



BAGRS Board Meeting

Sunday July 24, 2022

Called to order at 10:01- Mick Spilsbury, Larry Silverman, Channing Cheng, Gregory Hile, Lynn Gerber and Richard Murray, Ray Turner in attendance.

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

All Board Members: to send Pix and short two paragraphs to Greg for T&T article. Two have been sent

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

Greg & Channing: to work on plan for another SWAP meet in October

Minutes:

1. **Minutes of the prior Board Meeting** on May 22, 2022: **MOTION: To approve those minutes was passed unanimously.**
2. Ray researched automatic renewal payments. The feature is turned off/never enabled. May have fee to turn on in PayPal, Venmo etc. Discussion on PayPal ensued. Ray also covered badge ordering saying it is working well and takes about a month.
3. Reminder to send pix and bio to Greg to put in the T&T.
4. Larry led discussion on separation and use of finances between convention and BAGRS. Larry informed the group of his findings: after discussing with non-profit legal experts there is no actual need to keep the finances separate and we can use the funds as we see fit. He mentioned the previous treasurer found the same. **MOTION: Legally, profits earned from prior conventions can be used to support the general operations of the Bay Area Garden Railway Society.**
5. Notwithstanding the motion passed in point 4 above, the Board agreed that some level of the Society's accumulated funds should be reserved by Board policy to provide working capital and a loss reserve for future conventions. Mick will liaise with Russ re the level of the Society's accumulated funds to be thus reserved.
6. Larry gave brief update on finances (see his report for further information). Question was asked about funds spent so far on Convention. Larry said he would check to be sure but so far appears to be just Hotel and Convention Center expenses. Discussion covered that we need to generally retain only some lesser amount of funds for preconvention expenses. Need facts to determine how much to retain for preconvention expenses. It was mentioned that a Convention account has been opened.
7. Directors & Liability Insurance Renewal: **MOTION to approve renewal was passed unanimously:** Kudos to Larry for getting a new \$200 administration renewal fee waived!



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8. Insurance coverage for open houses: Larry has determined that coverage for members and guests is the same, correcting a belief that guests at open houses are not covered.
9. Social Media Update: Mick reported 1,250 followers on Instagram. Over 1,000 on Facebook. Now gathering more followers on just launched YouTube channel
10. Membership Update: Ray reported that we attracted two new members in June and none so far in July. He mentioned that we used a paper membership application for the first time. The paper form does not cover all data we like to see in member profiles so new members using a paper form need to be encouraged to complete their profile info on website.
11. Open Railroads: Greg reported that program is going well with good turnout. Masks are provided at each site. Signs did not appear to be needed for the August Open Houses. The postcard was brought up. Should send earlier. A vendor was late. Also mentioned postcard Covid Disclaimer was covered up by a mailing tag. Greg stated that Patterson's district still not ready to open, so will switch to East Bay. Also have only 2-3 interested in Phantom Layout openings in fall.
12. Live Steam Update: Richard covered the Lodi steam up and mentioned that the new strain of Covid was a topic of considerable discussion. At the steam up of 100 people only a few with masks. Anticipating the August 13th live steam event at Hiller. Los Altos is one day only. Concord event at Just Trains Cancelled for lack of a driver and because most attendees are vendors.
13. Website Redesign: A significant discussion was held on the redesign of the website after 10-15 years of deferred maintenance. Plan is to go live in after its introduction at the 2023 Annual Meeting. We need easy interfaces such as posting T&T and minutes. The hope is that we can do 90% of updating ourselves so that maintenance we pay for is around \$1,000 per year. Decided to vote on website project after we see the contract. All agreed in principle that is something we need to do.
14. Convention Update: Mick updated the Board per discussions with Russ Miller.
15. The board discussed the need for a policy (or not) on whether BAGRS should allow promotion of organizations on any of its media platforms unless the organization directly supports the garden railroad industry. A reminder was made that in the past we have let members use their open house as a vehicle to raise funds for organizations not related our hobby. Based on past practice the Board took no action on this topic.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Board will be on Sunday October 2, via Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:10

Respectfully submitted: Lynn Gerber: Board Secretary