

NewsBlast

October 14/2024

Newsletter of The Calgary Model Railway Society

Upcoming CMRS Annual General Meeting Sunday October 20/2024 at Glenmore Inn

We have three Speakers and two Vendors displaying their Products

9:00 Doors Open

9:00am – 3:00pm

CMRS Membership table will be open from 9:00-12:00

Heritage 1 Room

Open for all Modellers to show off their projects.

Monashee Laser Engineering -Display with Rick McPhee.

BedaRail Kits -Display with David Bedard

Heritage 2 Room Speakers

10:00-11:00 Rob Badmington- Visit the New Westminster Southern Proto- Freelance Model Railroad.

11:00-12:00 Don Thomas-CPR Mountain Passes. Construction of CPR major grade reductions.

12:00-12:45 **Free Lunch Glenmore East**

12:45-2:00 **CMRS Annual General Meeting Glenmore East**

2:00-3:00 Mike Marquardt-Preservation of Steam Locomotives.

AGM Items To Discuss

Two Club and two Independent positions on the Board must be ratified/ elected at the AGM on 20 Oct. All Board Members must be members in good standing of CMRS. Elections are to the Board, and positions on the Board are decided by the Board post AGM according to member preferences and skills.

Club Positions: Note that the Club must propose a replacement Board member to be ratified by the AGM.

- Bow Valley representative John Morphy reaches the end of his first term. Bow Valley proposed John for another 3 year term, needs ratification at the AGM
- CanTrak representative Selwyn Morris reaches the end of his second term and must step down. CanTrak has proposed Glenn Hawley as his replacement, to be ratified at the AGM.

Independent Positions: Nominations for Independents are solicited. Note that a member of one of the Clubs is allowed to stand as an Independent. Current Independent positions up for re-election/ new-election are:

- Peter Bouma Independent has reached the end of the term in which he replaced the previous incumbent mid term. Peter has agreed to stand for re-election to a first full term.
- Paul Clegg Independent has reached the end of his second term and must step down.

Please send nominations to secretary@calgarymodelrailway.ca

Jim Ironside
Secretary
CMRS

Calgary Model Railway Society
2023 Annual General Meeting
15 Oct 2023
Minutes Draft 231016

2023 AGM Minutes that will need to be ratified at Oct 2024 AGM.

Call to Order: Meeting started 12:30.

Present: Board: Jon Calon; Selwyn Morris; Jim Ironside; Paul Clegg; John Morphy; Andrew Flaming; Peter Bouma; Bruce McGillivray. Members: Sixty-one members were present. Quorum is 25 members including the Board of Directors.

Minutes of 2022 AGM: Approval of the AGM 2022 minutes, which had been attached to the Notice of Meeting, was moved by Jim Ironside, seconded by Selwyn Morris, and approved by show of hands.

Reports: (see also slides)

President (Jon Calon) Board members were thanked for their efforts in the past year.

It was noted that the OrderBoard is now sent in electronic format via email only, so members need to ensure that their email addresses are up to date so as not to miss any News Blasts or OrderBoards.

This year saw a very, very successful SUPERTRAIN restart which is further reviewed in the following presentations.

All members were thanked for their continuing CMRS membership.

Treasurer (Selwyn Morris) The 2022-2023 financial audit was conducted, and the books were found to be in order. The auditors, Mike Borkristl and Maurice Despins, were thanked for their work.

Financial results for the financial year 2022- 2023 ending in June were reported. Details were in the presented slides for SUPERTRAIN and CMRS. The major item was SUPERTRAIN, restarted in April 2023 after a three-year COVID shutdown. Although conservatively budgeted for 6,000 visitors, at the end 11,600 attended. The combination of a smaller and cheaper space, not incurring some expenses such as a shuttle bus, Gala, show guide, and other smaller items; plus the very high attendance, resulted in a significant net profit.

Specifically noted were higher than budget GES expenses due to accumulated past storage charges for SUPERTRAIN items, higher than budget Hobby Exhibitor payouts made possible by the higher than budget SUPERTRAIN profit, and income from interest payments on our savings bank accounts.

Slide Night (Selwyn Morris) Slide night for 2023 was to be held in November but has been cancelled due to lack of a main presenter. The future for slide night was discussed under New Business.

Membership (Paul Clegg) Membership numbers and trends were presented. Although memberships officially expire end June, members are typically held on the books until after the AGM to give opportunity for renewals. Total membership has been decreasing gradually from a peak in 2016.

Layout Tours (Peter Bouma) Nine layout tour hosts in February were thanked for opening their layouts. Attendance was from 20 – 55 per location. Hosts were identified in the slides.

Railfan Events: (Bruce McGillivray) Railfan events could not take place in 2022 due to COVID. One event was held in 2023 – a very successful visit to Champion Park attended by approximately 65 members including families. Future events were discussed further in New Business.

Mini-Meets: (Selwyn Morris) Speakers for the spring and fall mini-meets were thanked for their presentations. Presenters were identified in the slides.

SUPERTRAIN 2023 (Daniel Charest) The 2023 show was a resounding success with 11,600 visitors. Parking is a perennial issue but despite no shuttle bus from McKnight C-Train station, the number of visitors was highest since 2017, preceding the COVID shutdown. Hobby exhibitors were specifically thanked for helping fit all exhibitors into the reduced space (2/3 of previous years) by downsizing their displays.

SUPERTRAIN 2024: (Daniel Charest) Initially scheduled for weekend 14 April 2024, the show was moved to the following week after Canadian Pacific announced a CPR 2816 event on the earlier weekend. For 2024 we are resuming the full show including the Feature Gym. It is not clear if the 2023 attendance can be repeated, so we are controlling expenses by not having a Gala, shuttle, show guide, or lunchroom. The Mezzanine is no longer available due to offices there, so we are planning to have admissions only at the North entrance, simplifying control of the show area. There were some 2023 visitor requests for on-line ticket sales to avoid admissions lineups, but the logistics of this are difficult so we are not planning this. Discussion of the Gala future is in New Business.

Volunteers: (Daniel Charest) SUPERTRAIN would not be possible without the participation of a large number of volunteers both at the show and in the SUPERTRAIN Committee. Volunteers were thanked, and all members were invited to help in the 2024 show when the calls for volunteers are made.

Old Business (Jon Calon)

None

New Business

Budget 2023-2024: (Selwyn Morris) Factors affecting the budget were presented. Losses in our capital assets started before, but accelerated during, COVID. CMRS standing and discretionary expenses were explained, as was the role of SUPERTRAIN in subsidizing membership events. Despite this bumper year, prudent budget planning is required to balance the budget and minimize risks. There was significant discussion about how CRA would interpret our high asset value as a non-profit. Comments from experienced audience members and reviewing CRA guidance 149(1)(1) confirmed that we should have no issues with one-time higher profit, as CRA would only be concerned if profits appeared to be a continuing objective. Daniel Charest explained how some discretionary items in the SUPERTRAIN budget such as exhibitor payouts and payments to Scouts for their support were increased this year, enabled by the higher profit; this is a way to balance expenses and revenues while giving back to the community.

The 2023-2024 SUPERTRAIN and CMRS budgets resulting from these factors was then presented. Approval of the 2023-2024 budget was moved Rob Badmington, seconded by Daniel Charest, and approved by show of hands.

Appointment of Auditors (Selwyn Morris) Approval of the appointment of Mike Borkristl and Maurice Despina as auditors for 2023-2024 was moved by Selwyn Morris, seconded by Monty Schnieder, and approved by show of hands.

Election/ Ratification of Directors (Rick Walker, Nominations Committee)

Ron Sauer was ratified as representative for Calgary Model Trainmen by show of hands.

Andrew Flaming was ratified as representative for Rocky Mountain Garden Railway by show of hands.

There were five candidates for the two open Independent Board positions: Ryan Gribbons, Mark Wittrup, BJ Errson, Lucas Park, and Bill Maudsley. There were no further nominations from the floor. Ballots were distributed, marked, and collected. This resulted in the election of Lucas Park and Mark Wittrup to the Board of Directors to start first three-year terms. All candidates were thanked for offering to stand for

election, and those not elected were encouraged to consider standing again next year.

Destruction of the ballots was moved by Rick Walker, seconded by Selwyn Morris, and approved by show of hands.

Future Events (Jon Calon)

- **Slide Night:** This year's Slide Night was cancelled due to lack of main presenters. There was some discussion of the history of the night, including the early days where it was held twice a year. Members indicated by show of hands whether they would attend future nights and a significant proportion indicated they would. The Board will consider this in planning for future nights.
- **SUPERTRAIN Gala/ Volunteer Appreciation:** Reasons for not holding the Gala last or next SUPERTRAIN were explained: high cost of subsidy above ticket price; high level of participation by non-members and non-volunteers in what was intended to be, and was significantly subsidized, for those contributing to the SUPERTRAIN show; and the strain of people rushing to late evening at the Gala, then having to be back at the show early the following morning. The possibility of a subsidized Volunteer Appreciation and several other alternatives such as simpler events in cheaper venues were discussed at some length. The conclusion was that such alternatives should be enumerated and put to a survey of CMRS members to guide any decisions for a future event.
- **Railfan Events:** (Bruce McGillivray) Possible events were discussed including:
 - 1) Trip to Edmonton for an IMAX presentation of Train Time combined with a visit to the Railway Museum. This would make a long day; extension to a two-day trip would be expensive. Members signalled weak response for such an event.
 - 2) Calgary film Last Stop about CP 3512, a steam engine that fell off a barge in Slocan Lake BC.
 - 3) Although not a CMRS event, members were reminded of the CP2816 event to take place in April 2024.

Members were invited to propose other events.

New business from the floor (Jon Calon) The CMRS Archiving initiative was described. We have selected Sync.com as the internet company for preserving critical CMRS and SUPERTRAIN legal and historical documents which currently exist only as paper copies or electronic records in individual residences. Work now begins on moving information, some of which is electronic and some of which exists only on paper, to the archival site.

Closing Remarks (Jon Calon) The members were thanked for attending the AGM and for their participation through the year.

Adjournment: Adjournment was moved by Jon Calon seconded by Rob Badmington and approved by show of hands. Meeting adjourned at 14:06.

Jim Ironside
Secretary
Calgary Model Railway Society
secretary@calgarymodelrailway.ca