

BAGRS Board Meeting

Called to order at 10:04am

Russ, Colin, Sarah, Mick, Mike, John, Lynn, Nancy, Richard, and Greg in attendance

Action Items:

Mick - Create and send the SurveyMonkey link for voting on the board to Greg; Reach out to remaining folks to pick up their Nashville cars from TAP; Create a “Why BAGRS? Why join?” blurb

Mike - Follow up with Bill Highley regarding the Treasurer position

Colin - Email Mick information re: Mr. Pictovid and the Large Scale Consolidated YouTube show; Look into Wild Apricot for: a search field for “Member Since”; Update all automated email content

Greg - Attach the SurveyMonkey link for voting for the board to the email of the next newsletter; Input the survey link for voting for the board into the next newsletter and include that the Membership and Newsletter chair people are not members of the board but will attend every meeting; Run the accessible program for the next newsletter

Russ - Let Mick know who’s Nashville cars are still to be picked up; Reach out to Patti Martin re: storing and watering the Roving Railroad; Look into a plaque or something to give to Ray to commemorate his work on the newsletter

Lynn - Write article for newsletter about storing the Roving Railroad; Interview and write article about Ray and his work on the newsletter; Send articles to Greg for next newsletter

Minutes:

1. Board candidates for 2021-2022: Russ, Mick, Richard, Mike, John, Sarah and Colin (4 positions, 3 at-large)

We will do the board voting via Survey Monkey. Mick has an account and will create the survey and link. Greg: attach the link to the in the body of the email and include it in the newsletter as well. Include: Membership and Newsletter attend board meetings, but are not on the board.

Bill Highley approached Mike to take over accounting/Treasurer. Mike needs to follow up. Bill will likely shadow and train with Mike over the next year.

2. Outdoor annual meeting was mentioned in the presidents letter. no one responded. Maybe its part of the first open houses in May?

*Annual meet, possibly doing an outdoor event later in the year. swap meet at Patti’s house or BAGRS’ members yard, maybe with live steamers. Hiller can hold an event, but not a meeting. They will possibly hire Lainie back in March 2021.

3. National Convention:

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Nashville is planning on 2021 convention for now, but they're very cautious. Hotel is taking reservations now. Their 2021 convention car is up and available for pre-order only @\$85/each. Santa Clara center calendar is blank and the hotel is not responding to Russ.

4. GR News: pleased with where we are. Issue #1 was viewed by 5,500 people. 7,000 visitors to the website. 108 clubs signed up for the newsletter with 7,000 members. USA (78) and Canada (12). 20-30 clubs outstanding to get on board. We're now focused on advertisers. Identified 125 vendors for garden railroads. Can only fit 40 per newsletter but we want to try and include everyone.

5. Russ has 7 Nashville cars left for pick up (2 are Mick's)

6. BAGRS wide zoom session? interest or no? Mick asked the club for subject suggestions for a session instead of a subject from the board.

Colin: send Mick the Large Scale and MrPictovid information so he can reach out and possibly collaborate/help each other out

7. Social Media/Images:

Mick schedules posts regularly for Instagram and Facebook. Instagram has over 500 followers now. Mick has enough photos for the rest of the year! But feel free to continue sending content.

8. Newsletter:

Greg says "its a labor of love". February's issue is almost done and its looking good. Adding in a look back to past newsletters "5 years ago...". It looks amazing!

Sarah: cautious of color, accessible to everyone (color blind). Greg is aware and will run the accessible program for the next issue and issues in the future.

9. Financial report: no expenses since September. Membership payments are still coming in. Mike is working on the annual financial report for the next newsletter.

10. Steamers: a couple new steam members! But no events going on at the moment

11. Russ is printing badges for new members and replacements.

12. Membership: 19 new members in December 2020, 1 new member in January. Will work on figuring out the net number. Lynn is calling each new member, some call back some don't. Database needs a field for the date the member joined (Member Since). Colin: Look into being able to search/filter more easily. Colin: update all automatic email content. *This should be an annual task

13. Mick to create a "why join, why BAGRS" to further new membership & renewal

14. Nancy is moving to Maine but will frequently visit Lafayette. Needs to move the Roving railroad by March (to help list/sell her home). Lynch in Portola can take it? Anyone who has space to share the responsibility of storing it. or choose to sell it. Lynn can write something for the newsletter but we need something more. We can't really store it, it needs to be regularly watered. We've tried selling it before and came up to a wall. Russ: will ask Patti Martin her thoughts on setting up an automatic watering system. Will need to revisit finding drivers and

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storage for it. We have trucks that can tow it, just needs to know where. Nancy also has a shed.

Can Nancy post something in the newsletter to advertise her home and home railroad? Mick can post it in the GR Newsletter as well.

15. Plaque or something for Ray for the newsletter. Maybe interview him for the next newsletter. Recognize him.

16. One address for BAGRS? We have different ones listed everywhere. Check the bylaws to see who should be listed as the main address.

Next board meeting: Sunday February 21st, 2021 @10am

Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm