



BAGRS Board Meeting

Sunday May 22, 2022

Called to order at 10:31- Mick Spilsbury, Larry Silverman, Channing Cheng, Gregory Hile, Lynn Gerber and Richard Murray in attendance. Membership chair Ray Turner was absent.

Action Items:

Mick and Larry: to discuss offline -- automatic vs manual payments

Mick: to research how automatic features set up and work in Wild Apricot

Ray: to research possibility of offering an automatic renewal option

All Board Members: to send Pix and short two paragraphs to Greg for T&T article

Mick: following up with Chicago Area GRS about how they help members with RR construction guidance

Channing: to develop a Survey Monkey for members on club experience

(New 5/22) Greg & Channing: to work on plan for another SWAP meet in October

(New 5/22) Larry: to provide sign templates to Mick and Greg. COMPLETED

(New 5/22) Larry: to contact CPA/expert with non-profit experience to opine on whether \$200,000 convention funds need to be held separately from BAGRS operating funds.

Minutes:

- The finance, marketing and membership reports can all be found on the Google Drive
 - The board did not address the process for ordering badges
 - Two corrections to April minutes: Survey Monkey and Chicago Area GRS
1. Minutes of the April 10, 2022, were approved
 2. Meeting The SWAP meet at Accucraft was a great success, enjoyed by all. 80-100 in attendance. Discussed having another one later in the year. The board voted on approving \$200 to Accucraft to help defray food and drink expenses. Vote passed unanimously.
 3. Greg getting new member notifications, but not sure if they really are new members. Mick indicated he would check.
 4. Annual Meeting
 - a. Richard brought up the postcard expense for the annual meeting, that it should be an expense of the annual meeting. Greg mentioned that we are only billed once a year as one item.
 - b. Discussion turned to the cost of underwriting the annual meeting which was at \$2,000 or about \$500-\$600 more than in the past. It is about 20% of annual dues. The board voted to approve keeping the expense as a benefit to members because it is one of the most attended events of the club.
 5. Open house discussion on signs available for hosts to use on their property e.g., "enter here" etc. We can provide the signs or we can provide templates to let hosts print. Determined the hosts may not all have the means to print themselves and probably better



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- to have a professional print. Larry has templates of signs he will send out. It was also discussed that REGRS is giving \$50 to each Open RR host to offset costs. With 60 sites this could be \$3,000 and our annual revenue is \$12,000. Also discussed crossbucks or other means to denote the location of the home. No decision on whether to provide or not.
6. Mick reported that all marketing efforts on social media are on an upward trajectory with increasing visitors. The GR News is also doing well and we will use it heavily for our convention advertising next year as it is free.
 7. The Open Railroad schedule is complete and available to members. The districts were not generally open to doing both days.
 8. Livesteam: Richard reported the good news that all historic locations for steamer events are now open. The Live Steamers have added Accucraft and three Hiller events. Richard also mentioned that they are losing drivers.
 9. Mick reiterated that he wrote to 27 non renewing members. Only three replied. Some were deceased or moving out of California. He continues tracking the outcome of the emails.
 10. A significant discussion was held on the redesign of the website. Mick passed out mockups. Mick will take comments and changes and come back with new mockups. Plan is to go live in January. Mick laid out the case for using a contract professional to get the website up and to perform some ongoing maintenance. There was general support for that approach and Mick will investigate the availability and cost of contract professionals. Also determined that each board member should have responsibility to keep the various sections on the Members Only page current. This is a proactive role that would variously involve uploading routine new content (for example T&T editions) and sending content to be uploaded to the person maintain the site.
 11. Important discussion held as to whether the \$200,000 for the convention funds need to be held separately from the BAGRs operating funds. Appears to be a long-held view they must be separate, but current Treasurer, Larry Silverman, has consulted financial/tax experts and they are of the opinion that the funds did not need to be held separately. Larry has also spoken to many prior BAGRS Treasurers who agree with the experts. The Board agreed to let Larry pick an expert CPA with non-profit experience and obtain an opinion on the subject to share with the board.

COMPLETED ACTION ITEMS:

Mick: verified Richard Murray's contact information

Mick: Google Drive for BOD has been set up

Mick and Lynn: board minutes now on DRIVE and/or on BAGRS Website

All Board members: no members contacted Mick about a Wild Apricot session/and maybe Google Drive

Ray: changed initial email to new members to be more welcoming

Mick: sent email or contacted 27 former members



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Channing: Accucraft hosted the May SWAP Meet on office premises

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Board will be on Sunday July 24 via Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:10