

Minutes 4/19/15

Bay Area Garden Railway Society

Board Meeting Minutes 4/19/15

The April board meeting was held at Bill Ralph's Porcupine Gulch Railroad in Fremont following the East Bay District open houses and social at 5:00pm. Attending were:

Russ Miller, Jim Anthony, Ray Turner, Mike Patterson, Terry Paullin, Glen Simpson, Christine Simpson, Frank Lewis, Nancy Norris, Frank Lucas, Richard Murray. Minutes taken by Bill Ralph.

Sharing of Newsletters (Russ Miller)

Based on several requests and with newsletter editor Ray Turner's agreement it was approved that we will share the BAGRS newsletter *Trellis and Trestle* with other garden railway organizations but exclude tour information, names and locations.

Membership Report (Frank Lucas)

It was reported that 4 members have decided not to renew in 2015 and provided the reasons (undisclosed at the board meeting). It was agreed that BAGRS participation with the Roving Railroad at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show and the Steamers participation at last years Maker Faire has increased interest in the organization resulting in several new family memberships. Current membership is 255 compared to 227 prior to the annual meeting in February

Steam (Richard Murray)

Richard reported that the next Steamers event will be the 2015 Maker Faire to be held on May 16 -17 at the San Mateo Convention Center. Set-up will be on Friday with operations on Saturday and Sunday.

Roving Railroad (Nancy Norris)

Nancy reported that participation in the San Francisco Flower and Garden was a very positive experience and likely resulted in at least 3 new family memberships. BAGRS had the largest vendor space at the show and it was provided at no cost.

Nancy also reported concern about water usage on the Roving Railroad particularly during the coming hot summer when she is required to reduce usage by 25%. Several members referred her to a location that provides free water if you have your own container. Glen Simpson is going to provide Nancy with a 50 gallon drum for water collection and storage.

Open Houses (Mike Patterson)

Mike reported a minor glitch with the East Bay Division postcards that will be resolved by getting materials to the printer a little earlier for the coming open house season. It was agreed that holding board meetings following district open house socials every other month or so is a good way to get good board and visitor attendance.

New Business

Concern was raised by Nancy that many BAGRS members don't know that board meetings are open to them and not just to board members. It was agreed that listing board meetings on the open house post cards will help include more participation.

2016 NGR CONVENTION

Tours

Moe has dropped out as tour coordinator and Russ has asked Ray Turner to consider the position since he has been to most all of the BAGRS layouts.

The questionnaire has been posted and members are being encouraged to sign-up for consideration as potential tour destinations.

We still need someone to head up the bus tours.

Communication

Russ is planning to begin to produce a monthly convention update as a e-mail newsletter to go out to our 800 (+/-) mail list.

Vendors

Western Event Services has been retained to handle vendor hall set-up and management.

Displays

We are still negotiating with Diablo Pacific for participating in the convention, Russ will be offering them \$500 and 10 passes to set-up a lobby exhibit that was featured at the Disney Family Museum.

Registration

Jim Anthony recommends the use of Wild Apricot as our on-line registration software and he will be running tests in May and June with the goal of going live prior to the Denver convention. It was decided to go with a booth rental fee of \$400 - \$450 (cost approx. \$250-

\$300). Individual registration fee will be \$95, family of 4 will be \$125 with additional persons at \$20 capped at a total of 8 per registration.

Social Events

Details for the Accucraft parking lot picnic and tour are still being worked out. Roaring Camp BBQ still needs to be addressed although it's likely that it may be necessary for BAGRS to subsidize the event. Concerns about traffic were raised but impossible to predict.

Company Store

There was a brief discussion regarding pre-purchased items vs on-line just-in-time purchases and if we should sell logo items at all. There was no clear decision on how to proceed.

Convention Car

There was also a discussion about options for a 2016 convention car but there was no decision made regarding vendor, car style or scale. It was remarked that the convention car at our last national event was the most profitable convention activity

The meeting ended at 7:45pm