

CAMRRC Board of Directors Meeting

January 12, 2023

Meeting called to order at 10:30 AM by President Bob Northington

Members Present: Bob Northington, Fred Williams, Tom McColloch, Allan Steves, Dennis Egan, Hank Morris, Mike Guinn

Treasure's Report (See attached documents)

- Fred presented a copy of the 2022 Annual Financial Report and preliminary 2023 budget. The preliminary budget was updated based upon discussions throughout the meeting.

Discussion of 2023 Budget Items:

The 2023 Budget discussion were focused on ensuring all budget items were captured along with how to reduce costs where possible. Some of our fixed costs are increasing due to inflation and the growth in our club size. The potential for increased Member dues in 2024 was introduced at the onset of these discussions.

Summary: Adjustments to the preliminary 2023 Budget were made and approved by the Board based on the following discussions. In addition, the Board agreed to increase the Membership dues from \$30/year to \$40/year beginning in 2024 to cover increasing costs and the Club Tax Status situation (see below).

- Christmas Party discussion of how to lower cost to the club. Decision to lower the cash door prizes and increase the member ticket price. Tom proposed a lower cap for club expenditures on the event with individual member tickets to make up the difference. Board agreed and a line item of \$1500 was agreed upon for club expenditures on the party. Decision to keep the train set giveaway with \$200 line item also agreed upon. Other items discussed under "Christmas Party."
- Discussion to add a line-item amount to include the continued construction of the club modular train layout of \$1500. Details discussed under "Club Portable Layout."
- Fred proposed the club offer up to \$25 in reimbursement for refreshments for those who host an open house during the scheduled twice-a-year event. Passed.
- Dennis began a discussion as to why the club carries the balance it does. Fred explained the "rainy day" contingencies that money has been used for in the past (keeping the club going during Covid).

- Board approved the continuation of the club's PO Box, used primarily during Beat the Heat. \$166.
- Line item discussed for website maintenance. See "Future Website Maintenance."

Club Tax Status (See Attached Document)

- Review of our tax status documents confirmed we are a 501(c)7 Social Club not a 501(c)3 charitable organization. IRS regulations for a 501 (c)7 states we must receive 65% of our club monies through membership dues and 35% from "other." Our income from Beat the Heat unbalances these percentages.
- Allan proposed we raise dues in 2024 to \$40 a year to bring these percentages in line with parameters. Bob seconded and board approved.
- Our articles state we are a (c)3 and should read (c)7. Fred and Allan to review what is required to change them to conformity.

Dues Collections & Name Badges:

- Mike began collecting dues in December of 2022 for the 2023 year but did not turn any monies over to Fred until the January meeting. This was done to clarify dues income for the current year. Mike has maintained a record of which members have paid and by what means (i.e.: cash, check, PayPal). This should align with Fred's record keeping as he makes the same notations.
- Mike will continue to accept dues renewal through March 31st.
- Mike will not be at the February meeting but passed record keeping on to Fred for that evening.
- At this point Mike has received dues from 80 members.
- Discussion on the future of our badge vendor. Raskin's is closing for good. Les at Raskin's has maintained that he will be there for now (despite location closed?). Problems in past of badges being ready when Mike has gone in to pick them up. Further discussion on finding a new vendor. Hank suggested sign shop in Chino Valley. Those badges are not engraved but laminated. Mike is looking for other trophy shops.

Enhanced Financial Reporting (See Attached):

- Allan proposed a quarterly report that would give the board and up to date idea of income vs. expenses. Fred agreed that he could provide this.

Future Website Maintenance:

- We currently pay GoDaddy \$30 for our domain name. Maintenance and hosting is free through Web Cabin who built our site. Maintenance sporadic as site designer is otherwise employed and working for us as a favor.
- We need a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) so those who try to access our site won't have their computers deny access. About \$100 from GoDaddy.
- We could move all our accounts over to WordPress (the platform our site is written in) and get hosting and SSL for approximately \$100. This does not include tech support which could run \$60 an hour. Fred is to look into this option.
- Allan proposed we spend \$39 to move our SSL (certificate) to WordPress. Approved. Board to revisit website budget in March.

Meeting Refreshments:

- Discussion to update board member rotation schedule or involve membership tabled as there has not been significant backlash to Ken's suggestion that winners of the 50/50 raffle take on the next meeting's refreshments.

Club Newsletter:

- Decision to have Terry Huber take over production of the club newsletter discussed and approved. Terry is a 3 times nationally awarded newsletter editor and has agreed to take on the duties.
- Board agreed to recognize Peter for his years of efforts with a plaque at the next meeting.
- Discussion to make Terry a non-voting member of the Board was decided in a "no" vote but Terry will be invited to sit in on board members.
- Aside comments to move sending out general notifications to membership to another party (secretary) and organization of Open Houses to another party.

Club Portable Layout:

- Hank gave an update as to the progress of the portable layout as to what would be needed to "get it up and running." Construction has been on temporary hold due to Holidays and temperatures in the work building.
- Hank has a list of 5-6 volunteers. Parts have been ordered and received (pins).
- Hank to contact volunteers and have a report/schedule by next meeting. The Board's goal is to have a working layout for the July Beat the Heat event and a scened layout for the December Prescott Resort event.
- Fred to add a line-item of \$1500 to the portable layout.

New “Members Only” Password for the Website:

- Bob proposed we have a new password for the “members” side of the website to increase security as membership changes on a yearly basis. Board approved idea and to be implemented by April 1st.

Club Member Activities:

- Further discussion of the Christmas Party. Do we want to continue entertainment and what types are available? Keep the quality of the food we have been serving. Dennis to look at some entertainment possibilities.
- Fred moved that we put a \$500 max on entertainment. \$500 max on door prizes down from \$1000 in 2022. Bob seconded and approved.
- Discussion of some parameters to Open House event: Saturdays only, volunteers may set their times from 10-5, not to impede on Holiday months, hosts to be compensated up to \$25 for refreshments.
- Allan discussed a broader range of club member activities and involvement in meetings. Allan will bring this up at next meeting. Ideas discussed:
 - Workshops and “day outs.”
 - External presenters in meetings through Zoom.
 - Cameras to project presenter’s hands on activities during meetings.
 - Workshop nights wherein membership rotates through multiple stations of demonstrations.
- Mike suggested a picnic day at Scottsdale McCormick-Stillman RR Park.
- This tied in with Dennis’ discussion of less “travel logs” and more “how-tos” during meetings, hopefully applicable to multiple scales.

Sharlot Hall:

- Sharlot Hall is beginning to host displays again. Tom discussed possible involvement through a day or the possibility of bringing the N scale display currently sitting at Point of Rocks as a longer installment.

Prescott Resort Participation:

- Club membership consensus is they would like us to go back to participating in a display during December. Apparently, at one time there was an agreement

between Stan Cedarleaf and the resort that got us the room for free as he maintained their train.

- Allan to contact a representative from the resort and we will participate at some level.

Future Meeting Consideration:

- Bob noted that the February, 2024 meeting will fall upon Valentine's Day.
- Some of us could be in serious trouble if we choose a group of old men over our beloveds on that day.
- Keep in mind, we may need to change the meeting date of this one meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM

MINUTES APPROVED: _____ Club President Bob Northington