



ORANGE COUNTY MODEL ENGINEERS, INC.

The Mackerel Flats and Goat Hill Junction Railroad

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

Date of Meeting: Sunday February 02, 2020

Place of Meeting: OCME Clubhouse

Call To Order: The regularly scheduled meeting of the Orange County Model Engineers, Inc. was called to order at 1:55 PM by President Gary Gorman.

Board Members Present: Hank Castignetti, Gary Gorman, Bob Harrison, Andy Nelson, Dalton Johnson

Board Members Absent: None

Approval Of Minutes: Motion to approve December minutes by Gary, seconded by Andy. Motion Passed 5-0.

Other Members Present: Allen Stephens, Zach Jones

Member Issues:

- Zach presented a proposal to create a junior track crew. He expressed that a number of younger members, led by him and Mark Johnson, were interested in establishing a second track crew to focus on replacing aging tracks in sidings and yards. The crew will schedule work in coordination with Bob Brooks and build their own inventory of track panels from used aluminum rail using the remaining inventory of non-molded, plastic ties. Any mainline switches needed will be built by the existing switch crew as their production schedule allows and siding/yard switches will be “re-tied” in place by the junior crew. Zach advised that the crew has already cleared the overgrown weeds of the Riverside Siding as their first project. Dalton Johnson offered use of the clubs second work train. Zach has an inventory of all the tools that were removed from the second work train condolas and he will reassemble them for use by the junior crew. The crew’s first project will be the Show Siding (storage stub) at the station and construction of track panels has begun. Gary explained the Junior Crew decision to new club Treasurer, Andy Nelson, and the board formally appointed Dalton Johnson as BOD Liaison to the crew. The board expressed their excitement and appreciation for the initiative shown by the clubs junior members.
- Andy Romer asked members to remember to wear their name badges.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- (The report was given by outgoing Treasurer Allen as transition to Andy is in progress.) Allen presented the report and highlighted the following items of interest:
 - Store account balance \$13,000
 - New Locomotive account balance \$8,600
 - Donation received from the Newport-Mesa Lions Club \$200
Hank was directed to write the Lion's Club a thank you letter on behalf of OCME.
 - Anonymous donation received by the club \$300
- Allen reported total cash on hand in the General Fund of \$44,000.
- Hank was asked to contact Cynthia D'Agosta to discuss outstanding reimbursements to the club for dumpster rental and question why the city still has not yet put the dumpster on their account.
- Motion to accept Treasurers Report by Andy, Second by Bob. Motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 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". (PENDING)
- Gary submitted 1st draft of an operating manual for engine 819.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Hank suggested that he add a liability disclaimer to all equipment storage agreements. The board concurred and he will present a first draft at next meeting for approval.
- Gary was asked to take charge of making necessary tractor repairs. He agreed.
- Hank recommended that the weed sprayer car be converted from gasoline to electric. The engine needs major repair and the steel pump has malfunctioned. In addition, the hand spray hose has deteriorated and is nearly unusable. A new unit has been spec'd out that will also be more economical to use as well as provide silent running. Pat Ledbetter has donated two deep cycle batteries and the club already owns a usable charger. Hank has estimated the cost to be \$300.
Motion was made to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$400 by Bob, Second by Andy. Approved 5-0.
- The clubs portable restroom is not repairable. Hank contacted the manufacturer in Minneapolis and was told parts are no longer available.
Motion to ask Hank to make the best deal possible for replacing the unit by Andy, second by Bob. Approved 5-0.
(Update: Purchasing a new unit would cost the club \$400-\$500 + monthly service fee. After negotiations, renting a new unit would cost the club \$18.72 more than our current monthly expense. A new unit was delivered and is operational.)
- Gary Gorman announced that DJ will takeover purchasing gasoline for the club and Gary Reynolds has agreed to take over recycling of bottles and cans.
- Gary discussed his intention to resign from the board to move to Arizona. A discussion of how to replace him ensued. The board agreed on how an appointment should be

addressed. Gary may offer his resignation at the March meeting.

- DJ suggested moving board meetings back to the first Saturday of the month. The board voted to move BOD meetings to the first Sunday of the month to accommodate Andy Nelson, who has prior commitments on the first Saturday. DJ explained that he preferred Saturday because more members are likely to be at the club and asked Andy if he could reconsider. Andy explained why he is unable to accommodate that request and that it would require board meetings to last into the dinner hour on Saturdays. Bob suggested keeping the meetings on Sunday and the board agreed.
- DJ asked Bob if he would advise the birthday crews not to use the same engine for every birthday in order to distribute the wear on the engines. Bob agreed.
- Allen discussed the need to sign new signature cards. Andy advised that it is his experience that only those members authorized to sign checks need to sign signature cards, not necessarily the entire board.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

- Bob suggests we need to advise birthday crews to give a safety speech before each ride as is done on run days. He believes the club needs to tighten safety procedures for birthday party trains and offered to consult Ken and produce cards to read the speech from. He will assure the club has one official speech to use for all occasions.
- Gary advised that Andy Romer has volunteered to help build switches but needs to have the sun screen raised because it's too low for him to work under. Gary suggested building a new sun screen that will cover all the track and switch building areas. He suggests using metal posts in the ground and a sun screen that the club already has in inventory. He will procure materials to proceed.
Motion to approve expense not to exceed \$400 by Andy, second by Hank. Approved 5-0.
- Gary advised that the bridge is in serious need of repair due to deterioration of the wooden components. He proposes building a trail "bent" as soon as possible.
- DJ advised that the two seats on the 509 are broken and need to be replaced. He also stated that the swivel on the engineer's seat is bent and needs to be replaced also.
Motion to buy two new seats by Hank, second by Andy. Approved 5-0.
- **Motion to adjourn by Bob, Seconded by Andy. Motion approved 5-0 at 3:35 PM**

Respectfully Submitted _____  _____
Hank Castignetti, Secretary

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(Items in **RED** require/denote action by a member)