



## ORANGE COUNTY MODEL ENGINEERS, INC.

*The Mackerel Flats and Goat Hill Junction Railroad*

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P.O. Box 3216 • Costa Mesa, CA 92628-3216 • (949) 548-7246

**Date of Meeting:** Saturday April 6, 2019

**Place of Meeting:** OCME Clubhouse

**Board Members Present:** Hank Castignetti, Gary Gorman, Bob Harrison, Ken Matassa, Allen Stephens

**Board Members Absent:** None

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Orange County Model Engineers, Inc. was called to order at 12:40 PM by the Board.

**Other Members Present:** Dixon Sheldon, Craig Okun, Gary Kimble,  
Terry Cummings

### **Member Issues:**

- Dixon discussed details of Imaginology and confirmed that there will be no static train display outdoors.
- Gary discussed Winterfest and expressed concern over using non-member conductors. It was mentioned that OCME is still in the early discussion stages with Winterfest and that the issue has yet to be defined.
- Craig expressed displeasure with the plan to count birthday party riders and questioned why the city would even want the information. It was explained that it is to the clubs benefit to account for every ride that is given. A process for documenting the birthday riders was discussed by all present and it was agreed that the number should be noted on the birthday schedule posted at the station and recorded on the blackboard in the clubhouse next to run day figures. The birthday rider figure is to be included in the total ridership number presented to the city annually.
- Terry proposed buying replacement axle sets for our bench cars from Dan O'Brien. We have spare parts to keep rebuilding the Real Train trucks except for wheels and axles. Dan has axle sets with hardened steel wheels and hardened axles available for \$150 per set. Gary made a motion to spend \$1200 for 8 axle sets, it was seconded by Allen. Vote carried 5-0.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- A motion was made by Gary and seconded by Bob to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Motion passed 5-0

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Allen reported that the engine fund totaled \$19,266 in February, and \$33,364 in March. The increase was realized from transferring funds from a store account into the engine fund. Allen recommended keeping the funds in the engine account since it is interest bearing and provides the club additional income.
- Allen reported the general fund dropped from \$33,012 in February to \$26,188 in March as a result of routine club expenditures.
- Total Current Assets as of March 31<sup>st</sup> \$81,507
- The Treasurers report was approved on vote of 5-0.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- o Bob continued presenting changes in policy for use of club equipment until 5/19.  
\* This was revised under New Business below.
- o Ken will provide an estimate of the cost of the exhaust fan at the next meeting. (Continuing)  
\*Ken offered two types of exhaust fans. Ceiling mount and window mount.
- o Ken was asked to obtain installation instructions for the ceiling mounted fan.
- o Ken will pursue repairs to store rollup window cover (Continuing)  
\*Ken stated that the manufacturer of the window covering could not be located in order to obtain repair parts. Gary suggested replacing the entire unit.
- o Ken to locate supplier for a new roll up cover and obtain estimated cost.
- o Ken advised that OCME cannot be listed in the NMRA directory as they do not list our scale.
- o Hank will contact Mayor Foley requesting her law firm provide pro-bono legal advice to the club without representing OCME in any city matters. (Continuing)  
\*Hank advised that he has dropped plans to ask Mayor Foley to provide the club with pro-bono legal advice given her current city and campaign work load. He will continue to pursue other alternatives.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- o Gary to design safety check list for all engines pulling public riders.
- o Hank will consult with Paul regarding procedures for filing of junior member release forms.
- o Hank will develop and suggest new By-Law changes to revise club election procedure. For presentation to the board.
- o Gary will email revisions to the club Operating Rules to all board members. Asks all members to review and comment before April meeting. (Continuing, see below)  
\*After lengthy discussion it was agreed that each board member will focus on one section of club Operating Rules for clarification and revision, in order to lend structure to the process.
- o Bob will focus on age rules governing the operation of public trains.
- o Allen will focus on the procedure for revising rules.
- o Ken will focus on rules governing board members spending limits.
- o Hank will focus on storage rules.
- o Gary will focus on signal rules.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

- Hank read an email from Willie Johnson requesting work hour credit for submitting a third party email document to Bob in order to assist him in developing an OCME engineer re-certification procedure. Hank advised that sending an email attachment did not meet the club requirement of "Active Participation" to receive work credit and considered it a non-monetary donation. He refused to issue work credit unless directed by a board vote. Bob stated that the document supplied by Willie would save him time developing the re-certification procedure and it justified allowing a work hour credit. Bob motioned to allow Willie 10 hours of work credit, seconded by Gary. Vote carried 4-1, with Hank voting no.
- Hank read an email from Kevin Tolan advising that he had repaired all container roof leaks except for one in the back of container C. The board directed Hank to ask Kevin if he would be kind enough to repair the leak in container C.
- Hank requested Bob to move the club Agenda and Minutes to the member's page of the web site as suggested by George Shearer. Agendas and Minutes are proprietary to the club and should be restricted to members. Bob Agreed to move them.
- Hank proposed that the club begin purchasing coffee and supplies for the Keurig coffee machine and ask members for a .50 cent donation per cup, as is done with soda. He has been paying for club supplies personally. The board agreed to allow coffee to be treated in the same manner as soda. A donation container will be set up to offset the expense.
- Hank presented an updated new member Welcome Letter for board review.
- Bob reminded the board that tenting and termite fumigation of A & B cars in container C will begin Monday 4/8.
- Bob presented an email from Cynthia D'Agosta related to the Earth Day vendor layout at the station. It did not accommodate Norma's taco stand and Cynthia indicated that food should not be allowed on run days without a city permit. Bob suggested sending an email in response to make a case for Norma's presence. Hank suggested that a meeting be requested with Cynthia to clarify the issue of food at the station. Gary made a motion to meet with Cynthia and it was seconded by Bob. The vote carried 5-0. Hank will contact Cynthia ASAP to set up a meeting.
- Gary made a motion to approve up to \$1000 for Steve Trom to make necessary repairs to engine #1104 to correct the jerking hydraulic pump problem. It was seconded by Allen. The vote carried 5-0.
- Ken discussed member spending and suggested that all purchases should be preceded by a vote of the board of directors. It was pointed out that this was impractical for many purchases such as club gas, member lunches, soda and water, as well as small expenses such as postage and keys. It was agreed, however, that some policy should be implemented and Ken was asked to recommend clarification when reviewing club Rules on the issue.

**AD HOC BOARD VOTES:** (*Votes taken by email or when a quorum is present at the club.*)

1. \$4600 was authorized for the purchase of new steel rail.
2. \$900 was authorized for the purchase a truck load of ballast.
3. Hank was appointed Orange County Model Engineers Liaison to the Fairview Park Steering Committee.
4. \$750 was authorized for completing the termite fumigation of all the cars in containers A & B.

**EVENTS:**

- April 20<sup>th</sup>. The City of Costa Mesa will sponsor an Earth Day event at the station during our regular Run Day. Participating booths will include: Fairview park Steering Committee discussing future plans for the park, Costa Mesa Coyote Program with CMPD and USFWS, Banning Ranch conservancy. Activities will include "Teens give Back Day" restoration activity with "ICRE", Crafts, Easter bunny photo opportunity, Wetland Walk with an "Endemic" biologist, Bird Walk with "Sage and Sea Audubon" member, Clean Up of Talbert Regional Park with "Drains To Oceans".
- April 26, 27, & 28. For lack of a chairperson, the Spring Meet will be a club Fun Run. Camping will be allowed on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27, & 28<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting Adjourned \_\_3:10\_\_\_\_PM

Respectfully Submitted   
Hank Castignetti, Secretary

*Orange County Model Engineers, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID# 33-0141601*

(Items in **RED** require action on a members part)