



BAGRS Board Meeting

November 6, 2023

Called to order at 6:01 pm- **Present:** Mick Spilsbury, Lynn Gerber, Richard Murray, Ray Turner and Roger Nicholson, Greg Hile and Larry Silverman

Open Action Items:

Name	Description
Mick	Investigate automated way (maybe only on new website) to get Richard the contact info for live steamers and Russ the new member badge names and addresses in a more efficient manner. <i>Current solution put in effect to add line to welcome member email</i>
Mick	Provide Wild Apricot (WA) with the name of club member they should consider to be their primary contact
Mick	Establish email account for general communications
Mick/Ray	Change "Application fee" field name in WA to "Annual dues"
Mick/Ray	Add convention merchandise to our website (non car)
Richard	Send Hiller contract to Larry for signature

Minutes

10/23/23 Minutes had a few corrections. Approved after discussion, as corrections minimal. Revised minutes sent to Board members.

- 1. Swap Meet-** Accucraft location. 9 vendors, 18 tables. Three folks selling entire collections. Miscommunication so Accucraft did not open until 11 am. A few folks came while not yet open. The meet was not well attended. More discussion will be had on how to improve attendance.
- 2. Website-** Wild Apricot and website developers still in disagreement as to the need for a double log in process. May need Mick and/or Roger to intervene. In any case the website will not launch until after the new year.
- 3. Dues Renewals-** Discussion around how to encourage members to renew before the annual meeting. The two most effective means covered were to stop their T&T, discontinue sending Open Railroad House information and not allow admittance to the Annual Meeting. **Motion:** A motion was made that members who have not renewed by 2/1 will be classified as "former members" and will be informed that they will receive no more T&T's, Open RR house invitations and may not attend the annual meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.



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4. **Open Railroad Program**-Mick and Roger introduced a new proposal for holding our open houses. A written proposal was sent to all board members and reviewed during the meeting. There were numerous reasons as to why we need to rethink the program. The approach would be similar to the process used this fall.

Generally, it includes: 2 dates per month of the open railroad season to be chosen. Members will be invited to indicate their interest in opening on any of the 14 dates. Clusters of 3-6 railroads will be organized that make sense geographically. As much as possible there will be a regular schedule e.g. the 1st and 3rd weekend or 2nd and 4th. The board also felt that notifying the public for example, through "Nextdoor" would be an important way to bring in new members. The plan would be to draft a calendar and present it at the annual meeting. **Motion:** To change to the new process for the coming 2024 year. **The motion passed unanimously.**

5. **Rethinking the Districts**-A proposal was introduced to move from 12 districts to 6 or 7 areas. The "area coordinators" would not be responsible for scheduling Open Railroads. Instead, a better use would be to have them focus on 3 area member get-togethers, welcoming new area members and working with members to get the most out of their BAGRs membership. Mick and Roger to assess and refine the area groupings. The proposal will be revisited in the next few meetings.

6. **Financials-Motion:** to approve the third quarter financials. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Keep in Mind	Completed Action Items from Previous Meeting
Mick: following up with Chicago Area GRS about how they help members with RR construction guidance	General Member Survey sent out
Mick: moved draft memo and discovery of automated features on Wild Apricot to after website review	
Lynn/Roger Upload Board minutes to Website	

NEXT MEETING:

The next meetings of the Board will be November 13th and December 4th from 6-7 pm. A meeting may be called for November 27th. Lynn mentioned she will not be at the Dec 4th meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 7:09

Respectfully submitted for approval
Lynn Gerber



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Secretary