

The Minnesota Streetcar Museum

MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, February 28, 2009
Linden Hills Community Center
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Attendance

Directors Present:

Dave French	Bob Johnson
Aaron Isaacs	Jim Vaitkunus
Scott Heiderich	Bob Bayers

Directors Absent:

Darel Leipold
Louis Hoffman

Others Present:

Rod Eaton
Dennis Stephens
Andy Stephens
Clyde Hawkins

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Dave French at 9:08 AM.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was distributed by Chair French, reviewed and approved.

Approval of Minutes of the last two Board meetings: Vaitkunus commented that the minutes of the two Board meetings held in 2008 (February and October meetings) have not yet been approved by the Board. This needs to be done at the next Board meeting by the new Secretary.

Isaacs Car barn improvement project. Update on the project was given by Aaron Isaacs. He reported that the project evolved out of the initial planning for the installation of sprinkler system in the Isaacs car barn. After initial planning for the sprinkler system was done, the car barn improvement committee realized that if we ever wanted to expand the car barn to the east in the future, earth moving and preparation work must be done in conjunction with the water service and sewer installation required by the sprinkler system work. Aaron then introduced Dennis and Andy Stephens who have been doing a lot of conceptual drawing and plan preparation work on the various car barn expansion options using various computer programs.

Dennis Stephens has done great work in developing drawings and plans for the car barn expansion. Dennis then used his laptop to shown the Board members the various options and views of the floor plan and layout of the proposed expansion. Description and discussion on the various proposals ensued. All agreed that the project will be staged with the priority to installing the sprinkler system and bathroom stall. Aaron commented that we have gone about as far as we can with our own concept planning and we now need to get a professional architect or contractor to make detailed drawings and determine the costs of the final design. We will then use these to gain

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initial reaction and ultimate approval from the city of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and to conduct a fund raising campaign.

Motion: Made by Bob Bayers, 2nd by Aaron Isaacs. That the general carbarn expansion concept plan as presented by Aaron Isaacs and Dennis Stephens be approved. The Isaacs Carbarn Expansion Chair and planning committee are directed to continue coordination and planning with the city and Park Board and design/build firms.

Vote: Passed Unanimously.

Resignation of Louis Hoffman as Board member and Secretary. Chair Dave French reported that Louis Hoffman has resigned as a Museum Director and Museum Secretary. This means that the Board needs to select a candidate to serve the remaining two years of Hoffman's term. The candidate should be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting scheduled for March 12, 2009. Scott Heiderich reported that he has talked with John Prestholdt and Mark Digre and they are "thinking about it." Chair French will follow-up with these two individuals to confirm whether they are willing to serve. The Board members were also asked to talk to some members and ask them if they're willing to serve to fill Hoffman's Board membership.

Vaitkunas volunteered to be the temporary Museum Secretary until the Board's organizational meeting that immediately follows the annual meeting scheduled for March 12, 2009. This was approved by the Board.

Financial Update and the 2009 Budget. Treasurer Scott Heiderich gave an overview of the Museum's financial status specifically referring to the Cash Balances Report prepared by our Accountant, Russ Olson. Scott also briefly discussed the 2009 budget previously approved by the Board in an e-mail vote.

Motion: Made by Aaron Isaacs, 2nd by Bob Bayers. The Board affirmed the approval of the 2009 budget previously approved by the Board by an e-mail vote sent out by Board Chair French on February 5, 2009.

Vote: Passed Unanimously.

Review of Organizational Memorandum and Policy. After a short presentation by Dave French and discussion by the Board, it was decided by consensus to not discuss this topic at this meeting but do it at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting following the annual meeting (date TBD).

Special Events. Presentation was made by General Superintendent Rod Eaton. He reviewed the operations and special event schedule for the 2009 operating season and distributed the 2009 planning calendar for the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line. All agreed that special events are extremely important to maintain the revenue of the museum.

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Scheduling of Crews. Dave French opened the discussion with a review of the problems we've had over the last few years with filling crews for both railways. Discussion ensued on the problem and potential solutions. Vaitkunas stated that our discussion on this issue should be limited today because the Operations Committee meeting will be held on March 14th to discuss this matter.

Other Business.

Training plans for 2009. Clyde Hawkins has agreed to be Chief of Training. Tom Fairbairn has agreed to be Clyde's assistant. Clyde handed out a sheet with the plans for 2009 and these items were extensively discussed by Clyde and the Board. Also discussed was the importance of “care and feeding” of prospective and new members because we lost a lot of trainees last year because of lack of follow-up. Rod Eaton will follow-up with calling Kathy Helde to see if she's willing to become the Volunteer Coordinator who can do a lot of the follow-up with the new trainees and Operators.

Selby Tunnel Restoration Project in St. Paul. Aaron Isaacs gave the Board an update on the Selby Tunnel project that has been coordinated by Museum member Jim White. The Board fully supports and endorses this effort and pledges whatever help is necessary to further the project understanding that the project is still the city of St. Paul's responsibility.

Internet/eBay Artifacts and Merchandise Sales. Aaron Isaacs gave an update on the sales of excess artifacts (e.g., photos, streetcar interior number boards, conductor's bells, etc.) on eBay that is coordinated by Bruce Gustafson. Aaron also suggested that the Museum establish a Museum “store” on eBay for the sale of all our merchandise items not just the artifacts. All Board members agreed that we should actively pursue this additional source of revenue.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Next meeting: No date was set for the next meeting.

James A. Vaitkunas

James A. Vaitkunas
Acting Secretary