grant income is \$9k more.

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- Line item 6290 is an expense for Thomas Moore (our headhunter for Tim's replacement) which was not budgeted because we didn't know we were going to use him at the time the budget was made.
- Line item 6200 – Computers and Software is \$13k over budget. This is because Salesforce and Accufund upgrades were expensive. Salesforce ProForms is an annual fee of \$6,300 and the Accufund online services are \$11,460 per year. These expenses were not properly budget for in 2024.

**B. Detailed Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet):**

- Not discussed.

**C. Cash Balances:**

- We have \$333k of unrestricted cash available, this is less than last year. Last year at this time, we had \$346k of unrestricted cash.
- Our total cash balance of \$1.158M is higher than last year (\$1.088M), so overall our cash balances are in a better position.

**D. SORFA (Summary of Temporarily Restricted Funds Activity):**

- Caroline suggested using the PNGPF Capital Fund money for the roof of the section house at Cumbres Pass.
- Work session support and major restoration projects could use some funds during our next PNGPF fundraising campaign.

**IV. Development – Caroline Tower**

- Reroofing of the section house at Cumbres is about a \$50k project. The building fits within the Gates Foundation Capitol Grant in Colorado. There is a September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Gates Foundation people aren't sure how competitive we would be because the foundation is looking at major new projects as opposed to preservation projects. However, Caroline is going to try to play up the generational aspect of railroad employees, the fact that nothing has been funded in the lower part of Colorado, and we can easily meet the 30% cash match. Last time we applied to them we were not successful was because of our ABQ address. December 1st is their decision date.

**V. Interpretation – John Ferrell**

- HIC is focusing efforts on the movie car.

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- The Osier depot has an uninvited guest; possibly a porcupine. John E. was able to get some liquid repellent to spray on wood to prevent it from being eaten up on the exterior of the building and on the interior displays (dynamite box).
- The Osier Depot has not been secured overnight on a couple of occasions, so it is possible that the creature was locked inside and tried to eat its way out.
- Tom S. is going to replace the door lock (or batteries), which isn't working properly.

## **VI. Projects Committee – John Engs**

- Dan Pyzel is going to transport registrations to the work session site for E & F.
- Scott informed John Engs that we have had no new registrations since June 26<sup>th</sup>, which is unusual for E & F sessions. It appears that we will not have enough staffing for these sessions.
- It is advertised on the website, that you can sign up for volunteer sessions on the website. Caroline tried in June and it didn't work because it's not active.
- Dulce Stock Car display was discussed.
  - Estimate repair costs for the stock cars to be displayed at Dulce are \$22,068 for materials and \$38,832 for labor costs.
  - Bill asked if it would be acceptable to do just one car; the labor and material costs would be halved (except for the transportation costs, which wouldn't be quite halved).
  - Unless the tribe is willing and enthusiastic about the project the consensus is that we should not move forward with the project. If the tribe is willing to sign-on to the project, financially and labor-wise, then we can move forward with the grant application from the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area. The deadline for the grant is September the 6<sup>th</sup>. So, this would need to be resolved in the next few weeks.
  - The conversation about repairing the stock cars has been on-going for about 20 years. This project is not a priority of the Friends.
  - Caroline can write something up relating to the grant of what the tribe needs to commit, both financially and labor. To meet the "local cultures and traditions for youth" portion of the grant, the tribe will need to bring in youth to work on the project. They also need to sign the grant and be financially responsible for the upfront costs.

## **VII. New Business**

- John E. has a WW2 Aviation Museum tour tentatively set for 10am on Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup> (day after the board meeting.)

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**VIII. Adjournment**

M/S: Tower/Lock – Moves to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

6:05 adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Melissa A. Sellers*

Melissa Sellers  
Secretary