

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 30, 2023 MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
CHICAGOLAND LIONEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC.**

The May 30, 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 9:00 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 and Ed Zeglicz. Director Swav Kojro was absent. Ed Carter acted as secretary of the meeting.

The minutes of the March 21, 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 May 30, 2023 the Club had 102 Regular Members and 19 Long Distance Members for a total membership of 121. 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 May 30, 2023 the Club had more cash on hand than at any time since at least 2018. Bob also reported that as of May 30, 2023 total receipts from the sale of items in the Flaherty collection were \$17,795.75 and that amount had not changed since the last board meeting. Bob also reported that the Club had realized \$15,905 from the sale of items in the Walter Donation and that there were items in the Walter Donation that remained to be sold.

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 were estimated to be \$5,007.88, for 2023, that the first installment of \$2,503.94 had been paid, and that the second installment was due in September; 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.

At this point Bob advised that because of the Club's strong cash position he thought the Club should invest another \$14,000 in brokered CDs or T-bills, depending upon the interest being paid at the time of the investment. Ed Carter moved that the Club invest \$14,000 consistent with Bob's recommendation. Bill Trzaskus seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The board then took up a discussion about several matters raised by members during the May 6 annual members meeting and in subsequent emails. In connection with that discussion Bob Ciolino noted that at the meeting and in subsequent emails there had been interest expressed by members in possibly building an HO or S gauge layout in the mezzanine area. Bob expressed the view that an HO layout would probably attract interest from more members and possibly some new members than an S gauge layout. Following discussion the board decided to seek a proposal for an HO layout from members interested in building it. To that end the board asked for at least five interested members to develop a plan for an HO layout to fit a 20' x 5' area on the mezzanine which would be submitted to the board for consideration. The board directed that announcement of the solicitation of a proposal be publicized in the next issue of the Semaphore and that Ed Carter write the announcement.

In follow up to member comments about the annual members meeting it was noted that a number of members had asked about holding the next meeting by Zoom. Joe Smolinski noted there were a number of platforms that would allow the meeting to be put online in a webinar format and that at least one of them, Facebook, could be used without cost to the Club. Following discussion the board decided to use a webinar format for the next annual meeting.

In further follow up to comments received from members at the annual members meeting and by emails received following it, the board took up discussion about adding another running day. Jeff Mills advised that Charlie McCarthy had indicated that he would be willing to manage Wednesday evening running sessions. Jeff then moved that the Club add Wednesday evening running sessions to be managed by Charlie McCarthy under the same rules as for Saturday night running. Herb Koch seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Herb Koch advised the board that the yellow parking stripes for the parking spaces in front of the clubhouse had all been repainted.

Bob Ciolino then gave a report to the board about the sale of the Lumberjack Lager beer cars. Bob advised that as of May 30, 2023 a total of 62 of the Lumberjack Lager cars had been sold, that those sales had yielded \$4,460.00 in receipts. Bob noted that the car had cost the Club \$14,400 to produce and that 134 cars had yet to be sold. Bob asked the board for ideas, other than price reduction, about how to increase sales.

The board then heard from Bob Ciolino about admission and diner pricing. It was noted that prices had not been changed in a number of years. As to admission Bob made a motion that effective for the September 2023 open house season single admission be raised to \$6.00 and family admission be raised to \$15.00. Jeff Mills seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed with six voting in favor and two opposed. As to diner pricing Bob made a motion that the diner items be priced as follows:

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|------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Polish sausage            | \$3.50 |
| 2. Polish sausage with chips | \$4.00 |
| 3. Hot dog                   | \$2.50 |
| 4. Hot dog with chips        | \$3.00 |

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|-------------------|-------------------|
| 5. Pop            | \$1.00 per can    |
| 6. Juice          | \$1.00 per box    |
| 7. Coffee         | \$1.00            |
| 8. Tea            | \$ .50            |
| 9. Water          | \$ .50 per bottle |
| 10. Hot chocolate | \$1.00            |

Ed Zeglicz seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed with 7 voting in favor and one voting against it.

Bob Ciolino then brought up the idea of establishing a mentorship program for new members. Bob explained that the program would assign members who volunteer to be mentors to new members. The mentor would be the person responsible for introducing the new member to other members, showing him around the clubhouse, and telling him about the procedure for running trains on the layout. The mentor would also be the person to whom the new member can go with questions and if the mentor did not know the answer would be able to direct him to someone who would. Following Bob's presentation Jim Ammirati volunteered to be a mentor.

Herb Koch then began discussion about the Railroading Merit Badge fee. Herb moved that effective January 1, 2024 the Railroading Merit Badge fee be raised to \$25.00. Jim Ammirati seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed unanimously.

The board then scheduled its next meeting for September 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the clubhouse. There being no further business Jeff Mills moved to adjourn. Jim Ammirati seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

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Edward Carter  
Secretary of the meeting