

**Wisconsin Southeastern Division (WISE) of the NMRA
Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday June 10, 2020

Location: Virtual

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Superintendent Slater

BOD Present - Burnell Breaker (Library), Andy Breaker (Asst. Super), Andy Greco (WISE Ops), Harry Grieshaber, Dennis Janssen (Treasurer/Paymaster), Steve Miazga (Owl Car), David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk), Mike Slater (Superintendent), Ted Zieger (Contest).

Chairs Present - Jim Hebner (Website).

Absent - Gary Children (Achievement AP), John Hagen (Layouts), Mark Hintz (Youth), Art Oseland (Bus Trip).

Guests - Dave Nelson (Via Audio only phone) (Election & Legal), Mark Willmering (Trainfest Floor Director) (Left the call at 8:30 pm)

Minutes - May minutes: One correction was that this should be the May minutes, and not March. Corrected minutes were sent. B. Breaker made the motion to accept, seconded by Miazga. The motion carried unanimously.

Paymaster - Reports were submitted by Janssen to the BOD via email. Greco made a motion to accept, seconded by B. Breaker. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Membership: One new member - Tony Radunz from Racine.

Meets: (& Clinics).

- Sept RPM meet, Need Clinics.
- October 18th Meet will be at Burnell's church, with same clinic and location that was scheduled for March. Presenter will be the author of Milw. Rd Book.
- Need the rest of scheduled meets to be confirmed including the Oconomowoc's confirmation that are able to host the Spring 2021 meet

Layouts: Hagen not present.

- We are still waiting for the NAPM group to meet, (delayed due to Covid-19) to approve to a visit during the September RPM Meet.
- The plan for October is to visit Ralph Plachter's "Midwest Lines" layout (provided he is ok with visitors), or the Tri-County Club in Union Grove and/or the South Eastern Lionel Club in Racine, or others.

Contests: Zeiger – Nothing new.
Plaque modifying still on hold with Rally. Will take about a week or so to get it re-done. Have three to redo. (hopefully no more)

Youth Group:

- Mark Hintz not present.
- No youth meetings at WCGD due to the shutdown.
- Need to discuss with Mark if Waukesha is interested in the youth program.

Video Library: B. Breaker stated nothing new

Owl Car:

- Miazga stated the Next Owl car deadline is Aug 20 or so.
- No negative feedback so far, which is good.
- No response from Hagen if he is interested in taking on the editor task.

Facebook: Slater posted on Facebook pictures that has been submitted, and gets approved. Latest posting was photos from Ralph Plachter's "Midwest Lines" layout.

Website: Slater stated that Hebner should remove the youth group info on the website.

Bus Trips: No report, Oseland not present.

Achievement: No report, Children not present.

WISE Ops: Greco stated nothing to report.

Old Business:

- Picture issue in on hold due to Covid-19, but Walthers is starting to open up in some fashion.
- Need Hobby Shop Flyers for Trainfest. Was suggested to make a generic flyer, with "2nd weekend in November" instead of specific dates. Tradition is to give 2 passes to each hobby shop for having them put out flyers in their stores.

New Business:

- Slater appointed Janssen to another 2-year term ending May 2022 as Paymaster. Motion made by Zeiger, 2nd by Miazga, all approved.
- Slater appointed Rohr to another 2-year term ending May 2022 as Chief Clerk. Motion made by B. Breaker, 2nd by Miazga, all approved.

Trainfest:

- Trainfest Report (Slater/Janssen) –
- Janssen & Slater had a conference call with State Fair Park.
- The Fair Park does not have a timeframe of when the Expo building will be available.
- The Hospital at the Expo building is a mostly permanent construction (2 x 4's, Plywood and Drywall), unlike the temporary fabric walls/dividers of other installations around the country. The State is running the operation, as none of the local hospitals wanted to be responsible. The fair park staff has been evicted and has been working for home, or other locations. It cost \$25M to build and an estimated \$15M to tear down.
- The State Fair call determined that we would not be responsible for the amount we owe them for 2020, and could move the deposit to the 2021 date.
- If we were to continue with the planning and get advertising placed (which is a 5 - 6- month lead time for magazines) and if will spend the \$100K by October, and if the event would not occur, we would not have money for the 2021 event.
- Janssen talked with the marketing firm, told them to lighten up on advertising expenditures, and will get more info to them after this meeting. They have put out some marketing from May 31 > June 6 (one week) and has gotten a lot of

impressions (107,337) (when someone stops and looks at the info) and 363 actual clicks that sent them to the TrainFest website. Re marketing ads of 76,568 impressions and 420 clicks.

- Miazga stated that a vendor stated we would be very lucky to get 15K to attend.
- Amherst is moving forward, they are giving a monthly update to vendors, but that show is at the end of January.
- Walthers status – They have not submitted an application yet, but would if we decide to hold the event.
- Our insurance does cover liability, but may not cover Covid-19 issues, as it could be “act of God”. And then only up to the policy limit of liability.
- Dave Nelson stated we would be “self-insured” and how would an attendee to prove they caught the virus from our event, and not elsewhere.

- If we move ahead with the 2020 show, we would need temperature checks, mask rules, 6 ft markings, cleaning protocols, etc. Would need training on use of the temp checks, process of cleaning, etc. Admission would be slowed with the temp checks. Greco said his construction crew of 250 workers takes about 1.5 hr using 4 scanners. all spaced out 6 ft, every day.
- The best plan – Plan A - is to use the Expo Building
- Plan B would be to use the Wisconsin Products building, as it is the next largest building (~30K sq ft) with Heat. But would only be able to have vendors, if they only had one table each. OR only the layouts, but the layouts do not pay for floor space, or electrical, or tables/chairs, etc. The vendors would probably draw the hobbyists, and limited families. The families would probably attend the layout only show, and limited hobbyists.
- After lots of discussions, we could not come up with a viable Plan B.
- Zeiger motioned to cancel the 2020 Trainfest show, 2nd by Janssen, motion passed with one abstention.
- Need letter to vendors, explaining that the expo building is not available until the hospital complex is removed, as it not guaranteed to get removed in time.
- Need to alert the vendors before the public is alerted.
- We would need to honor the pre-sold 2020 show tickets, or issues refunds.
- We could move the MoPac to 2021, would need to confirm.

New Business (part 2):

- In new business (based on the above action) - An alternate discussed is to have a “Virtual Trainfest”. And can broadcast this on Facebook, YouTube, etc. Could feature the Vendors that may have products to introduce, Layouts to feature, Clinics. This could be on Zoom, or “NMRA – X” virtual initiative. Will need marketing to advertise, may be able to get the vendors to pay for this. Would we make this free to the public, or charge? Will investigate.

- With the NMRA policy change on “At-Risk” (aka Youth involvement), The disposition of the youth layout and related equipment needs to be decided and approved at the next WISE BOD meeting.
- Also, next month we need to discuss disposal of the “junior engineer” items in storage.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned about 8:43 PM. Motioned by Miazga, seconded by Zieger, all were in favor.

The next meeting is Wednesday, July 8 at 7:00 PM, via Virtual "GoToMeeting"

The next BOD meetings after July could be August 12 (if needed), and / or definitely September 9. (2nd Wednesday).

Respectfully submitted by David Rohr, Chief Clerk

Reminder: Each person with a group email (trainfest.com or WISE.org, or ??) should send that password to B. Burnell, so he can keep that documented.