

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2024 MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
CHICAGOLAND LIONEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC.**

The March 26, 2024 meeting of the board of directors of the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club, Inc. (CLRC) was held at the CLRC club house in New Lenox, Illinois pursuant to notice. President Herb Koch called the the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present when the meeting was called to order were: officers Herb Koch, Ed Carter, Bob Ciolino, and Joe Smolinski. Also present when the meeting was called to order were directors Jeff Mills, Bill Trzaskus, Jim Amarati, Swav Kojro, and Ed Zeglicz.

The minutes of the January 26, 2024 board meeting having been previously approved by email, the board took up the balance of the consent agenda. In connection with the consent agenda the board unanimously approved a membership report by Bob Ciolino and the Treasurer's report by Bob Ciolino.

In his membership report Bob advised that as of March 26, 2024 the Club had 109 Regular Members and had 16 Long Distance Members bringing the total membership to 125 which is the same number of members that the Club had in calendar year 2023.

In his Treasurer's report Bob advised that as of March 26, 2024 the Club was in the strongest cash position it has been in since before the Club purchased the clubhouse. Ed Carter reported that consistent with the investment strategy developed by the Finance Committee the week before the board meeting the Club purchased a 12 month \$14,000 brokered CD paying 5.15% per annum.

In connection with the Treasurer's report Bob also reported that as of March 25, 2024 total receipts from the sale of items in the Flaherty donation were \$17,875.75 and that total receipts from the sale of items in the Walter donation were \$17,082.00.

As part of his Treasurer's report Bob then reviewed the anticipated major expenses of the Club during the balance of the current fiscal year and in the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024. In that review Bob noted the following major expenses in the new fiscal year: 1) insurance annual premium estimated to be \$2,500 which will be due on on January 7, 2025; 2) condominium association dues of \$2,400 annually (\$600 per calendar quarter) plus an annual \$100 fire alarm inspection fee that is paid to the condominium owners' association; 3) ADT annual charge (estimated to be \$850); and 4) real estate taxes (estimated for 2024 to be at least \$5,700 and is payable in two installments).

Bob advised that as of March 25, 2024 a total of 111 of the Lumberjack Lager cars had been sold, that those sales had yielded \$8,800.00 in receipts, and that the car had cost the Club \$14,400 to produce. Bob reported there are 86 of the cars remaining to be sold.

Bob also gave a report on the profitability of the Club's three business centers that covered the period from the beginning of the current fiscal year through March 25, 2024. Bob reported

that as of March 25 the diner had a profit of \$1,652.18, the retail shop had a profit of \$11,540.87, and the service station (back shop) had a profit of \$4,444.77.

The board then took up discussion of the budget for the Club for FYE 3/31/25. Treasurer Bob Ciolino and the board members reviewed the projected income for the new fiscal year and the anticipated discretionary and non-discretionary expenses. Following discussion and amendments that increased discretionary spending Ed Carter moved the adoption of the budget as amended. Jim Ammirati seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Joe Smolinski then made a report to the board about his discussion with the Joliet Library and its invitation to the Club to set up a static display of model railroad trains at the library in September. Joe reported that he was advised that the library would allow the Club to place its brochures and business cards by the display and that any trains the Club decided to display would be kept in a locked display case in the library. He further reported that the library's insurance would cover any Club property in the display and that the library would provide the Club with a certificate of insurance. Whereupon Jeff Mills moved that the Club display trains at the Joliet Library in September and that Joe Smolinski be the person to manage the display with such additional persons as Joe decides. Joe Smolinski seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The board then heard a report from Joe Smolinski about the advertising schedule for the open house season. Following the review and discussion no changes were made.

The board then took up discussion of the Occupancy Signal System currently in the process of being installed on the layout. Bob Ciolino advised that Swav had presented him an invoice asking to be reimbursed for material he had purchased for the system. Bob said that because that expense was in excess of what had been budgeted for the system he needed board approval to pay the invoice. Questions were then asked and discussion was had about how much more money it would take to make the signal system operational. Swav said that probably no more than \$500 would be needed. Whereupon Joe Smolinski moved that the Club reimburse Swav for the material he purchased. Herb Koch seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by a unanimous vote. Bob Ciolino then made a motion to increase the signal system budget by \$500. Herb Koch seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The board then heard reports about the status of various aspects of the 30th Anniversary party in September and decided that tickets for the event should go on sale at the annual membership meeting in April.

Bill Trzaskus then advised the board that a member of his church's senior club wants to donate her late husband's entire train collection to the Club. Bill reported that the collection consists of Lionel, American Flyer, HO, and N scale engines and rolling stock. Bill said he would transfer the inventory from her and bring it to the clubhouse.

Ed Carter then advised the board that there would be Club elections in 2025 and that Herb Koch and Bob Ciolino would be up for election as president and treasurer, respectively, and that directors Swav Kojro, Ed Zeglicz, and Jim Ammirati would also be up for election then. Ed said that right now nothing needed to be done, but that in the fall he would need to recruit two

directors who along with would constitute the committee to run the elections.

The board then heard a report from Tom McGrath on the results of the new prototypical running session. Tom reported that 15 members came to participate in the running session and that is probably close to the maximum number of operators that can be accommodated. Tom advised that there was a learning curve for the operators and that some adjustments needed to be made to the running protocols for future operating sessions.

The board then heard a suggestion from Tom McGrath that the Club hold a Swap meet at the Clubhouse for members. The board took the suggestion under advisement.

The board then took up a question about purchasing additional radios. It was noted that the additional radios would be useful during open houses and that as prototypical running evolved they could be useful in the future for prototypical running sessions. Ed Carter moved that \$150 be appropriated for the purchase of six radios. Herb Koch seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The board then took up matters relating to the annual membership meeting in April. Bob Ciolino noted that last year George Stangel had delivered the keynote address and had done an excellent job. Bob said he had recently talked to Charlie McCarthy and Charlie had asked to be able to speak at this year's meeting. Bob moved that Charlie be named the keynote speaker at this year's meeting. Ed Carter seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The board then heard comments from Tom McGrath about the current state of the layout and about its future. Tom noted that there is no comprehensive plan for the future development of the layout and that currently any changes are made on an *ad hoc* basis. Tom suggested that the board create a committee to study the future development of the layout. The committee would be responsible for developing a long term plan for the layout and other layout related recommendations and submit those to the board for approval and any necessary financial support. Whereupon Ed Carter moved that a committee be formed to develop a long term plan for the layout, that in connection with developing the plan the committee solicit suggestions and ideas from the membership, and that the committee be chaired by Tom McGrath and staffed with members to be selected by Tom McGrath. Bill Trzaskus seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The board then took up scheduling of future board meetings and set June 25, 2024 and August 27, 2024 as the dates for the next two board meetings. There being no further business, upon motion by Ed Carter, seconded by Jeff Mills, and passed by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Edward Carter
Secretary of the meeting