

Highland Park Society of Model Railroad Engineers, Inc.
854 East Broadway, San Gabriel, Calif., 91776

MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2004

The meeting was called to order by the Superintendent Charles White at 8:00 PM.

Motion to approve Minutes of Meeting Oct 8, 2003 was made by J. Deka. Seconded by E. Evans. Motion passed unanimously.

Members present are: Bender, Brooks, Bruno, Chappell, Deka, Evans, Fluhrer, Flynn, Grossman, Hunnell, Keegan, Kenna, Ross, Sanchez, Wardwell, & White. (16)
Members present by proxy are: Gardner, Stewart, & Walker. (3)
Probationary members present are: Coomer.

Comments regarding the passing of Roy Idlof were made by Dave Sanchez. It was suggested that a token amount of Roy's rolling stock should be kept on the layout (by the club or by a member) as a remembrance of Roy. Additional comments along the same lines regarding Earl France & Ray Likens were made by others.

Temporarily acting Chief Clerk Bill Chappell was unanimously voted in as the new Chief Clerk to complete the term involuntarily vacated by Earl France. (This is called railroading!)

Membership Items:

1) New probationary member Aaron Coomer introduced himself - had a 'train set' as a child, but 'was buried' for a while. Went through high school with Jack Ross. Became interested in model railroading when Jack brought him to the club to visit, and he decided to join. He works as a salesman.

2) The status of member Jack Ross was brought to the floor by Superintendent Charles White, regarding the abuses of club privileges by Mr. Ross. Much discussion then followed. Mr. Ross's club key had previously been confiscated by C. White pursuant to decisions reached in the Oct. 2003 business meeting. Mr. Ross apologized for the excessive abuses and stated he will confirm to the 'unwritten rules' in the future, and has nothing against the club. It was noted that the so-called 'unwritten rules' were not explained to any new members. Some suggestions for action to be taken were to return Mr. Ross to probationary status for a period of 3 months, or a period of 6 months, both these suggestions were not implemented. A motion was then called by C. White (seconded by J. Deka) to vote on the expulsion of Mr. Ross. The vote was 8 to retain Mr. Ross as a member, and 9 to expell.. Since a 2/3 majority (13) is required for this action, Mr. Ross remains as a full member of the club. However, he was placed on 'key restriction' for a period of 6 months, after which time his key will be returned to him. It was stated that this problem will be discussed again in the April '04 meeting.

Financial Report:

Total net assets \$10,175.70. Available for day to day expenses \$3,619.70. A second reading of the motion to increase dues by \$5.00 a month (to \$25.00) was made. A motion to accept this motion was made by D. Flynn, seconded by E. Evans, the motion passed. The dues will now \$25.00 per month, beginning January 2004. It was stated by J. Keena that the existing budget needs revision due to the loss of 4 members last year, but the new dues increase will offset some of the difference.

Dept. Reports:

Construction: Building repainting has been delayed to springtime - there is a rain leak over the roundhouse area - water is spalshing into the fan vents.

Track: Routine track repairs were made.

Scenery: Needs west loop narrow gauge area done.

Electrical: Proposed new main line block bid system. Motion was passed to implement this objective. Bayshore traction line wiring is in progress.

Branch Line / Narrow Gauge: Needs west loop narrow gauge trackwork done.

Open House: J Brooks agreed to act as OH chief again. A motion for D. Sanchez to assist was passed.

Old Business:

1) A new copy of the Club Bylaws and Standing Rules was passed out by C. White, returning this document to its officially approved version. The previously distributed version had contained unauthorized editing in an attempt to clarify the language.

2) A second reading of a Standing Rules change, motion by J. Bruno (seconded by ?), that "All members in good standing may bring the same guest no more than two times a year", was made. The vote was 8 for, 10 opposed, motion failed.

3) C. Bender made a motion (seconded by J. Deka) to return the Standing Rules to read as the previous version, to wit: (may be paraphrased, need to look up actual wording) "Each newly elected active member will be entitled to a key to the Society's Headquarters and Facilities six months after such election." Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

1) D. Sanchez asked for volunteers to help build a model railroad for a convalescent home approximately 10 blocks west of the Club on Broadway. They had contacted him thru the 'Whistle Stop'. R. Wardwell and B. Chappell were suckered into this deal, and we later encouraged P. Keegan to also volunteer. Several Saturday mornings were spent on this project. All supplies were purchased by the rest home.

2) It was mentioned that we should set up an operating session at the Glendale Club. No action taken.

3) D. Sanchez said he would like to see a revised policy regarding estate equipment of deceased members - ie: "to keep some as club property as 'historical train' equipment." A motion was made by D. Flynn (seconded by P. Fluhrer) to dedicate one train storage shelf to HPRR equipment". Motion passed.

4) Mr. P. Fluhrer volunteered to join the Standards Dept, replacing E. France.

5) D. Flynn made a motion (seconded by R. Grossman) to increase the Electrical Dept. budget by \$600.00 to start the new Main Line bid system. This new system will eliminate the possibility of two cabs trying to power the same block. Motion passed with 1 opposed.

6) J. Deka made a motion (seconded by P. Fluhrer) to apply the 'No Smoking' rule to steam engines. Motion passed.

7) J. Deka entered comments from G. Gardner, as 'the club is losing direction of focus'. Proposes to change Bylaws/ Standing Rules to: "Allow 25 year members 2 votes" and "to eliminate the 'Senior Rate' half dues provision". It was stated that written proposals were needed for the next business meeting.

8) B. Hunnell proposed new equipment to replace the aging video B/W system with a new color video system consisting of approximately 5 cameras and 7 color monitors. It was stated that this subject should be brought up at the next business meeting.

R. Grossman made a **motion to adjourn** (seconded by E. Evans). The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 PM.