

TUCSON GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 12, 2023
Nelson Residence

Board Members Present:

Glenn Mitchell	John Fennema
Claudia Nelson	Jim Miller
Charlie Weesner	Jerry Tulino
Margaret Torres Nelson	

Glenn called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM, and we approved minutes from February board meeting.

Treasurer's Report Summary – Margaret Torres Nelson

All Acct Balance	\$ 16,917.94
YTD Net	\$ (2920.38)

- We closed the BofA account, moving all the money to Vantage West Credit Union. We shifted some money from savings to checking in preparation for expenses of the county fair.

VP Report – John Fennema

- Rails in the Garden recap: 3351 total visits to train layouts (63 less than last year).
 - Donations about \$2667 – to be confirmed next month. Slightly more donations than last year.
 - John asked “Where did you hear about RITG,” and most mentioned the KGUN 9 news story. At Charlie’s house, most were newspaper article.
- Pima County Fair
 - Setup modules Mar 30 starting at 9 AM. John & Glenn will be moving trailers to the hall ~10 AM Mar 29.
 - We ask that no “decorations” be put up until repair & repaint of module bases has been accomplished.
 - Discussed modifications to module placement – circus to the north side front, Nogales to the southeast (formerly circus corner). Would like to make “open country” behind the greeter table so people are not crowding behind the greeter searching for the scavenger hunt.
 - Plants will be ordered “next week” – ready for us by April 1.
 - No word on Scouts plans to help with setup.
 - Discussed age limits for “who is allowed in” to the children’s hands-on layout. Need to emphasize that children must be escorted. Charlie is appointed to review toy bins for the kids layout to orient toward “train play” on the table.
 - Discussed getting new members to sign up for Pima County Fair staffing.

Newsletter Report – Quite a newsletter this month!

Committee reports

- Membership – Jerry has trouble reading from email sign-in sheet and membership paper applications.
 - Suggest we include a “send an email to sign-up for reminder email next year” so Jerry doesn’t have to interpret handwriting.
 - 14 families joined the club during RITG.
 - Suggest an online membership form and supply a laptop at the fair for sign-ups. Charlie can supply a Chromebook. Claudia has an online form of the registration. We only offer

membership at the fair if visitor is judged to be an active interest in conversation with the greeter.

- Website – Asked for a prominent “next meeting” banner on the front page of the website.
- Maintenance/Displays
 - TBG layout will be removed Mar 20 starting at 9 AM. .
- Social Activities
 - 27th @ The Depot for luncheon
 - Handing over info for Christmas party, 2024 to Ann.

Old business

- Club organization notes: We discussed re-allocating responsibilities to make Vice President's job less demanding. We will be shifting the responsibilities for Rails in the Garden and Pima County Fair displays to committees of one or more people. The VP will be an interface from these committees to the board, as well as being responsible for arranging meetings and other displays we may do - like the Ocotillo Learning Center at Christmas and our presence at renaming of the Tucson Wagon and History Museum this past January.
- 2024 club elections – Still working to get someone to take on the “executive vice president” position with the two big events assigned to committees.

New Business Discussions

- Banner Children’s Hospital plans to remodel their lobby. They contacted us about “should they move the train?” Glenn is working to arrange a meeting to understand their expectations. Jerry and Charlie are interested in attending.
- TGRS historical information: The person assigned as “historian” needs to be proactive in selecting information to preserve. We have mostly *lost* our history since Phyllis Dirksen retired.

Upcoming meetings

Mar 16	Weesner
Apr 13	Charmichael
May 11	Tucson Botanical Gardens

Next board meeting – April 10, 1PM @ Nelson’s

Next luncheon – March 27 @ The Depot

Upcoming Activities

Mar 30	Setup modular layout
Apr 18-28	Pima County Fair