

MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM

MINUTES

Annual Membership Meeting
7:00 PM — Thursday — March 17, 2011
Firefighter's Hall and Museum, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Call to Order: Chair David French called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. Members in attendance by head-count was 42. As of January 1, 2010 the active membership of MTM was 303. Therefore, a quorum was achieved for this annual meeting.

Chair French introduced the MSM Directors and Officers who were present at the meeting.

Board Chair's Report.

Chair French then made the *State of the Museum* presentation. A copy of his Power Point presentation is made a part of these minutes. His report is summarized as follows.

1. What are we doing well? MSM is doing a good job of fulfilling our vision to provide visitors with a vivid visual and emotional experience that educates and entertains them and encourages them to ride again and become members and volunteers.
 - a. Year 2010 highlights included ESL story-time trolley, CHSL streetcar camp, and ghost trolleys at both lines.
 - b. We are averaging about 41,000 annual riders on both railways, same as in past years
 - c. In 2005 we had 208 members; we now have approximately 303, a 45% increase.
 - d. We trained 12 new Operators and have five new volunteers who joined the Museum in 2010 and are now working on restoring Winona 10.
 - e. We have over 9,600 photos in our collection and 1,135 are on Minnesota Reflections website.
 - f. We have two great publications, *Twin City Lines* history magazine and the *Streetcar Currents* newsletter.
 - g. We completed the 42nd St. grade crossing replacement at CHSL and the installation of water service and sprinklers in the *George K. Isaacs Carbarn*, also at CHSL.
 - h. We replaced a broken pole and repaired damage to TCRT No. 1300 with minimal disruption of service at CHSL.
2. What are some challenges for MSM in 2011?
 - a. In 2010 we have sufficient numbers of Operators but still struggled to fill some shifts.
 - 1) More people now volunteer only on one or two shifts per month.
 - 2) More people now do not wish to work second shift on weekends and holidays.
 - 3) Many Operators will only work weeknights.
 - 4) Many Foremen will not sign up as an Operator.
 - 5) Many people now wait till the last minute to sign up for a shift.
 - 6) The Operations Committee is studying these problems.

- b. Good news: Almost half of our active volunteers have less than 10 years of service.
- c. I would like to make it a priority that we install the bathroom in the Isaacs Car barn. This should be a priority in 2011 for the health and safety of our volunteers.
- d. Where are our Museum's leaders?
 - 1) We have several leadership vacancies right now, including Chief Mechanical Officer, Chief Engineer, and Superintendent of Training.
 - 2) Some have stepped up: Keith Anderson is our new Treasurer, Bill Arends is our General Superintendent, and Kristin Bender is now our bookkeeper.
 - 3) Many thanks to Scott Heiderich, Rod Eaton, and Russ Olson for their years of service in these three positions.
- e. In 2011 your Board will spend less time dealing with routine operational issues which should be handled by the Superintendents. Your Board will spend more time on long-range planning, fund raising, and the recruitment of MSM officers.

Reports by Museum Officers

Corporate Secretary's Report. Corporate Secretary Jim Vaitkunas made a brief report to the members on the activities of the Corporate Secretary for the past year.

- MSM Complied with all statutory reporting requirements to federal and Minnesota governmental agencies.
- MSM published one new policy.
 - ü Policy No. 8 – Membership, Personnel and Administration
- Reviewed and updated one other MSM policy.
 - ü Policy No. 2 – Reproduction and Use of MSM Photographs and Images
- Renewed all insurance policies.
- Membership as of January 1, 2011 – 303.
- New – 2-year memberships now are offered and seem to be popular.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Scott Heiderich distributed copies of the three financial reports: FY 2010 balance sheet, Profit and Loss Report for FY 2010, and the cash balances report as of December 31, 2010 and February 28, 2011. These reports are made a part of these minutes. Mr. Heiderich then briefly reviewed these reports and answered questions from the members.

MOTION: Made by Bill Graham; Second by Bob Bayers
The report by the Treasurer of the Minnesota Streetcar Museum is approved.
VOTE: Carried Unanimously.

General Superintendent's Report. General Superintendent, Bill Arends made a brief presentation on the up-coming season's operations at the Como-Harriet and Excelsior Streetcar Lines.

- Biggest event of the 2011 operating season will be our Museum's 40th anniversary celebration tentatively scheduled for August 6th & 7th at the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line.
- Both railways will continue with the very popular pajama party and story book trolleys.
- Experience has conclusively proved that we gain maximum revenue from the special fall events such as the pumpkin patch, Halloween ghost trolleys and the Christmas trolleys.

We need to continue these events and I encourage all Museum members to volunteer and help with these special events when called upon.

- We need the younger and stronger members to step up and volunteer for certain outdoor projects such as track and overhead trolley wire maintenance.
- Priority of work in 2011 at both railways will be rehabilitation of the overhead trolley wire. If we have to, we will spend funds to have a contractor come and do the work. However, it would be better if volunteers could do this work and save us money.
- Unless we get a large number of new Operators this year, I encourage all Operating personnel to pull two shifts each month. If Operating personnel can do that, then we'll have no problem filling the monthly shifts.

Other Reports. No other Museum Officer or Superintendent rendered a report.

Election of MSM Directors. Corporate Secretary Vaitkunas gave the members an overview of the election process and the results of the call for nominees to fill the four vacancies on the Museum's Board of Directors. As of January, 2011 there were two Director positions that were up for election at the 2011 MSM annual meeting.

In accordance with section 5.07 of the by-laws, Chris Heck and R. Bruce Kobs were previously elected to fill the vacancies resulting from the resignations in 2009 of Louis Hoffman and Bob Johnson, respectively. Heck has expressed his intent to run for re-election for a full three-year term to one of the two Director positions. Bruce Kobs indicated that he did not wish to run for re-election. However, in late 2010 member Todd Bender expressed his willingness to serve on the Board as a self-nominee to replace Bruce Kobs.

Vaitkunas then reported that by the deadline of January 10, 2011 no other members were nominated to run for election to the two vacancies. Therefore, in accordance with Section 5.04 of the Museum's by-laws, the election by mail ballots process did not have to be conducted and the Nomination and Election Committee did not have to be appointed.

After this brief report by Secretary Vaitkunas, Chair French called for a motion to elect the indicated members by acclamation.

MOTION: Made by Bob Bayers; Second by Charles Barthold.

That the following Museum members are elected as Directors on the Museum's governing Board of Directors by acclamation for the terms indicated next to their names.

- Chris Heck – Term expires in March, 2014
- Todd Bender – Term expires in March, 2014

VOTE: Carried Unanimously.

Presentations.

A fine presentation on the history of the streetcar system of the Twin Ports of Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin was made by Museum Historian, Aaron Isaacs. A copy of Mr. Isaacs presentation is made a part of these minutes.

Adjournment. The annual meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.


JAMES A. VAITKUNAS
Corporate Secretary