

TUCSON GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 14, 2025
Nelson Residence

Board Members Present:

Willis Fagg	John Fennema
Charlie Weesner	Wally Gadzick
Claudia Nelson	Jerry Tulino
Ron Koehler	Margaret Torres Nelson

Willis called the meeting to order at 12:57 PM with 8 board members. We approved minutes from the March board meeting. There was no meeting in April.

Treasurer's Report Summary – Margaret

- Pima County Fair expense is a huge dum-dum candy purchase along with pencils and building kits for the fair.
- Our CD at Vantage West Credit Union has expired. A motion was brought forward to authorize Margaret Torres Nelson to select another CD for a term between 6 and 12 months for up to \$10,000 at her discretion based on rates and terms available.. This passed and discussion about making it an automatic renewal was not favorable.

VP Report – Claudia Nelson

- Pima County Fair – Awaiting response from Julia about attendance and schedule for next year, but it seemed fewer people than we remember. Train raffle to Alonzo who drove up from Nogales with his whole family to pick up the prize.
- Southern Arizona Transportation Museum “Railroad Days” display May 10 with the portable layout. There were about 400-500 people who attended.
- Watermark Retirement Communities, Marana, has asked about showing our portable display on the Friday before Father's day. We're considering adding a couple of the tables we bought for Old Tucson to make a larger display and running a battery locomotive. Expect to send out a call for volunteers when more details are nailed down.
- At the fair, “Sam” stopped by to ask about the Christmas display we used to have at the Veterans Hospital. He's from the Arizona Veterans Home which houses 240 patients who are mostly not ambulatory. This may be an alternate display option that's still on the VA campus.
- Meetings planned for next year
 - candidate September meeting?? – maybe Gadsden Pacific?
 - Ron Koehler – October
 - John Fenemma – November
 - Christmas party – December
 - Rob & Cathy Norwood – January
 - Rincon West - February
 - Charlie Weesner – March
 - John Charmichael and Phil Pappas - May

Committee reports

- Membership
 - Online application guy from Sierra Vista responded that it's “just too far for me” – no longer joining.

- Last warning to drop 3 people who have not paid this year, drop at the end of the month.
- Gave out a few cards for free membership at the fair. Hope to see them this week.
- Website – next meeting more prominent on the front page
- Maintenance/Displays
 - TCM failures – hope to treat over-current by replacing motor blocks. Purchased, but not installed, yet. Follow-up on worn rail by replacing curved section from flex track that we couldn't do in our November repair visit.
 - Rodeo Museum – Glenn Mitchell fixed a derailment & the broken sound button.
- Social activities
 - Jerry volunteers to find a range of alternate places to have luncheons.

Old Business

- Golembiewski equipment – Some of it already sold. No response from Upland Trains. Probably too small a collection to interest him now. Willis to try to contact Gadsden Pacific about the stuff.
- Old Tucson display – on hold pending any response from the park.
- NMRA 90th anniversary display – looking for some photos to show garden train layout. Claudia plans to have portable layout for 3 weekends: November, December, February.

New Business

- Retaining new members and getting them active in the club
 - Ron is open to hosting a “new member get-together”
 - Note the enthusiasm from letting a kid blow the whistle and run the throttle using Blunami at the fair.
- Phil Pappas taking over RITG, specifically publicity. Suggest we discuss a budget for this at the September board meeting.
- Portable layout – Need to get acrylic 8” or 12” to outline the table at shows to slow children's' hands reaching the layout when running.
- Need to develop a shadow for Jerry on the website & mailing lists.

Upcoming meetings

May 17	Club meeting at Charmichael/Pappas trains at 8, meeting at 9
Sept 17	Board meeting @ Nelson's 1PM
May 28	Luncheon to be announced.