

Minutes of B.A.G.R.S. Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday April 8, 2008

Carl's Jr. Restaurant

1220 Oakmead Pky.

Sunnyvale, CA

Meeting called to order at 6:56 pm

Board Members present: Jack, Don, Russ, Bruce and outgoing members Sherman and Bill and incoming board members Chip Gierhart and Tom Shumard. Absent Bonnie. Russ volunteered to take the minutes.

Also present 10 BAGRS Members

Minutes from the February 7th board meeting read by Jack

Treasurer's Report: Sherman Zell's final performance. For some reason lots of deposits were made last week. Starting Balance of \$5451.58, Cash Balance as of 4/07/08 \$10,345.55. All income from Dues. Our CD is earning almost 5% interest rate. Many old Tax Returns have been scanned in on PDF to help incoming Treasurer. Applause for Sherman (and Lois) for a Great Job they have done over the past 20 years.

Membership: Rose Shumard informed us that we now have 305 paid members with 109 lapsed.

Newsletter: Russ Miller reported that the April newsletter was padded with photos because there wasn't much news to report. The Editor, Jenifer Miller, would like articles from BAGRS members. Again there were problems with the printer not doing the job on time, thus the newsletter was a couple of days late. It was posted early on the BAGRS.org website.

Scheduling Report: Tom Shumard gave an extensive report on scheduling for the next five months.

On April 20th, we will have 3 Open House in the Diablo District. The Baggage Car will be set up at Nancy Norris' Open House.

On May 18th, there will be 5 Open House in the West San Jose / Santa Cruz District open. All of them NEW or never open before to BAGRS members.

June Open Houses in North Santa Clara have not settled on a date yet as the normal day falls on Father's Day. In the past, Father's Day has actually been a very successful day to hold Open House as the visitor counts have been high.

The NMRA / PCR has contacted Tom about holding Garden Railroad Open Houses during their Open House weekends. Jack says that turnouts were small from PCR events held in the past.

The July Mega Weekend BBQ will be held July 12th at Oak Meadow Park in the Town of Los Gatos. We were lucky to get 3 picnic areas as this popular park sells out during the summer. The Board approved the expenditure of \$225 to make the reservations. The park is a Fun Family place and has a Carousel and the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad. There might be parking problems as BAGRS members show up later in the afternoon. A prepaid meal of Hot Dogs, chips and soda will be served at 5:30 pm. Members must prepay \$5.00 per meal by June 30th with no Walk-ons allowed. Four districts will be involved in this event.

In August (late July ?) there will be a clinic held at Chip Gierhart's. Free labor is Good!

Election of Officers: In a surprise to Don Waters, Don was elected President of BAGRS while Jack Verducci accepted the position of Vice President; as long as he didn't have to plan the Annual Meeting. Ken Martin stepped in and will take on the job of organizing the Annual Meeting. Chip Gierhart was elected to the Treasurer position and Bonnie McGhee will stay on as Secretary. Tom Shumard was welcomed to the board as a director along with Bruce Jahn and Russ Miller. Bill Wissel and Sherman Zell were thanked for their years of service.

BAGRS Steam Line: Harlan Barr and crew set-up the Live Steam track at Grass Valley on February 9th and at the Marin Historical Museum on March 29th. There was a very large turnout at the Marin event. Harlan turned in \$11 from Grass Valley and \$62 from Marin from the donation box. He also turned in a bill for \$16.50 for Bridge Expenses.

BAGRS Short Line: Steve Russell said that the Short Line was completely surrounded with people at the Marin event. They will set up April 26th at the Guadalupe Gardens Spring Event in San Jose. On the weekend of June 14 -15, Father's Day, the Short Line will be set up at Roaring Camp in Felton. They will also set-up at EuroWest in San Carlos on July 26 -27. There is nothing scheduled for May at this time. Any Ideas for New Venues was solicited.

Annual Meeting: Don and Ken report that the meeting was GREAT! We had around 180 attendees and many people hung around talking and socializing after hours. Because of no fees, we're down about \$1500 but everyone felt it was worth it. Only complaints were that the Clinic Room was too small and how the tables and chairs were moved in the large room.

New Business: Jack reported that the Newsletter jumped the gun. When considering Written -vs- Electronic the BAGRS will always have something written. We need to look at cheaper alternatives, maybe smaller newsletter, photos on the web, more info and content on the web with just basic, relevant information in the mailed newsletter. We must check into alternative companies for printing to lower the cost. Our invoice from CopyMat has been \$700 a month for the first four months of the year.

Budget for Future Operations: Ken Martin brought up that we should look at other ways to save money. We must do a complete audit and look at all of our operating expenses. We will check on our Insurance Rates and see if we can get a better quote. Also should check all miscellaneous expenses to see what else can be reduced or cut.

Don stated that as things are now, our dues should be \$80 to balance our budget.

A question was raised about the Short Line. Do their expenses balance to what they bring in? Are there other avenues of outreach that are less expensive.

Jack brought up that New Members are not being welcomed. We need to hold Beginner Clinics. We need to add a new "Greeter" position to welcome new members. New members should get a stick on name badge so that when they visit open houses, other BAGRS members would know that they are new and could go out of their way to greet them. Introduce "Guest Trains Welcome" again to Open Houses. Hosts will let us know if outside trains can be brought and run on their layout.

Old Business: Baggage Car to be set up at One open house each month.

What should we do about the lending library? It is on the website now. Should we convert to DVD as most are VHS tapes? Should it be discontinued? Should we sell off what we can?

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 4, 2008 at 7pm.