

BAGRS Board Meeting – 17 October 2010

8:40 a.m. meeting called to order

Board members present:

- Chip Gierhart, Frank Lucas, Ray Turner, Russ Miller, Bob Evans, Richard Murray, Nancy Norris, and Johannes Hoech
- Dennis Mack was there for the baggage car, Joe Barker attended as a guest by Russ' invitation

Topics:

1. Secretary's Report: Minutes:

- Johannes did not read the minutes, but everyone had read them and they were approved
- Action Items:
 - None

2. Vice President's Report (Bob Evans)

- Topics: Bylaws
- These comments were made:
 - Bob did a great job distributing the bylaws. The issues are the staggered terms, as well as some other minor open issues. The feeling was the staggered system was better for continuity. No one can serve more than 6 years, and we decided to keep it simple.
 - We approved the bylaws as written with the additional change of the 1 year term to be made by Bob
- Action Items:
 - **Bob** will amend it that everyone is elected for 1 year and can be extended
 - **Chip** will figure out how to notify the members on the web

3. Annual Meeting Report (Bob Evans)

- Topics: Annual Meeting at Hiller Aviation Museum
- These comments were made:
 - February 26 will be the annual meeting at Hiller Aviation; we're looking for speakers (Bob Brown is one candidate) and clinics
- Action Items:
 - None

4. G&O RR Update & involvement as per BAGRS Mktg Initiative (Joe Barker)

- Topics: How to leverage San Leandro layout to implement the recommendations of the marketing initiative
- These comments were made:
 - He's a member of the San Leandro historical society at the train depot; they're building a layout in the back of the old depot with G- and O-Scales. Will be open to members and the public to come down and run their trains. They have lots of BAGRS involvement. Also, he's been working on the trailer regularly.
 - What they can provide to BAGRS a place to run trains, hold clinics, and have meetings. Also, they have room to hold many shows, can do live steamers or we can bring the trailer.
 - They have room for a 20 person indoor meeting or can hold any size outdoor meetings. They're open every Saturday 9 to 1
- Action Items:
 - Someone to work with Joe Barker to develop a proposal on how to implement the recommendations from the marketing initiative in time for the December board meeting

5. Market Initiative (Johannes Hoech):

- Topics: Marketing Team Update
- These comments were made:
 - Was not discussed

- Action Items:

- None

6. Membership Report (Frank Lucas):

- Frank recapped latest membership numbers

- We're again 283.5 paid up members

- We have 12 members paid through 2011

- Lots of moms signing up 5-year old boys; they're hearing about BAGRS from our showings and live steam showings

- We got 4 members out of the SFCOF effort, btw

- Action Items:

- None

7. Live Steamer Report (Richard Murray):

- Topics: Status update on Steamers

- These comments were made:

- Richard gave a check for \$204 for BAGRS to Chip, \$200 was from Just Trains

- Attendance at each of the meetings has been terrific. There will be a few steam ups between now and the end of the year

- Russ congratulated Richard about the great year they had

- Action Items:

- None

8. Baggage Car (Dennis Mack):

- Topics: Online Store Up and Running

- These comments were made:

- All the stuff we ordered is uploaded. Get rid of all the remaining inventory

- Action Items:

- None

9. Treasurer's Report (Chip Gierhart):

- Topics: Financial Report, Website Rework and Insurance
- These comments were made:
 - Chip had mailed out the updated treasurer's report beforehand, so we had little discussion
 - Budget is okay for the annual meeting, so far
 - Website traffic is dwindling; there is a whole lot more we could do with the website if we wanted to. We now have photo capability, and everyone needs to supply their headshots
 - Later on there was a fair amount of discussion about how to make the website more appealing, the issues were that it wasn't intuitive and difficult to navigate. There was general agreement that the site needs lots of work.
- Action Items:
 - **ALL:** Upload your headshots to your online BAGRS profile

10. Public Outreach (Nancy Norris):

- Topics: Trailer update
- These comments were made:
 - Nancy reported that they'll be \$700+ over the original budget, and she'd like to spend more money; partly because she'd like to get a third loop running
 - It was a spectacular hit at the Just Trains open house, it looks great when it's set up, much better than on the photos. Have some tarp issues, but everything is coming along well.
 - Budget: Chip wanted to know if we get gasoline bills or other incidentals, and he feels we should not reimburse for gasoline. He wants this to be a topic for December.
 - Nancy referred us to the Excel spreadsheet she sent out, so expenses are completely transparent

- Nancy asked for a motion to approve the extra \$1,800, but Russ resisted saying we had to stop spending. Russ would like to ask she get more help.
- Chip floated a motion to approve the \$800 spent, which was seconded and approved; Johannes was the only vote against it.
- Action Items:
 - **Nancy** needs to work with Chip and Russ to come back to the club with a detailed review of all expenses and the expected expenses going forward, as well as find ways to save money

11. Scheduling Coordinator's Report (Ray Turner):

- Topics: Superintendent's Job Description and District Changes
- These comments were made:
 - Some of our districts are getting very small, part of that has to do with the job description for superintendents
 - Western Regional Meet asked us to have a couple of railroads open; there will be pre-tours with a few garden RRs open. We have 5 days with 5 open regions one for each day
 - We need to decide when to have the BBQ
- Action Items:
 - None

12. Newsletter Report (Russ Miller):

- Topics: New Editor needed for the T&T
- These comments were made:
 - No one has come forward to do the T&T, but Chip said he may be willing to write it
 - Russ would like to shift to setting up a blog
- Action Items:

- **Chip** will contact people to find volunteers to take over writing the newsletter, and also will have a discussion with Russ on figuring out who comes to our site and how to direct them to the newsletter

13. Old and New Business (Russ Miller)

- Topics: Updates to 2011 West Coast Regional
- These comments were made:
 - Was not discussed
- Action Items:
 - None

Next Board Meeting:

- On December 8 at 7:00 pm as a phone conference; **Chip** will set up the call

Adjourned at 10:10 a.m. in record time due to the cold