



## 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 September 7, 2019

**Place of Meeting:** OCME Clubhouse

**Call To Order:** The regularly scheduled meeting of the Orange County Model Engineers, Inc. was called to order at 1:30 PM by President Gary Gorman.

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

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Approval Of Minutes:** Motion to approve August minutes by Bob, seconded by Hank.  
Motion carried 5-0

**Other Members Present:** Dixon Sheldon, Kevin Tolan, Jeff Tolan, Lori Johnson

### **Member Issues:**

- Dixon asked for an update of plans for the Scarecrow Festival/Pumpkin Patch. He was advised that Cynthia D'Agosta simply needs a list of organizations he has contacted that have confirmed their attendance, along with their email address. He commented that, in his opinion, the city screwed up the location of vendors at last year's event. He then asked what decisions were made regarding storage at the Equipment Storage Study Session. He was advised that there were no decisions made and no action taken. Later in the meeting Hank read him the minutes of the Equipment Storage Study Session that were sent to all members stating that, *"No options were proposed. There was no agreement as to what path should be followed, what method would be most equitable, and no decisions were considered. Only to pursue more fact-finding."*
- Jeff questioned charging fees for storage and Ken mentioned that Los Angeles Live Steamers charges fees. Jeff stated that "we want to be better than LALS".
- Kevin gave a history of storage issues at OCME. He was also critical of asking for a suggested donation as he feels this is treating riders as a "commodity". It was explained that the city was surprised that OCME only averages forty eight cents (\$.48) per ride and has authorized the club to suggest a "reasonable" donation, per our Use Agreement.

- Kevin stated that he has gotten complaints from public riders of being mistreated by OCME members and questioned why the Board hasn't been notified. He stated he has gotten unsolicited complaints from customers at Home Depot while shopping.
- Jeff stated that his friends had a bad experience on a recent Run Day. His friend was yelled at by an OCME member which made his autistic child cry and that his friend will never come back to OCME. Bob asked Jeff who the offending member was and Jeff stated that it is not fair to point fingers at members and name names. Jeff accused Bob of wanting him to point fingers. Bob disagrees; stating that without knowing a name there is no way to take corrective action.
- Bob stated that he would see inappropriate things going on in past business projects but that without knowing the offending person it is difficult to speak to each person individually.
- Kevin suggested the board speak to Betty for confirmation and information. He maintains she has observed bad behavior by certain members.
- Kevin addressed Dixon to criticize the "motor home group" for not focusing on important issues in the past.
- Kevin suggests that our training procedure is not focused on teaching members how to be polite to public riders.
- Gary stated that he believes all members should act as if they are "On Stage" at all times when at the club, similar to the directive given all Disneyland employees. He stated that there is never an excuse for being undiplomatic or rude. Discussion ensued regarding members manning the gate and loading trains being rude. Gary agreed that it should never happen but also pointed out that removing someone from manning the gate is problematic because someone else needs to be found immediately to perform the function.
- Jeff reiterated that he is uncomfortable with suggested donations, storage fees, and problems at the station. He advised that he doesn't agree with making money from members by charging for storage. Hank commented that the club charges members for dues, sodas, and banquets.
- Kevin stated that he learned the hard way. He believes ballast is not being laid properly and he suggested a "show and tell" presentation to illustrate the correct way to ballast track.
- Dixon suggested documenting every member who attends a Safety Meeting on Run Days.
- Lori suggested that the Station Master verify and record who attends Safety Meetings.
- Bob advises that relief crews need to coordinate with the Station Master when providing relief.
- Gary suggested that Patrick archive the Run Weekend sign-up sheets.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- Bob wants to present each dignitary at the 819 unveiling event with an honorary

membership. He volunteered to make the certificates and purchase frames and asked approval of the expense. Since it was expected to be within his discretionary \$300 board member limit, it was approved without a motion.

- Hank advised that name tags for all the dignitaries would cost approximately \$110 and that engineer hats for them will cost approximately another \$80. This, too, was approved without a motion.
- Allen suggests the Hank check with Betty to verify the date of Newport Beach Police Department Christmas party.
- Hank was asked to consult with Betty regarding available dates for birthday parties in December.

Motion to approve Treasurers report by Ken, second by Bob. Motion passed 5-0.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- o None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- o Gary asked for an evaluation of club trucks to establish our future needs.
- o Hank discussed Fish Fry plans for parking and distributing \$1.00 off coupons to riders.
- o Gary reiterated the need for all members to consider themselves “on stage” when dealing with the public.
- o Bob advised that he has contacted the Costa Mesa Firefighters Association regarding donation of pumpkins to our pumpkin patch. He is awaiting a confirmation from their representative, Rob Gagne.
- o Hank volunteered to generate a “retention schedule” for all club records and to organize all records on file. Hank reiterated that the OCME Secretary is also OCME “Custodian of Records”.
- o Gary offered to make an operating manual for the 819 that will also address all engine maintenance needs/issues.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

- Gary advised that the next work party should be devoted to track maintenance on Higgins.
- Bob reviewed all aspects of the OCME web-page and distributed all the admin passwords necessary to access the page and associated email addresses.

Motion to adjourn by Hank, seconded by Ken. Motion approved 5-0 at 4:25PM.

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/denote action by a member)