

TUCSON GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 20, 2026
Nelson Residence

Board Members Present:

Claudia Nelson	John Fennema
Charlie Weesner	Margaret Torres Nelson
Ron Koehler	Jerry Tulino
Willis Fagg	Mark Marine

Willis called the meeting to order at 1 PM with 8 Board members. We approved minutes from the March board meeting – the last one we held.

Treasurer's Report Summary

- Statement sent to the board
- The “donations” year-to-date entry is net of Elaine's donation and PCF raffle less our donation to Wagon and History Museum

VP Report – Claudia Nelson –

- Work is planned over the summer about what we will set up at Zoo Lights for November-December. Looking for a space to try decorations from little trailer.
- We still expect an Old Tucson display request for the March/April, next year.

Committee reports

- Membership – EJ Causbie and Jeff Larkin are our newest members.
- Social/Luncheon
 - Ten showed up for the picnic, May 13.
 - Discussed Christmas party venues for next year and board approved Mama Louise at Craycroft & 29th with the club expected to swallow a portion of the cost per person.
- Maintenance/Displays
 - No activity for the prior month.

Old Business

- 2026 Pima County Fair – Done for the year, haven't got information yet about next year. Raffle give-away at Tucson Mall posted to Facebook & Instagram.
- No one has approached the fairgrounds about having us put a storage container in place of one of the trailers that we keep at the fairgrounds.
- We purchased domain names railsinthegarden.com and railsinthegarden.org to assure these cannot be used by others. The board was told that ABTO has lost their domain because it wasn't renewed and someone else bought it while it was lapsed.

New Business

- Parting message from Willis urging us to get new members and get them involved in the club more quickly. Historically, this has been club members volunteering to work on each other's layouts as a means of mentoring among the group. Some discussion about scheduling clinics for the coming meetings.

Adjourn to the incoming board

Board slate was elected with positions to be assigned by the board:

Claudia Nelson – president
 John Fennema – vice president with someone else coordinating RITG
 Margaret Torres Nelson – Treasurer
 Charlie Weesner – Secretary
 Jim Miller – newsletter (in absentia)
 Jerry Tulino – webmaster & membership
 Ron Koehler – at large
 Mark Marine – at large / Rails in the Garden publicity
 we have at least two positions open for “at large” members

General meetings planned
 October – Koehler
 November – Fennema
 January – Oracle?
 February – Rincon West (wants 1st Saturday)
 March/April – Weesner
 May – Mark Marine

Upcoming Events

June 10	Social luncheon - Mexican
June 17	Board / start RITG coordinating meeting @ Nelson house

Candidate clinics?

- Re-doing modules of fair layout – easier connect / height adjust & lighter
- Cement buildings?