

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2025 MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
CHICAGOLAND LIONEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC.**

The February 11, 2025 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, Jim Ammirati, and Ed Zeglicz. Directors Bill Trzaskus and Swav Kojro were not present at that time. Also in attendance were members Tom McGrath and Wayne Matulis.

The minutes of the November 12, 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, a Treasurer's report by Bob Ciolino, and a Finance Committee report by Ed Carter.

In his membership report Bob advised that as of February 11, 2025 99 Regular Members had renewed and that 16 Long Distance Members had renewed bringing the total number of renewed memberships to 115 and that when combined with the number of new members total membership was 124.

As part of his Treasurer's report Bob then reviewed the anticipated major expenses of the Club in the fiscal year that begins on April 1, 2025. In that review Bob noted the following major expenses: 1) insurance annual premium estimated to be \$2,300.00 which will be due on January 7, 2026; 2) condominium association dues of \$2,400 annually (\$600 per calendar quarter) plus an annual \$200 fire alarm inspection fee (\$100 per unit) that is paid to the condominium owners' association, both of which will be due January 1, 2026; 3) ADT annual charge \$850; 4) real estate taxes of \$5,300 for 2025, half of which is due on June 1, 2025 and the balance of which is due later in the fiscal; and 5) the trailer storage fee for twelve months estimated to be \$875.

Bob advised that as of February 11, 2025 a total of 126 of the Lumberjack Lager cars had been sold, that those sales had yielded \$11,050.00 in receipts, and that the cars had cost the Club \$14,400 to produce. Bob said 67 cars remain to be sold and if all of those remaining cars are sold for \$75.00 each the Club will realize a profit of \$1,675.00.

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 February 11, 2025. Bob reported that as of February 11 the diner had a profit of \$1,325, the retail shop had a profit of \$6,511 and the service station (back shop) had a profit of \$2,057.

Ed Carter then presented a report from the Finance Committee. Ed said that the Club currently holds six brokered certificates of deposit (CDs) issued by various financial institutions, the newest of which is a one year brokered CD issued by the Goldman Sachs that was acquired

on December 18, 2024 and pays 4.1% per annum at maturity. Ed advised that the Goldman Sachs CD was purchased from the proceeds of two brokered CDs that matured in December 2024 combined with money from the Club's JPMS Sweep Account and money from the CLRC checking account. Ed reported that as of February 9, 2025 the unmatured CDs had accrued \$2,527 of income for the Club. Ed said that one of the brokered CDs will be maturing at the end of February and that the proceeds from that CD and money from the Club's JPMS Sweep Account will be used to purchase a new brokered CD at that time.

Ed Carter then gave a report from the Club's Election Committee. Ed advised that no members had submitted their names to be candidates to run against the incumbents for president and treasurer of Club before the deadline for doing so. Ed then made a motion pursuant to §6 of the Club's election rules to declare the incumbents, Herb Koch and Bob Ciolino re-elected as president and treasurer, respectively. Joe Smolinski seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ed advised that in addition to the three incumbent directors, Swav Kojro, Ed Zeglicz, and Jim Ammirati one member, Tom McGrath, had submitted his name as a candidate for director. Ed said the statement of each candidate and a ballot had been emailed to the membership and that he had already received some mail in votes. Ed said members will be able to vote in person during the March open house.

The board then took up discussion of the budget for the Club for FYE 3/31/26. 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 relating to spending Jim Ammirati moved the adoption of the budget as amended. Jeff Mills seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The board then took up discussion about offsite backup and the possible use of external hard drives and in conjunction with that a discussion about the retention of the Club's intellectual property within the Club computer. Following discussion that included the possibility of record storage in the Cloud instead of in a Club owned external hard drive it was decided that more information was needed and the best way to proceed was to develop a list of what the tasks the board wanted to move to such a system and examine the different levels of access that might be need to be established and then compare the merits of the Cloud versus a Club owned external hard drive.

Citing a newspaper article on the subject of imposing a surcharge on customers who pay with credit cards and debit cards Jeff Mills raised a question about the propriety of the Club imposing a 5% credit and debit card surcharge. Bob Ciolino pointed out that the Club has a sign in the retail shop that advises visitors about the surcharge and that the surcharge covers the costs we incur from accepting credit and debit cards. Bob advised that he had contacted the Club's accountant about the matter and was waiting for an answer from her.

Director Swav Kojro arrived at this point of the meeting.

Joe Smolinski then addressed the board about the need to reassess the Club's advertising strategy. He advised that based on information that Bob Ciolino and Ed Carter had gleaned from

asking first time visitors and provided to him about where those visitors learned about open houses it appeared that advertising in The Patch was not effective. It was agreed that the Club should suspend advertising and review the advertising strategy again at the next board meeting.

The board then heard a series of reports:

1. Swav Kojro gave a report on the progress of making the Occupancy Signal System operational.

2. Tom McGrath gave a report about the prototypical running sessions on the Mondays following open houses. Tom advised that the sessions have been drawing a small core group of six to seven members and that Bill Trzakus has developed a more complex prototypical running plan that will be put in use soon.

3. Tom McGrath reported on the Swap Meet. Tom advised that the meet is scheduled for April 27 with May 18 as the rain date. Tom said he will produce a flyer to advertise the meet.

4. Swav Kojro then gave a report on the sunrise/sunset lighting system. Swav advised that in addition to the day and night lighting sequence the 15 minute light show now also shows stars, the Aurora Borealis, and the moon. Swav said he was now looking into adding a thunderstorm to the light show.

The board then took up a request from Herb Koch to purchase a 55" smart TV for the dining area. Herb made a motion to purchase a smart TV for no more than \$400. Joe Smolinski seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed with six voting in favor of purchasing, none voting against purchasing, and two abstaining.

Jeff Mills then reported that the Club was out of the tri-fold brochures. It was decided to have 200 hundred of the brochures printed and possibly revise the brochure for the new open house season.

Jeff Mills then advised the board that additional Z-Stuff equipment was needed for the coal mine. It was pointed out that the new budget allocates \$300 that can be used for purchasing the needed equipment.

The board then heard a presentation and request from Wayne Matulis to allow a visit by students from the Lighthouse Home School Cooperative. Wayne estimated the visit would draw 30 K-12 students and asked for the visit to be on May 7, 2025. No diner service would be provided, but the Club would make water, pop, and potato chips available for purchase. Jeff Mills made a motion to approve the visit. Bob Ciolino seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The board then moved into executive session to discuss the parking issues raised by the owner's association.

After concluding its executive session the board returned to open session. After returning to open session the board scheduled the annual Membership Meeting for May 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the clubhouse. Bob Ciolino and Ed Carter will be responsible for planning the program

for the meeting. The board then schedule its next meeting for April 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, upon motion by Ed Zeglicz, seconded by Jeff Mills, and passed by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted

Edward Carter
Secretary of the meeting