

Board Meeting – Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association September 16, 2023 – Tacoma, Washington

Meeting called to order by President Bill Zidel at 9:45 PM. Board members present: Steve Fuller, Don Golde, Dave Hillard, Steve Joyner, Dean O'Neill, Bill Taylor, Jim Woodward, and Bill Zidel. Outgoing Board member Ken Zieska did not attend the 2022 Convention and was not present for the meeting.

Guests included Kent Sullivan, as well as incoming NPRHA Board members John Nemnich and Tim Trudnowski.

Carryover topics from the September 12, 2023 Board Meeting:

Need additional discussion about the current SharePoint / Atom NPRHA Web Site. Bill Zidel commented that this is an ongoing discussion that must continue to involve Kent Sullivan and Dean O'Neill.

Need to decide what actions NPRHA will take relative to the Warren McGee statue that will be placed at the Livingston Depot Center. Bill Zidel commented that he would refer this to Harold Shannon and the Grants Committee.

One other topic related to interaction with the Montana Historical Society. Again, this largely falls under the purview of the Grants Committee.

Comments about the 2023 Convention:

Brief Presentations (TED Talks) on Thursday evening went well and were well received by Convention attendees. We should consider including a similar format for some of the presentations at future conventions.

Attendees also expressed a positive reaction to the do-it-yourself tour choices that made up a substantial portion of the Friday agenda. Again, we should consider this approach for a portion of the content of future conventions, especially in locations where we can arrange access to high-quality model railroads and other attractions that are of interest to NPRHA members. It may be useful to provide maps showing locations and distances for the stops on these tours, although many of our members have access to Google Maps, Waze, and other similar navigation aids.

Kent Sullivan commented that the 2024 Everett Convention will *not* include a full day of do-it-yourself tours of model railroads and other off-site attractions, primarily because he already plans an all-day bus trip to the Northwest Railway Museum at Snoqualmie, Washington. There are also significantly fewer high-quality model railroads in the Everett area.

NPRHA Officers for 2023/2024:

Dave Hillard and Bill Zidel are working to identify who will eventually succeed Rev.com Dave as NPRHA Treasurer.

Dean O'Neill nominated **Bill Zidel** to serve as **President** through the 2024 Convention, Bill Taylor seconded. Approved unanimously via voice vote. Later in the meeting, Bill Zidel clarified that he was willing to remain on the Board through the 2025 Convention, but that he did not want to serve as President after the 2024 Convention. Therefore, the Board should begin to ponder who will succeed Bill Zidel as President. Post 2024, Bill Zidel plans to concentrate on Membership/Recruiting activities.

Bill Zidel nominated **Bill Taylor** to serve as **Vice President**, Jim Woodward seconded. Bill Taylor indicated that he would serve if elected. Approved unanimously via voice vote.

Bill Zidel asked if any the Board members was willing to serve as Secretary, replacing Jim Woodward. No one volunteered.

Kent Sullivan suggested that the Board consider simply recording meetings and using a transcription service, such as <https://www.rev.com/> to deliver editable transcripts as Microsoft Word documents that could be further edited to serve as meeting minutes. Rev.com rates start at \$1.50 per minute.

Post-meeting Comment from Jim Woodward: If you use a voice recorder (or perhaps a smartphone voice recording) to collect audio from the meeting, anyone who is reasonably comfortable using Microsoft Word (or similar software) can transcribe that recording into written minutes. Perhaps the most challenging aspect is identifying the voices of the persons, as some folks do not have particularly distinctive voices. It can be especially challenging to identify members making remarks or asking questions during Membership meetings. Writing rough notes in real time during the meeting can help with this; however, if NPRHA were to follow Kent Sullivan's suggestion, it might be wise to require anyone who speaks during a meeting to identify themselves prior to saying anything else.

There still were no volunteers for the Secretary position. Bill Zidel said that the question would be tabled for the moment, subject to further discussion via email, etc. by the members of the 2023/2024 NPRHA Board.

Dean O'Neill commented that NPRHA By-Laws say that the organization should have a Nominating Committee. Kent Sullivan commented that he understood that the By-Laws to say that Nominating Committee's function was to produce a slate of candidates for Board Membership, that the Board was to be elected during the Membership Meeting, and that the Board Members then decided which of them would serve as President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. *Note that the NPRHA By-Laws also state that NPRHA members in good standing may also nominate candidates for the NPRHA Board during the election process at the NPRHA Annual Membership Meeting.*

Board Meetings between Conventions:

Dean O'Neill expressed the opinion that the Board should meet on a regular basis between Conventions – perhaps quarterly or bi-monthly. Such meetings can be done remotely, via GoToMeeting, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc. After additional discussion, it was suggested that these meetings occur at least quarterly. These meetings should be scheduled well in advance and preferably held on evenings or weekends. When possible, they should be limited to one hour duration. Dean O'Neill volunteered to use a web tool to schedule these meetings. Included in the agenda for these future meetings will be determination of who will succeed Dave Hillard as NPRHA Treasurer, as well as identifying the new Secretary.

Comments about the 2023 Convention

Kent Sullivan recognized the positive impact that Doug Andreason had on arrangements for the 2023 Convention.

Company Store Operating Expenses

Dave Hillard asked if there was currently a need for the Board to approve transfer of NPRHA financial resources to the NPRHA Company Store to support future expenses, such as procurement of the forthcoming passenger car and gondola models. After discussion, it was decided that this question was not yet fully understood and should be tabled until the first bi-monthly/quarterly on-line Board meeting. If necessary, it could also be addressed via email discussion within the NPRHA Board.

Raffle Proceeds:

Don Golde asked how much income NPRHA received from the 2023 Raffle. Bill Zidel commented that the total income was over \$6000. Dave Hillard commented that \$3225 of that came via pre-Convention mail-in ticket sales.

Adjournment: Jim Woodward moved to adjourn the meeting; A voice the Secretary did not recognize seconded. Adjournment approved unanimously at 10:05 PM.

Jim Woodward – Secretary, NPRHA