

## Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association

Board Meeting

Duluth, Minnesota

September 17, 2017

**Board Members Present:** Alan Dahlman, Bob Golde, Bob Makins, Doug Shearer, Jim Woodward, Ken Zieska, Bill Zidel

**Board Members not Present:** Chris Frissell, Dave Hillard

### Meeting called to Order at 8:34 AM

Secretary Woodward and President Zidel signed two copies of a printout of the September 13, 2017 email summarizing Board approval of the August 24, 2017 motion to *authorize NPRHA President (Bill Zidel), Current NPRHA Treasurer (Dave Hillard), and Don Golde (NPRHA Treasurer-Designate) as Check Signers and "Key Executives" for purposes of conducting NPRHA Business at Wells Fargo*. President Zidel will convey this document to Wells Fargo to complete the authorization process.

**2019 Convention:** President Zidel commented that many businesses (restaurants, stores, attractions) in Medora ND could be shut down for the winter by the most likely time for the 2019 NPRHA Convention – September 11 – 14, 2019. Given that situation, we may want to consider having the 2019 Convention at an alternate location, such as Helena or Missoula, Montana, as discussed during the Board Meeting on September 12, 2017.

- Missoula offers the possibility of bus trips to see the Bitterroot Branch, the Phillipsburg Branch or the Polson Branch. *Driving time for a loop including Darby, Phillipsburg, and Jens is about 4.5 hours. Driving time for an out and back trip to Polson is about 3 hours.* Perhaps we could explore the possibility of a train ride on MRL to Paradise or Helena. The Montana Grizzlies have an away football game at the University of Oregon on September 14, 2019 (<http://www.gogrizz.com/schedule.aspx>), so we would probably not have a problem getting hotel space for a Missoula convention running from September 11 – 14, 2019.
- Helena offers the possibility of bus trips to see the NP Water Tank at Elkhorn - *driving time 2 hours out and back*, the east side of Mullan Pass at Austin – *driving time 1 hour out and back* – and/or the west side at Blossburg, or perhaps even a train ride on MRL to Garrison, Deer Lodge's Grant Kohrs Ranch, or perhaps even to Missoula, Logan or Whitehall. Helena may also offer an opportunity to interact with the Warren McGee Photo Collection at the Montana Historical Society.

President Zidel will contact Bill and Jan Taylor regarding possibilities for these two locations.

### Discussion of the 2017 Convention:

Bob Makins mentioned that we could have done a better job with respect to communication of details relating to convention activities: transportation for model railroad layout tours, scheduling banquet preparations on Saturday afternoon before all of the modeling presentations were completed, etc. We probably need a dynamic large print display of times and locations of upcoming convention activities. We also need to ensure that we allocate sufficient time in the schedule to group activities such as the General Membership meeting. And we need to ensure that there is a single schedule that reflects our best estimate of what will happen when.

Bob Makins also commented that we need to have an up-to-date copy of the NPRHA Bylaws available at each Convention in case issues arise regarding policies and procedures. John Fuji will provide the current Bylaws to Dean O'Neill so he can update the information at <http://www.nprha.org/Association%20Documents/NPRHA%20BY-LAWS%2010c.pdf> to version 2012 (d). John will also provide version 2012 (d) to the Board.

Bill Zidel related a conversation he had after the September 16, 2017 membership with Virginia Berg, who is a parliamentarian. Virginia commented that if a member raises a concern that some action is not in keeping with the NPRHA Bylaws, we can ask that member to cite the paragraph of the Bylaws that underlie the concern. If the member cannot cite the exact reference in the Bylaws, the President can then continue with the proceedings of the meeting. Furthermore, it may be better to name each of the candidates for positions on the board one at a time, since that strategy requires only one request to the membership for an alternative candidate, per Roberts Rules of Order. Once all of the candidates have been named (and perhaps alternative candidates have been raised), the presiding officer need only ask once if there are any objections to closing the nomination process. If there are no objections, the presiding officer may close nominations and ask for a vote on the candidates. If members raised alternative candidates for any position, there should be a vote on that particular candidate vs the alternative.

Otherwise, the presiding officer may ask for a vote on the entire slate as presented. Virginia will provide a writeup of this procedure.

Alan Dahlman commented that for Presentations at future conventions, we should have someone introduce each presenter. As part of the introduction, we should ask the audience to hold questions or comments until the end of the presentation, or perhaps until the presenter asks if there are questions or comments. In some cases, a question asked in mid presentation would have been answered by the next sentence uttered by the presenter. We also need to remind the audience that they should remain silent during presentations. If they must have a conversation with someone else in the audience, they should do that outside the room where the presentation is occurring. Finally, we must remind the audience to mute their cell phones and to leave the room if they must answer a phone call.

**Officers for the year beginning September 17, 2017:** Dahlman moved that the Board name Bill Zidel as President, Ken Zieska as Vice President, Jim Woodward as Secretary, and Dave Hillard as Treasurer, transitioning to Don Golde as Treasurer during the year. Makins seconded. With Ayes from all present, this motion carried.

Dahlman also commented that he was in favor of the motion previously raised and approved on August 28, 2017 that Zidel, Hillard, and Golde are authorized as Key Executives and Check Signers for purposes of conducting business for NPRHA at Wells Fargo. With approval by Dahlman, this motion achieved unanimous approval.

President Zidel asked Board Members to ponder who should be President, Vice President, and Secretary in the future. We also need to identify potential future Board members to replace us when the time comes.

**Approval of Minutes from NPRHA Board Meeting of September 12, 2017:** Secretary Woodward emailed Minutes to Board members on September 15, 2017. Via subsequent emails, Ken Zieska moved to accept the Minutes on September 15, 2017, and Don Golde seconded that motion. President Zidel called for a vote to approve the motion. All present voted Aye. Dave Hillard had previously voted Aye via email. Therefore the minutes of the NPRHA Board Meeting of September 12, 2017 were approved.

**NPRHA Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures:** John Fuji appeared at the Meeting. John has accumulated Bylaws and another document covering Policies and Procedures and will provide those and other documents to the Board. John also plans to provide us with a slide-show of images from past conventions.

**NP Photo Collections:** Jim Woodward commented that <http://www.morphotoarchive.org/rvndb/> provides a fine index that facilitates viewing of Ron Nixon's photo collection, and that Ainsworth, Caron, Fredrickson, Hawk, Henderson, Stevenson, Turner, and Werkema collections have been indexed and made accessible at <http://www.nprha.org/Pages/Research-Sources.aspx>. However, for the Warren McGee Collection, all we currently have are PDFs of Warren's notes about the pictures, with no apparent way to view the actual images. How can we get a similar database for McGee's photos?

**More information for the Chehalis / Centralia Convention.** Bill Zidel has already identified six presenters for the Convention.

Al Zimmerman mentioned that he was interested in serving on the NPRHA Board at some time in the future. Al also mentioned that we should consider an excursion to the Mt Rainier Railroad & Logging Museum, either during the 2018 Convention, or as a pre-Convention or post-Convention extension, perhaps with a tour of Mt Rainier. Al Harper, who owns the Durango & Silverton and Great Smoky Mountains railroads, has recently purchased the Mt Rainer property. *Some Convention attendees may also find Dan Klennert's Recycled Spirits of Iron Sculpture Park at nearby Ashford, WA interesting - <http://www.danielklennert.com/>.*

Information about the Convention will include instructions on how to use the Amtrak Cascades and Coast Starlight service to reach the Centralia station, which is relatively close to the convention hotel.

Convention marketing must clearly include all planned options for rail-related and non-rail-related activities.

Adjournment: Woodward move to adjourn, Shearer seconded. Unanimously approved by voice vote. Adjourned at 9:37 AM

Jim Woodward  
NPRHA Secretary