

# The Minnesota Streetcar Museum

## MINUTES

### Board of Directors meeting 9:00 p.m., Saturday, May 13, 2006 George Isaacs Car barn Minneapolis, Minnesota

#### **Attendance:**

Present:

Bill Arends  
Dave French  
Scott Heiderich  
Bob Johnson  
Jim Vaitkunas

Absent:

Louis Hoffman

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jim Vaitkunas at 9:10 a.m.

**Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was discussed and approved.

**Approval of minutes.** The minutes of the March 14, 2005 MSM Annual Meeting was reviewed and approved.

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on March 14, 2006 immediately after the annual meeting were reviewed and approved, with the following changes.

- 1) Louis Hoffman was present at the meeting and should be added as an attendee.
- 2) The following Directors agreed to the term lengths as a Director as follows:
  - Scott Heiderich – 3 years
  - Jim Vaitkunas – 3 years
  - Bob Johnson – 2 years
  - Louis Hoffman – 2 years
  - Bill Arends – 1 year
  - Dave French – 1 year

**ARM Meeting Delegate.** Jim Vaitkunas was appointed as the primary delegate to the ARM annual meeting to be held on November 12, 2006 at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. Bob Johnson was appointed alternate delegate.

**Appointment of Community Directors.** Jim Vaitkunas summarized the current status of the selection and appointment of Linden Hills community leaders to the MSM Board. Mike Miller has approached Bob Bayer who has agreed to be a member and Mike has two others who have tentatively agreed to serve on the MSM Board. Vaitkunas recommended, and the Board concurred that we invite these individuals to the Board meeting scheduled for August 9, 2006. At that time we can discuss with these individuals what we expect from these members and receive their input regarding their expectations. Dave French suggested that we have a specific project and purpose prepared for this meeting and invite the Community Board members to help us with the suggested projects. Everyone agreed that was the way to go and an ad hoc committee will be formed to discuss and prepare the plan for the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chair Vaitkunas then commented that there are no local community representatives from Excelsior on the MSM Board. It was pointed out by Bob Johnson that we have a good working relationship with the Excelsior Chamber of Commerce (we're a member and Bruce Kobs attends Chamber meetings) and with the local historical society. After further discussion, it was agreed that we would consider an informal Excelsior community advisory group but that we need further discussion to develop and implement a community relations strategy and how to involve this local group.

**Authorization to file Annual Report to the Minnesota Attorney general.** Treasurer Scott Heiderich was authorized to file the annual report to the State Attorney General. He said he would do soon after Jim Vaitkunas completes the IRS Form 990.

**Treasurer.** Scott Heiderich reported that he left at home the reports he planned to hand out at this meeting. He did do a review of the Museum's financial state using the Cash balance report prepared by Russ Olson for the period January through April, 2006. Scott further described his rationale and subsequent activities to change our bank from US Bank to TCF bank.

Scott also described his activities regarding the pop fund money that he discovered in the carbarn recently.

Chair Vaitkunas suggested that a working group, comprised of at least the Chair, General Superintendent and the Treasurer, be formed to review the various financial reports that can be generated by QuickBooks and would have these for review at the August Board meeting.

#### **General Superintendent's Report.**

- Construction status. Rod Eaton described the current status of the TEA-21 track project. Keith Anderson and Scott Heiderich conducted their walk-thru on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> and their conclusion was that we are finished with the contractor doing any more track work, but that ECI (the contractor) must still pay us for the sign post and install the post and sign to the condition it was in before they broke it. Keith recommends that we sign-off on the project as soon as we can.
- Mechanical Department and Operations. John Prestholdt was asked to be the new shop Foreman and he replied to Clyde Stephens that he would think about it. Rod gave a general summary of the current activities in the shop. The priority of work for the shop this year is:
  - Finish work in the Linden Hills station platform project.
  - Finish work on No. 1300.
  - Finish work on No. 1239.
- Repairs to No. 1239. Work on No. 1239 would be done after the work on No. 1300 is finished. Estimated completion date for No. 1239 is late July 2006.
- Operations Chief Vaitkunas reported on the CHSL and ESL activities and schedule calendars he has prepared. After final concurrence from Rod Eaton and Bob Johnson, copies of these will be printed in color for distribution throughout the Linden Hills neighborhood, in Excelsior and elsewhere where it might be of help in improving visibility and ridership. Vaitkunas also reported on the proposal to run a streetcar shift on Wednesday afternoon during the months of June thru August as a way to get more revenue.

**Action List (Information only).** The only major action item still on the MSM Transition and Organization action list but not yet accomplished is the purchase of a fire-proof file cabinet to store documents in the Isaacs carbarn. Since most of the tasks shown on the list are complete Chair Vaitkunas recommended, and the Board concurred, that this recurring agenda item be stricken from future Board meeting agendas.

**Mesaba No. 16 Status Report.** Chair Vaitkunas reported that Chris Heck has agreed to be the Museum's agent and spokesman with all parties regarding the disposition of Mesaba No. 16. Vaitkunas then gave a summary of the current efforts to preserve this car. The Board agreed to reaffirm MSM's position taken several months ago that the Museum cannot accept the donation of No. 16 at this time because of storage

space and funding limitations. However, if the car does get donated to another historical group such as the Chisholm Mining Museum, MSM would provide whatever counsel and expertise is requested to help all parties with the move of the car and any subsequent stabilization and restoration efforts, in so far as MSM has the capabilities and resources to do so.

**Chalet Station and Lowry Meadow.** Detailed discussion was deferred until the next Board meeting.

**MSM/MTM Membership Issues.** The Board agreed with the recommendation from Chair Vaitkunas that MSM would not have a membership category with reduced dues to account for the fact that a member would not receive the *Minnegazette*. Chair Vaitkunas reported that a notice would be put in the next *Streetcar Currents* to the effect that if any MSM member desires not to receive duplicate copies of the *Minnegazette* because they also receive a copy as a benefit of membership in MTM, after notification from the member the member will be deleted from MSM's *Minnegazette* mailing list.

**Proposed By-law Amendment.** Deferred to the next Board meeting.

**Staffing Committees and Adoption of Policies.** A general discussion was held on the current committee structure. Chair Vaitkunas suggested that sometime this fall that a working group be formed to review the MSM membership list with the object of identifying those members who have the background to serve in various capacities on the various committees and in museum management. This group would then make personal contact with these members to determine if they are willing to serve in that capacity.

Chair Vaitkunas opined that three MSM policies need to be issued: Membership; Safety and Training; and, Finance. He encouraged those in charge of these areas to draft their policy for review by the Board at the next meeting scheduled for August 9, 2006.

**Other Business.** A brief discussion was held regarding the museum's website. The Board agreed with the laudatory comments by several Board members regarding the excellent work done by John DeWitt to get our website up and running and in maintaining the website. Rod Eaton described recent communications with John DeWitt regarding his proposal for a major revision of the website which would include a merchandise section. A discussion was also held regarding the need to have the "members only" section of the website password protected. The general feeling was that this information is of such a general nature that there's no real need for such protection. The suggestion was made that if the members only section does not have restricted access via a password that any item that shows individual member's telephone numbers be removed from this section of the website.

Chair Vaitkunas commented that MSM seemed to be lacking in social activities for all the members. He suggested that the Museum consider holding a family picnic sometime during the summer of 2006. He further suggested that a good location might be at the Excelsior car barn and the event could be celebratory in nature to coincide with the reintroduction of TCRT No. 1239 into general service. The Board concurred with the idea but no detailed plans were discussed.

A brief discussion was held regarding moving the usual Board meeting day and time to a weeknight evening. All Board members agreed that meeting on a Saturday morning works best for almost all Board members.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

**Next meeting:**

9:00 a.m.

Saturday, August 9, 2006

George Isaacs Car barn and Shop