

TUCSON GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 17, 2025

Nelson Residence

Board Members Present:

Claudia Nelson	John Fennema
Charlie Weesner	Wally Gadzick
Margaret Torres Nelson	Jerry Tulino
Ron Koehler	Jim Miller

Claudia called the meeting to order at 12:55 PM with 8 board members. We approved minutes from the May board meeting. There have been no meetings over the summer months.

Treasurer's Report Summary – Margaret

- Storage unit cost has gone up to \$111 per month. Used to be \$86.
- CD renewal – running a little late. We will get slightly lower interest rate on the renewal.
- Balance currently \$15,440.41

VP Report – Claudia Nelson

- nothing over the summer, lots down in “new business”

Committee reports

- Newsletter – positive comments on Steve Debord's article about the fire train model.
 - Membership – One semi-new member applied, but we haven't got dues, yet.
 - Website – more discussion under “new business”
 - Maintenance/Displays – Derail of RS3 at TCM, Charlie hasn't fixed it, yet.
 - Social activities – Claudia will address Ann about Jerry taking over lunch arrangements.
- Discussed other activity ideas
- Organize a trip? – Possibly ask Thomas to arrange a visit to the Surprise layout trip.
 - Train-spotting trip as a social activity?

Old Business

- Golembiewski equipment – Someone from Gilbert coming down to look at it. Perhaps this was the contact Thomas had brought up?
- Old Tucson display – We still get crickets from our follow-up emails. Tabled, for now.
- NMRA 90th anniversary display at Mini Time Machine Museum – Claudia plans to set up for November 1&2 (circus), December 6&7 (Christmas train), and January 9&10 (rodeo-themed display). Using the “expanded children's layout” with an outer loop and internal figure 8. Sign-up genius announcement looking for volunteers. Note that John Carmichael plans to push Rails in the Garden tour with a table at the same event.

New Business

- 2026 RITG – Phil has asked the board to pay for \$607.37 purchase of four “A frames” to display. A poster will be at the Mini Time Machine during the NMRA events. Board discussion about “We already have “A frames” used at the fair, and it seems a large purchase to make without prior board approval. The board has authorized paying him, but asks for prior consult on “such a large purchase.”
- 2025 Events coming up
 - Mini Time Machine – listed above under NMRA 90th
 - Swap meet at Gadsden Pacific, November 9 – Consider just bringing the TV, rather than setting up our loop.

- St Paul's preschool, December 3 – Christmas layout display
- Fennema's evening Christmas display, December 5 & 6
- Ocotillo Learning Center - TBD
- 2026 board elections in February – We need to be recruiting for board members.
- Moving club meetings to fourth Saturday (per Charlie Weesner's request) – No need to change the board meeting. In November, we will move the social luncheon to the second Wednesday.
- Christmas party planning – Asked Ron to look into Mountain View Bar and Grill at Saddlebrooke as a suggested alternate.
- Website updates requested by John Charmichael – Jerry details exchanges with Carmichael about his proposal to change the graphic design on our basic web page. Board discussion leans toward something more "garden railroad," as opposed to the AI "railroad" scene he's proposed. Conclusion is a set of photos of the layout for the "upcoming meeting" as a graphic introduction. Photos will be changed month to month. Jerry and Margaret to work up a prototype of such a design. Ron has volunteered to look at the wording of "club purpose" that's included on the page.

Upcoming meetings

Sept 24	Luncheon at Cafe Santa Rosa
Oct 15	Board meeting @ Nelson's 1PM
Oct 25	Club meeting at Ron Koehler's trains at 8, meeting at 9