

Warrant



2018

Hello Everyone! Here is a long overdue Warrant! We are still around, still doing our doings, and hope to make a monthly newsletter a prioritized item again now that our membership has been improving! As always, we encourage everyone to stop down and say hi!

Back to Business: A Business Meeting Overview

Just a Reminder: The Rhinelanders Railroad Association Business Meetings are held at the Depot in Pioneer Park in Rhinelanders at 6:30 PM on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

The Rhinelanders Railroad Association Business Meeting was called to order by Brendan Marquardt on June 5, 2019 at 6:40 PM. There were four members present.

Members were reminded that by the Association bylaws, meetings are to be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order going forth. This is to improve the efficiency of the meeting so less time is spent off topic and more time can be spent playing with trains!

The minutes of the previous business meeting were reviewed and accepted as read.

Nominations & Election of Officers

As the RRA has been dwindling in active members, nominations and elections were postponed for the 2019 calendar year. With the membership numbers now increasing, it has been deemed fit to hold elections.

As such nominations have taken place during the May business meeting. The following nominations for officers were presented:

- President: Brendan Marquardt
- Vice-President: Jonathan Menting
- Secretary: David Byatt
- Treasurer: Tom Theilig
- Librarian: Alan Duchrow

A second nominee was added for Vice-President: Wayne Campbell, during the June business meeting. No further action of elections could be taken at this time as there were insufficient members present for an election during this time.

Elections of officers are slated to be held during the July business meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The Association treasurer's report was presented by Brendan Marquardt, in conjunction with Treasurer Tom Theilig. The Association has a balance going in the positive direction for 2019 with no outstanding bills. It is also reported that the coin-op trains have been running for 14 hours in total since the opening of the Historical Complex.

Working Alongside the City of Rhineland

We are working well, hand in hand with the Pioneer Park Historical Complex Director Kerry Bloedorn, The City Administrator, along with our new Mayor. Kerry has taken his position very seriously with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm towards the Museum Complex, setting attainable goals for both the Museum and the Depot. He is a fantastic asset to the complex and a pleasure to work.

Donation Boxes

As of recent, it was brought to the RRA's attention the ownership of the donation boxes in the Depot. Should the monies be controlled by the RRA? Or should they be controlled by the Historical Complex? After much discussion, it is agreed upon that the donation box downstairs of the Depot will be for RRA funding. Regarding the upstairs, there are to be two donation boxes, both clearly labeled as to which goes to whom, one for donations to the Historical Complex, the other for funding for the RRA. Patrons of the complex are free to donate to whichever one they see fit.

The Speeder

We have been requested by the city to run the speeder for public rides during the Oneida County Fair. The City's request mainly addressed Saturday August 3rd; however it is desirable for the museum complex to have it operating any other days while the museum is open during the fair. This may be a great fundraiser and generate more public awareness of the association.

If we are able to find staffing manpower, it is also proposed to run Friday August 2nd and/or Sunday the 4th with limited hours as well as Saturday the 3rd. Hours and details will be finalized during the July business meeting. If you have any desire to assist in operations, please contact Brendan Marquardt. Without proper fencing and for safety reasons it is desired to have 3 people for operations: one driver, one to assist with loading and unloading riders, and one watcher to ensure patrons are kept clear of the tracks.

It has also been proposed to create a schedule dependent on availability of volunteers to operate the speeder during days the museum is open to the public. Possibly once or twice a month. More discussion is needed to see if this feasible and the topic was tabled.

End of the Year Party-Open House

At the previous business meeting it was suggested that instead of a Christmas open house that we hold an event on the last day of the museum operation. This event would be held in cooperation with the Parks Director. He has expressed great interest in the idea as it would be a great way to say thank you to our Museums patrons and supporters.

The general idea would be something consisting of speeder rides, a cookout celebration, more train operation and guided tours. The last day of the museum operation would be the September

14th, the second Saturday in September. This topic was tabled for discussion at the next business meeting.

Christmas Open House

It was also proposed that we should still have an annual open house around Christmas, provisionally on December 7. The parks director received 22 calls inquiring if we were hosting one in 2018 which we did not do. Some members have expressed that this is a unique thing the RRA can bring to the Rhinelanders community and it generates great publicity for the association.

Clean-up & Maintenance Day

A proposal was made that to maintain a good relationship with the City and to benefit the Museum Complex that we should perform mid-season clean up external to the Depot. This would involve clearing litter, controlling weeds in the brick paving area, a bit of mowing, etc.

This would probably only be required monthly and it was proposed for the first Monday of each month during the open season. July 1st beginning at 9 AM was agreed to be the first attempt at this. With enough help this should be a relatively quick and easy project. Any interested parties desiring to help, please contact Brendan Marquardt.

The Layout

With summer being upon us and the coin-op becoming a great asset in funding, we need to continue track and wheel cleaning on Wednesday evenings during the public open season.

Along with this, a common shared space is being cleaned and built in the depot basement, slated for completion by July, dedicated only for the purpose of maintaining locomotives and rolling stock. This space will be available for all members of the club to utilize for club or personal use. We would appreciate anyone making themselves available to share their tips and tricks to educate other club members on how to do maintenance of these things, along with teach the process of installation and programming of DCC decoders.

A New Camera System

A DVR recording camera system has been purchased by the club to ensure watch over the Depot layout. There are now HD cameras with motion detection watching the main room, focusing on public view.

The Modular Layout

Possible future shows are coming upon us that we may be able to attend with the modular layout. These include: Trainfest in Milwaukee November 9th & 10th, Titledown Train Show in Green Bay April 18th & 19th, Arctic Run in Stevens Point February 2nd & 3rd and The Rhinelanders Home and Garden Show March 21st

The next show the club is setting its sights on attending with the layout is Trainfest in Milwaukee. This should give us enough time to do repairs and modifications to ensure good operation of the layout. Due to miscalculations causing an oversized width for transport in the trailer, the liftgate bridge module has been sold and will first need to be re-constructed before any shows can be attended. As the first one was a great learning project, this is not seen as a bad thing and the second generation liftgate should be much more reliable in holding within the tight tolerances of HO scale. A budget of \$300 has been set for construction.

It has been proposed for the shows requiring overnight stays, an Airbnb rental could be used to reduce costs and the hassle of booking hotels for members in whichever town we choose to visit. Let us know if this is of any interest to you.

Several points were raised regarding improvements to the portable layout during the June meeting, however it was decided to table these and convene another meeting dedicated to the state of the layout.

Motion to adjourn was proposed by Wayne Campbell and seconded by Brendan Marquardt. Meeting was adjourned at 08:15 pm.

Rhinelanders Railroad Association, business meeting is held on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 6:30 PM at the Logging Museum Depot; operating / maintenance any Wednesday 6 PM same location, Rhinelanders, WI, or at modular layout warehouse at 675 Washington Street, Rhinelanders, WI.

The Warrant is published monthly, written in conjunction with Brendan Marquardt & David Byatt. Questions comments or concerns, or article wishing to be published please contact us at RhinelandersRailroadAssociation@gmail.com or at PO Box 801, Rhinelanders, WI 54501