



**Highland Park Society of Model Railroad Engineers, Inc.  
854 Broadway Avenue, San Gabriel, CA. 91776 (626) 285-1031**

**Annual Business Meeting**

**October 14, 2020 – 8:00PM**

**Minutes**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A. The meeting was called to order at 8:01PM by General Superintendent Steve Smith Sr.

**II. QUORUMS AND PROXIES**

A. Active members present: Steve Smith Sr, Chris Rippy, James Keena, Dave Flynn, David Dodds, Bruce Turner, Jerry Duncan, Marc Thrasher, Jack Ross, Gary Ashcraft and John Decka.

B. Probationary Members Present: Oz Pramwew, Stacy Ross and Jinger Rippy

C. Sustaining Members Present: Bryan Hunnel

D. Members Present by Proxy:  
Ray Olsen to James Keena  
Arie Korporaal to Steve Smith Sr.  
Cliff Bender to James Keena  
Lindsay Smith to Steve Smith Sr.

E. Non Voting Members Present: Oz Pranwew, Stacy Ross, Jinger Rippy and Bryan Hunnel

F. A Quorum was declared by the Chair.

**III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

A. Membership - Discussion of incident that occurred prior to meeting in the club house between Pete Debeers and John Decka

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

A. The minutes of the July 2020 meeting were approved as mailed.

**V. MEMBERSHIP**

A. We welcomed new Probationary Members Stacy Ross and Jinger Rippy

B. We had a discussion regarding Senior Member John Decka inquiry about Pete Debeers delinquent dues. John requested Pete turn in his key to him. Pete turned in his key to the club. Superintendent Steve Smith Sr. and Assistant Superintendent Chris Rippy went outside and talked to Pete.

C. Steve stated he will investigate the circumstances regarding Pete. Steve also stated that he will give Pete a few days to calm down as he was very upset and he will call him over the weekend.



- D. Jerry Duncan offered to Catch up Pete’s dues for him and asked Steve to convey that to Pete when he calls Pete.

## **VI. FINANCIAL REPORT**

- A. James Keena Reported the following summary of the club’s finances:  
Checking \$4,434.15; Regular Saving 1,506.04; Facko Man of the Year Fund; 822.02, Risk Free CD 3.241.23 for a total of 10,003.41 The Financial report was approved as submitted
- B. John Decka requests an accounting of Members who owe the club dues.

## **VII. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

- A. Branch line and Narrow Gauge – Jack and Chris report that they are going to start working on the Narrow Gauge and get it up and running.
- B. Construction and Facilities – Chris reports the building is in good condition, we did have a rat problem but it has been taken care of and he has seen no further signs of an infestation. He will be sealing up the foundation of the house to further reduce the risk of them coming back. He also asked that for those of us who eat in the house to please deposit our trash outside in the trash cans. The food, wrappers and drinks deposited in the trash cans in the house attract ants and cockroaches. Also, he said he will be getting a large trash can with a lid to put our recycling in because now it is left in the can and often spills over and will also attract bugs and stored in plastic bags in the meeting room. Chris further reported that he will begin the yearly inspection of the HVAC and water heater along with inspecting the roof in the upcoming weeks. Dave Flynn brought up that since we don’t really use the water heater very much except to heat the water and we don’t use that very much it might be a good idea to look into a electric on demand water heater. Chris will look into the possibility of getting one and removing the water heater. There is a possibility of tuning off the water heater instead. Chris is looking for recommendations of replacing the carpeting with either new carpeting or cushioned rubber flooring. There was no further report.
- C. Electrical – Dave Flynn reports Castlegate panel is complete and tested. There are a few technical issues that he will resolve. Wiring on the East end of Castlegate is near complete. He is currently working of relaying the track at the West end and should be completed in a couple weeks. He is also working of track detection and is still working of the DCC Booster the ones we have don’t have a circuit breaker. Dave also reported that he had purchased 70 street lights 4 different types to be placed at different places on the layout. There was no further report.

Steve brought up the desire to eventually in the future to convert the layout to DCC. Dave Flynn, Jerry Duncan and John Decka voiced opposition to this idea. Steve then inquired the possibility of just powering Highland / Greeley with DCC since it is not operational now at all. Dave Flynn



explained it is just a programming issue that Highland / Greeley panel does not talk to the main computer which can easily be fixed. There was no further discussion or report.

- D. Standards – James reports that the layout continues to operate well due to ongoing standards inspections. He will continue to inspect rolling stock on the layout. James requested that if you want your rolling stock inspected please let him know. No further report.
- E. Scenery – Stacy reports that she has planted over 50 trees made by her. She has cleaned up portions of Bayshore. She stated that she is eager to learn more techniques and ideas, she asked if you have any ideas for a scene to take a picture and send it to her.

Chris added that the layout needs to be cleaned and fixed up. It has so much potential. Chris further adds that if you just spread your arms out and clean up that area by gluing down people and repairing buildings and touch up it wouldn't take long to have the layout looking great.

Steve added that he wanted to fix up Bayshore harbor area with realistic water and possibly a sunken ship. It was suggested to do it like a drop in to be build off the layout and then dropped in.

Jerry added that it would be good to update the Sullivans curve part of the layout that runs into the meeting room with a station and put a figure representing the photographer Mr. Sullivan to pay respect to him.

There was no further discussion or report

- F. Signals – Jack reports he purchased a lot of signals and he is currently working with Dave Flynn on how to wire them up. He is currently working at home completing the wiring of the signals. He further stated that he is concentrating on putting the signals on the Highland/Greeley side of the layout due to there not being to many lights on that side. Once completed Dave Flynn will continue to help in hooking them up and updating the programming. There was no further report.
- G. Track – Chris is trying to learn how to hand lay track and turnouts, He will be looking a t the turnout located at 280 – 271 which currently is out of service. No further report.
- H. Del Mar – Fate of Del Mar is in question as Pete who was working of the trolley line may not return. The possibility of using #4 turnouts and snap track to complete the Del Mar line. No further discussion or Report.
- I. Open House – Steve proposes due to the Covid-19 and the unusual circumstances that his year we hold a one day virtual open house. We would do a Facebook live and also do a video in the same fashion as the Pentrax video done at the Pasadena club many years ago. The open house would be held on Saturday November 7, 2020 12 – 4. Steve also stated that due to it being a short open house and we have more members that we should limit members trains on the layout to only 1. No further discussion was held and it was put to a vote of the membership and passed 15 – 0



- J. Operations – James reports that we had a good operating session. We had a major train collision (which is still under investigation pending urine tests) as happens sometimes which delayed things a bit.

Marc brought up that Jim works hard on preparing these operating sessions for us, sets up trains, prepares train orders and schedules. We have 4 club operating sessions yearly and it is expected that if you are attending you should participate in the operation of the layout, this is a club event if you want to just run your trains you can do that any other time.

Bruce brought up that it would be nice if there were more communication if the layout is going to be BLUE FLAGGED. Several members drive a long way and it would be nice to know ahead of time that operation would not be possible. Dave Flynn reported that to complete his work that he does need to BLUE FLAG the layout sometimes on Saturdays. During the discussion it was proposed that we include Saturday into the work schedule. 6 weeks work and 2 weeks run which would include Wednesday 7pm – 10pm and Saturday all day 1am – 1259pm. It was also discussed that if the layout had to be BLUE FLAGGED outside of the scheduled work times that notification will be sent out by the Superintendent. No further discussion was held and it was put to a vote of the membership and passed 15 – 0

The operation of the turntable was again brought up and Dave Flynn stated that he can no longer get under the layout to work on the turntable due to someone’s stuff being stored under there. It only needs some adjustments and software updating. It is reported that the stuff blocking the turntable belongs to Bill and will be moved to another location.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICERS**

Due to the unusual Circumstances the election of officers was held over from July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Elections were held as follows

#### **Superintendent**

##### **Nominees**

Steve Smith Sr.	Nominated by Marc and 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Dave Flynn
John Decka	Nominated by James and No 2 <sup>nd</sup> .

Being no 2<sup>nd</sup> on the nomination of John Decka, Steve Smith is elected to position of Superintendent.



### **Assistant Superintendent**

#### **Nominees**

Chris Rippy                      Nominated by Jack and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marc

John Decka                      Nominated by Jerry and 2<sup>nd</sup> by James

Vote was 15 for Chris and 0 for John. Chris Rippy is elected to position of Assistant Superintendent.

### **Chief Clerk**

#### **Nominees**

Marc Thrasher                      Nominated by Bruce and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Dodds

There being no other member running for Chief Clerk, Marc is elected to the position of Chief Clerk.

### **Paymaster**

#### **Nominees**

James Keena                      Nominated by Steve and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Flynn

There being no other member running for Paymaster, James is elected to position of Paymaster. Further James announced the possibility of this being his last time holding this position as he will be possibly be moving to Idaho.

### **Member at Large**

#### **Nominees**

Bruce Turner                      Nominated by Marc and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris

John Decka                      Nominated by Jerry and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Flynn

Vote results were 12 for Bruce and 3 for John. Bruce is elected to the position of Member at Large.

## **IX NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Proposal to Switch subscriptions to Digital and purchase Digital version of back issues for RMC which is the only one with that option right now. Steve brought up that we are running out of space on our bookshelves and it would be a good idea to convert our subscription of RMC magazine collection to digital. It would be able to be viewed and printed using the computer in the wheel clean area. We would still keep all of our existing collection. James stated that he just renewed our subscription for 3 years. James will look into the possibility of getting the digital copy and if he can swing a deal of some sort. No action was taken on this and the Idea was tabled until next meeting.



- B. Arie had submitted by proxy through Steve Smith Sr. 2 bylaw changes (Attached) submitted for First Reading.

### **Section D Meetings and Quorum**

1. **Section D 1 – REPLACE** the word mailed and **ADD** “Distributed via US Mail, electronic mail or other physical or electronic means”.
2. **Section D 2 – ADD** “or Governor of the State of California”, after President of the United States.
3. **Section D 2 – ADD** “Official meetings may be held, when feasible, via electronic broadcast, or other means, using standard web browsers or specific computer-based applications”.
4. **Section D 9 – ADD** “Proxies may be filed via US Mail or electronic means”.

Proposed By-Law change First Reading was voted on and approved unanimously.

### **Section E Dissolution**

1. **Section E 10 - ADD** “When a member leaves the Society and is no longer in a due-paying membership category, all seniority credits that may have been earned are lost. If a former member rejoins the Society at a later date, seniority status begins anew when the member is advanced to dues-paying membership category”.

Proposed By-Law change First Reading was voted on and approved unanimously with the typo change to remove n= before the word membership.

- C. It was brought up that with expanding membership that we are running out of shelf space for new members to store their equipment. There are a couple members who occupy more than 1 shelf. These extra shelves need to be vacated ASAP. Steve said he would take care of this.

## **X ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. James provided a flyer (Attached) regarding the NMRS Cajon Division Fall 2020 swap meet on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 AM. To be held at the Messiah Lutheran Church 6625 Dale St. Buena Park CA.
- B. Bryan Hunnel wants to acknowledge and thank Jerry Duncan for all the extra donations he has made to the club throughout the year.



**XI ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Marc and Seconded by Gary to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Thrasher  
Chief Clerk