

Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Inc.
Executive Committee Meeting - Virtual
Thursday, August 15, 2024

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM MDT by Don Stewart, Chairman.

Present:

Don Stewart - Chairman

Bill Lock

John Ferrell

Tim Tennant - Ex-officio, non-voting

John Engs

Melissa Sellers

Absent: Caroline Tower

Minutes: Melissa Sellers, Secretary

II. President's Report – Tim Tennant

- Commission meeting was held in Antonito. It was not well attended because Chama Days was happening at the same time.
- Ridership is at 14,000; 20% higher than at this point last year.
- Alco 14 diesel locomotive:
 - Trucks for Alco 14 are in Antonito.
 - The locomotive is being trucked down from Washington state. Hauling it on rails to Antonito would require it to go through LaVita pass tunnel. There are only a couple depressed-center flat cars in the whole country, so getting access to one might have taken a long time.
 - Delivery time to the C&TS is not set.
 - There are electrical issues to be done and Durango & Silverton was going to make it serviceable and send it to us. Tim is not sure if this is happening. It is possible that the D&S people may be asked to come to Antonito to work on it.
- There are 6 locomotives up and running. 487 is in the process of being converted from coal to oil and has new paint.
- Multiple donations were received totaling approximately \$35k.
- Moonlight Train:
 - Had approximately 90 riders.
 - It was overcast and the weather was pleasant (not too hot), but there was a lot of rain so they decided not to do run by's at Coxo or any of the trestles. Instead, they did a run by at Cumbres Pass. The clouds parted near Cascade Trestle and they did get to see the moon. They arrived back around 11pm (better than last year, which was after midnight).
 - The train produced less revenue this year because there was less available premium seating than in the past. The charter only had one parlor car and caboose vs. last year two parlor cars and a deluxe car. The reason for this was that the train was ready to depart the moment the regular train came in (earlier departure time than last year).

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- Prime Rib was not as good as expected. People complained. Bill will talk to Victoria about what can be done differently next year. John F. will send Bill Victoria's email and phone number.
- Photo Charter:
 - On the way back from Osier, there was a reversing issue with 463, so they couldn't do the regular run by's on the way back. The people had to walk way in front of the train and let the train come to them.
- Memberships for July:
 - Renewing Member: 27
 - Acquaintance: 1
 - Railfan Magazine: 2
 - Facebook: 2
 - Website: 1
 - Drove by C&TS: 1
 - Other: 1
 - **Total = 35**

- Scott Hardy supplied work session numbers for the past 3 years.

<u>Session-2022</u>		<u>Session-2023</u>		<u>Session-2024</u>		<u>Average</u>
A	27	A	21	A	23	23.6
B	28	B	28	B	24	26.7
C	81	C	88	C	77	82
COS	14	COS	16	COS	12	14
D	74	D	59	D	70	67.7
E	39	E	30	E	33	34
F	44	F	35	F	36	38.3

- The kitchen crew in Antonito was able to make hot meals during the last two sessions. (A benefit of working in Colorado; they don't have the same restrictions on food preparation as New Mexico does.)
- Kim said that the Chama community is very happy with the Friends being there for two weeks and would like the Friends to continue working in Chama.
- Fall meeting:
 - Radisson Hotel Colorado Springs Airport, 1645 Newport Road, Colorado Springs, CO.
 - A block of rooms is being arranged at the Radisson. \$129/night.
 - The banquet will be held on Friday evening.
 - John Eng's has arranged a tour of the National Museum of WWII Aviation, 775 Aviation Way, Colorado Springs for Saturday morning October 26th.

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III. Financial Report – Tim Tennant

A. Budget vs Actual:

- Our excess expenditures over revenue are \$86,966.88. This is typical at this time of year because most of our spending happens in late spring/summer when we need supplies for work sessions.
- Revenue is \$6,466.97 less than budgeted to date.
- An extra expense is line item 6290. That is for Thomas Moore, the headhunter. We never budgeted for his work in the 2024 budget. A Candelaria donation just came in (earmarked for this expense), so that \$30,000 will help offset this line item.
- Line item 6200, Computers & Software, is way over budget (by \$13,660.28.) This includes expenses for Accufund.
- Line item 6420, Dispatch Expense, is over budget by \$6091.19. That usually fixes itself by the end of the year. The last edition is usually paid for the following year.
- Line item 6460, Rentals, did not have anything in the budget but we have spent \$5,864.67. A portion of this was for pickup rentals.
- Charter fees are overspent by \$9,343.57, but we have budgeted \$10,000 for the year and spent \$11,103.57, so this will be closer in line by the end of the year.
- To date, our overall expenses are \$127,781 under what we budgeted. (As a reminder, we budgeted to spend more this year than we expected to receive in revenue.)

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

- The total funds are off by \$129.02. Seems to be a glitch in the Accufund software. Katharina is trying to figure out the problem.

C. Cash Balances:

- In June, our unrestricted cash was at \$333,445. This month, we are at \$216,200, so we spent \$117,245 in the past month.

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

- Work session support is underfunded by \$9,203.
- We just had a gift come in that can be used “wherever” and Tim said they put it under work session support.
- Antonito CRF improvement funds are underfunded by \$16,451.

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IV. Interpretation – John Ferrell

- Osier Depot has a new lock.
- Repellent has been sprayed, so hopefully that has fixed the problem with the wild animals in the Osier Depot.

V. Projects Committee – John Engs

- Three signs have been mounted to signposts are ready to be installed at Cumbres.
- The signs for the sign garden have not been done, but will hopefully be done in Session G.
- The museum car is still stuck on the siding and has not been moved to the 3-rail track.
- Concessions were very busy on the photo charter and the 470 car was completely full. The photographers were very interesting in knowing the history of the car and some new people were asking a lot of questions.

VI. New Business

- After the June board meeting, we discussed having a budget review in the November/December time frame.
 - Don wants this put on the schedule.
 - Need to get all individual budgets from projects/admin/etc. prepared in advance.
 - Melissa will set up either a Zoom or Teams meeting.
 - Date to be decided at the October board meeting.
 - We should have the entire board on the call in November/December.
- Steve Jorgenson had an idea to have a long train, two-day photo freight train shoot. The idea is to have it on Sunday/Monday after the last day of operation (expected to be on Saturday next year). The dream is to have 35 operational cars on the rail at one time. A lot of work is required to make this happen. There would probably be an engine in front and one in the middle.
- Tom Moore has identified 30 people of interest for a possible Tim replacement. These are the people he expects to talk to, not necessarily people who have shown an interest.
- The nominating committee will have a meeting on August 27th @ 1:00pm MST.

VII. Adjournment

5:46 adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Melissa A. Sellers

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Melissa Sellers
Secretary