

Minutes from Tuesday September 9, 2025 Board Meeting

Present: Steve Joyner, Bill Zidel, Tim Trudnowski, Don Golde, Steve Fuller, Dean O'Neill

By Phone: John Nemnich, Dave Hillard

Not present: Bill Taylor (We forgot to call him)

Meeting called to order at 20:50 PM by President Tim.

- Approval of previous Board minutes and current Board agendas
- Steve Fuller provided update on the first Convention activity which was the train ride. Everything went off well and the activity was well received. It was mentioned that there was a general question on YouTube concerning the convention.
- Since there were some guests, Tim suggested that we clear their agenda items and release them from other Board discussions.
- There was a general discussion commenced concerning conventions. We know that the next convention will be in Toppenish. There was also the point that there is no correlation between East and west conventions as we held two in Washington, back-to-back. The rationale being having never had one in Everett, Tacoma driven by the 150th anniversary. The other point and probably the driver as to future convention choice is the presence of a strong, qualified, and willing Convention chair. While there is great internal convention support, a strong hands-on Chair is essential. Future convention locations are Lewiston, Idaho, Yellowstone Park, Montana, Livingston, Montana, and Helena, Montana. Mac Mcullah, our guest suggested that the GNHS would like to do another joint convention, possible 2027. Maybe same hotel different presentations. He said the shared the Everett swap meet was a great success. Proposal that the convention committee (Steve Fuller, Jan Taylor, Dean O'Neill, and Ken Zeiska) survey the Membership as to recommendations and choices.
- Dean O'Neill provided an update on the VPD sales numbers. Very successful and well received. The NPRHA will have a table at the

swap meet and will be set up with a newly purchased screen to display several items that in the VDP. There also will be VDP membership forms available for the VDP. Possible future on line presentations of items from the VDP.

- John Nemnich returned to the call and Tim brought him up to speed.
- Next up was Kent Sullivan (Guest) to provide information on our new front-end website. The NPRHA new face, to the world is so much friendlier. The other aspect is the site will continue to evolve into a two-way conversation with both membership and outside enthusiasts. There are two large groups on YouTube, the NPRHA, 4800 members and the Northern Pacific Railway, 5100 members. We want to be able to respond, reach out and is it by email blast, Instagram? We have another avenue which is the Telltale which is another place where there is the lively exchange of questions and conversations. We want our site to provide the ability to respond to questions an inquires and we are searching for the best solution. Mr. Sullivan suggested that the NPRHA have a paid person that can keep the membership updated as well a respond to inquiries to our Site. The cost would be about \$100 to \$200 dollars a month and suggested that the NPRHA go through with a trial and revisit after a couple of months to review results. Mr. Sullivan also continued with an assessment of what is occurring with ADAM and some very poignant thoughts on the future. ADAM is not complete and it is not really what we could be useful to the NPRHA. Additionally, the NPRHA uses SharePoint and that the product is mature and in the very near future it will not be supported. Time for a serious look for a replacement that serves the needs of an historical society such as the NPRHA and preforms functionally correct based on our requirements.
- Dean O'Neill explained that the NPRHA has lost its vendor for our wood kits and we need to go find a new one. Some of his initial findings are both price and availability of vendors is not promising. While GNHS does wood kits it is not promising for us. May need to go back to 3D printing. The search continues.

- Volunteerism for the NPRHA. Some suggestions such as Rewards, Incentives, other things that will enhance the incentive to sign up and be a volunteer.
- The next discussion was around the MTM and the Jackson Street roundhouse where the NPRHA files reside. Two items were brought up Concerning the Roundhouse and MTM. On the Sunday after the convention, Dean, Ladd, Tim, and several others will form a work party with the intent to inventory the NPRHA files that are held within the bowels of the Jackson Roundhouse. Additionally, Dean and Tim will have dinner with Josh (MTM) and the GNHS representatives to get a clearer understanding of the future for the Roundhouse since it is owned by the MTM and the GNHS is their tenant and the NPRHA has a sub lease with the GNHS.
- Dave Hillard, who is looking for an exit strategy for his position, is currently examining some alternatives. There is also the need to support the maintenance of the membership base. He will continue to work with Tim and others to find a safe and smooth transition. There is a possibility to split out some responsibilities to a paid individual as there are not a great deal of payments. The offshoring would cover essential financial and regulatory reporting.
- Meeting Adjourned at 22:35 PM.

Submitted Bill Zidel, Secretary NPRHA