

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
CHICAGOLAND LIONEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC.**

The September 5, 2023 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. President Herb Koch called the the meeting to order at 9:10 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, Swav Kojro, and Ed Zeglicz. Director Jim Ammirati was absent. Ed Carter acted as secretary of the meeting.

The minutes of the May 30, 2023 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 August 31, 2023 the Club had 106 Regular Members and 19 Long Distance Members for a total membership of 125. Bob advised that last year at this time the Club had a total membership of 134.

In his Treasurer's report Bob advised that as of August 31, 2023 the Club had more cash on hand than at any time since at least 2018. Bob also reported that as of August 31, 2023 total receipts from the sale of items in the Flaherty collection were \$17,875.75 and that the Club had realized \$15,999 from the sale of items in the Walter Donation.

As part of his Treasurer's report Bob then reviewed the anticipated major expenses of the Club in the fiscal year that began April 1, 2023 and the payment status of some of those expenses. In that review Bob noted the following major expenses in the current fiscal year: 1) 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; 2) ADT annual charge estimated to be \$850 and that the charge for the first half of the year had been paid; 3) real estate taxes for 2023 were \$5,007.88, and that both the first and second installments had been paid; 4) the special assessment of \$7,600 from the owners' association for re-paving of the parking lots had been paid; and 5) insurance premium estimated to be \$2,500 which would not be due and payable until after December 31, 2023. Bob also advised that of the \$4,084 budgeted for summer tasks only \$1,000 had been spent.

At this point Bob advised that one of the Club's brokered CDs was scheduled to mature on September 8 and that as of the date of the board meeting 3 month T-bills were paying a higher rate of interest than brokered CDs. For that reason, depending on the rates being paid upon maturity, the proceeds of the maturing brokered CD may be rolled into a 3 month T-bill instead of a brokered CD.

Bob also reported that he had contacted two restaurants about the possibility of hosting the Club's 30th Anniversary party. Bob reported that Sawa's Old Warsaw told him it was closed on

Sunday. Bob also reported that he had talked to Aviana and it was open on Sundays and could host the Club on that day.

Herb Koch then reported on the status of the parking lot re-paving. Herb advised that re-paving would take three days and that as originally scheduled one of those days would have been the same day as our September open house. Herb advised that he had been able to get the re-paving rescheduled so that it would not conflict with either an open house day or a Wednesday running day.¹

Bob Ciolino then gave a report to the board about the sale of the Lumberjack Lager beer cars. Bob advised that as of August 31, 2023 a total of 62 of the Lumberjack Lager cars had been sold and that those sales had yielded \$4,960.00 in receipts. Bob noted that there had been no sales since the last board meeting and that 134 cars had yet to be sold.

Herb Koch then noted that in the past when LCCA members visited the Club they spent freely purchasing items from the gift shop and suggested that to try to boost sales of the beer car the Club invite LCCA members to visit without charge during an open house. Jeff Mills then moved that LCCA members be invited to attend either the April or May 2024 open house free of charge with the specific month to be determined at a later date. Ed Zeglicz seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The board then heard a report from Joe Smolinski about the mentorship program. Joe was the first member appointed as a mentor. Joe related how he interacted with the new member and his mother.

Joe then presented a copy of a letter he sends out to people who, through the Club's website, inquire about membership. The content of the letter was discussed. Herb Koch suggested some possible changes and said he would email them to Joe.

Herb Koch then reported that Tom McGrath has been working on developing a program that would make prototypical train running sessions possible. Herb advised that Tom would be conducting trials of his program in October. Once those trial running sessions are satisfactorily completed consideration will then be given to scheduling actual prototypical running sessions for members.

Jeff Mills reported that four cars purchased during the Walter Donation sale by an unknown member remain unclaimed despite emails sent to the membership and announcements published in The Semaphore. It was decided that the cars would be put back up for sale and that if more than one person expressed an interest in purchasing them a lottery would be conducted to determine the order in which interested members would be able to purchase. It was also decided that a notice would be emailed to the membership announcing the availability of the cars for purchase and the lottery that would be conducted to determine the order of purchase, if necessary.

¹Seven days after the board meeting in which Herb reported on the re-paving schedule, the paving company advised that due to weather related problems the re-paving schedule had to be re-adjusted. As a result of that re-adjustment, re-paving will start on Wednesday, September 13.

Herb Koch then advised the board of the death of Jerry Girard. Herb said that he had spoken to Jerry's daughter who told him the family had no immediate plans to sell Jerry's home and that the Club can continue to store its trailer on the property.

Herb Koch then proposed creating a memorial plaque to commemorate members who have died. After some discussion the proposal was tabled.

Herb Koch then suggested that as a way of trying to attract younger members to the hobby and to the Club that the Club invite the boy scouts who attended the Railroading Merit Badge event in June to attend our October open house free of charge. Herb then made a motion to that effect. Bill Trzaskus seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Following that discussion the board took up the subject of locker rentals. Jeff Mills suggested that the current system did not seem fair. Whereupon Bob Ciolino made a motion to create a waiting list for locker rentals with rentals being made from the list in the order in which names are placed on it. Jeff Mills seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Bob Ciolino then brought up the subject of obtaining dimmable light bulbs that are also capable of changing color. Installation of such bulbs would allow the Club to simulate a 24 hour day during running sessions. Bob noted that during the July night running session clubhouse lights had been turned off with the only light being light generated from the layout and the trains that were running. Bob advised the effect was very impressive. Bob noted that at least five years ago when the lighting over the layout was installed one of the goals was to be able to simulate a 24 hour day. Bob noted that because the Club had only spent about \$1,000 of the \$4,000 budgeted for summer projects money was available. Following discussion about technical matters relating to controlling the lights it was decided to obtain a cost estimate.

The board then scheduled its next meeting for November 7, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the clubhouse. There being no further business Ed Carter moved to adjourn. Jeff Mills seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Edward Carter
Secretary of the meeting