



ORANGE COUNTY MODEL ENGINEERS, INC.

1212

The Mackerel Flats and Goat Hill Junction Railroad

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

Date of Meeting: Saturday October 3, 2020

Place of Meeting: Online Zoom

Call To Order: The regularly scheduled meeting of the Orange County Model Engineers, Inc. was called to order at 3:05 PM by President Dennis Neil.

Due to the COVID crisis, and club closure, the meeting was held on Internet Zoom set up by Dennis Neil.

Board Members Present: Hank Castignetti, Bob Harrison, Dalton Johnson, Dennis Neil, Andy Nelson

Board Members Absent: None

Approval Of Minutes:

- Motion to approve September minutes by Andy, seconded by Bob. Motion Passed 5-0.

Member Issues:

- Dennis relayed that Dalton has gotten requests from some members who wish to address the board but don't want to do it in email form. It was pointed out that direct member participation in board meetings is limited to the time reserved for that purpose at the beginning of each meeting. Were members to participate in a "Member Comment" portion of a Zoom meeting, their microphones would need to be muted for the remainder of the session as only board members participate in discussions and have voting rights. It was also pointed out that all Zoom meetings are recorded and a link emailed to every member for their review. A discussion ensued brainstorming ways to encourage member input while maintaining the structure of the directors meetings. It was suggested that perhaps a separate general members meeting should be instituted, as was the practice prior to COVID, to allow members to voice their opinions and air their concerns to the Board of Directors.
- Motion by Andy, second by Bob, to establish a General Members Meeting on Zoom to be called to order one hour before each Board of Directors Meeting. Each member will be afforded a maximum ten (10) minutes of speaking time and the meeting shall be adjourned no more than one hour from its call to order. Motion approved 5-0.

Treasurers Report:

- By Andy:
 - Store account balance \$7,616
 - New Locomotive & Construction Fund \$8,898
 - General Fund \$8,198
 - Total Checking/Savings \$24,712
- Andy reported monthly expenditures of \$527.
- Bob noted that the club is out of ballast and if track replacement is to continue a purchase is needed. Hank stated that he had spoken with Gary Gorman, who last purchased ballast for the club, and that he recalled a truck load would cost approximately \$900. It was agreed that it would be a benefit the club to have members participate in track laying activities during this shutdown. Bob offered to investigate the cost of a truckload of ballast and arrange for a delivery.
- **Motion by Hank, second by Dalton, to authorize purchase of ten yards of ballast not to exceed \$1000. Motion approved 5-0.**
- **A motion to approve the Treasurers Report by Hank, second by Bob. Motion approved 5-0**

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Hank-Letter to all members with stored equipment to sign an updated storage equipment form noting the need for personal insurance on stored equipment. (Pending)**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bob referred to Andy Romer's recent report to the Board of Directors describing the current structural condition of the Hank Hornsvelt bridge. He noted that Andy is a licensed engineer in the State of California and his report constituted an official engineering structural report. His report found substantial generalized dry rot, termite damage, splitting/deformed wood and substantial compromise of the entire railing support structure. Bob offered Andy's report to Allen Stevens for further evaluation and comment and Allen determined, based upon its findings, he would not cross the bridge with his train in its current condition. The club's liability for property damage and bodily injury in the event of failure was mentioned in the ensuing discussion. The board unanimously agreed that the current state of the bridge required immediate action to mitigate club liability. Switch locks on the bridge gates will be replaced and keys will be provided to board members.
- **Motion to close the bridge to all train and foot traffic immediately by Bob, second by Dennis. Motion approved 5-0.**
- Bob informed the board of a holiday event to be held at the Muzeo Museum & Cultural Arts Center in Anaheim entitled "*Muzeo Express-Holiday Model trains*". OCME is invited to provide a static STEM display which will be open for public viewing from November 2020 thru January 2021. After much discussion, it was decided that bringing equipment to the event would not be advised but providing

a video of OCME activities would be a great opportunity to promote the club. Hank offered to contact the Cost Mesa video department to request a copy (and approval for use) of the video the city produced last year. It won a national arts award for excellence and would be perfect for this purpose.

- Bob nominated Kevin and Jeff Tolan for presentation of the next OCME Volunteer of the Month award. They have both had a life-long commitment to OCME have recently performed critical equipment maintenance necessary to keep the club functioning.
- **Motion to present Kevin and Jeff Tolan with Volunteer of the Month Award by Bob, second by Andy. Motion approved 5-0.**

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

- Dalton advised the board that Kevin Tolan has recently repaired a leak in the compressed air line supplying the steaming bays by replacing a six foot section of air line pipe.
- Dalton advised the board that Glenn has completed installing a new locking mechanism on containers A&B that replaces the inoperable locks in the slide up doors. A new pad lock secures both containers and opens with a standard container key. The board offered Glenn thanks for performing this work to secure club equipment.
- Hank advised the board that the club has received \$4,855 in membership fees this year. 2021 renewal fees will likely be the sole source of income for OCME the first half of next year. As usual, membership renewal forms will be included in the ballots of the upcoming election and he hopes that all current members renew promptly for next year.
- Hank offered two requests for equipment storage for board approval. One from Glenn and one from Mark Johnson.
- **Motion to approve storage requests by Hank, second by Dalton. Motion approved 5-0.**
- Hank advised the board that Patrick Ledbetter will soon begin the rebuild of the sprayer car. The gasoline engine has developed chronic mechanical problems and the existing frame shows a noticeable bow when the tank is full. All parts and material were approved by the board and procured last year. No expense will be incurred this year. The new car will be electric powered, will have a stronger new frame plus new trucks and couplers. Patrick intends to complete construction in time for the first seasonal rains.
- **Motion to adjourn by Hank, second by Dalton. Motion approved 5-0 at 4:05 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/denote action by members.)