



Florida Garden Railway Society, Inc., (FGRS) Board of Directors Meeting

28 Feb. at the home of
Kevin & Ruth Timmons, Riverview, FL.

Members Present:

Stan Kotas, President
Betty Gilbert, Director of Central Div.
Tom Jonkhout, Director of Tampa Bay Div.
Les Smout, Treasurer
Vic Gilbert, Secretary
Ruth Timmons, Membership Director
Jim Lemon, Librarian
Kevin Timmons, Member at Large, Tampa Bay Div.
Pete Smith, Newsletter Editor
Keith Wolfe, Webmaster

Members Absent:

Paul Wagner, Director Southwest Division
Gene Staggs, Member at Large, Southwest Div.
Don Pirson, Member at Large, Central Div.

The meeting was called to order by Stan Kotas at 12:45 pm.

Stan welcomed the Board, acknowledging new members, Ruth Timmons, Membership Director, and Jim Lemon, Librarian. He thanked Ruth and Kevin Timmons for hosting the meet and providing lunch for the group.

Election of Vice-President from Division Directors and Members- at- Large:

Action: Paul Wagner was nominated and unanimously elected as Vice-President

Secretary's Report:

Minutes: The minutes of the Board meeting Nov. 1, 2008, were distributed for review.

Action: Motion, made, seconded to approve minutes as presented. Minutes approved unanimously without any changes.

Election Results: 44 ballots were cast in the general election with unanimous approval of the following candidates for office: Treasurer, Les Smout; Secretary, Vic Gilbert; Membership Director, Ruth Timmons; Librarian, Jim Lemon. Forty-four ballots represented approximately 19% of the eligible electorate. Discussion followed as to significance of this percentage and Stan requested that Board members be thinking about the issues raised. In the election for President, there were 34 total votes cast, 33 for Stan Kotas and 1 for Paul Wagner.

DAO Insurance: Vic Gilbert noted that the current liability insurance policy for Directors and Officers for FGRS will require renewal in May, 2009. He noted that the policy does not include coverage for "Fiduciary Liability." He requested clarification of this from C F Insurance Services, Inc. as to definition of fiduciary liability. They related that since FGRS has no stock, bonds, pension or retirement funds, that fiduciary liability coverage is not required.

Action: Motion, made, seconded and approved unanimously that: The liability policy currently in effect be renewed provided that the cost does not exceed \$650.

Treasurer's Report:

Les Smout distributed and went over the Profit and Loss summary for year ending December 31, 2008, as well as the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss for January 2009. Short discussion followed that indicated that FGRS is no longer operating in the red as it was in 2007.

Action: Motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the Treasurer's reports.

License Agreement: Les Smout presented the License Agreement form regarding sales of items to FGRS members. Details regarding this are outlined in the minutes of the FGRS Board Meeting of November 1, 2008.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to: Accept the License Agreement as presented with either the President or Treasurer of FGRS to sign on behalf of the Florida Garden Railway Society.

Year End Financial Report Draft: Les Smout presented a draft of a suggested format that each Division could use for a year end financial report. This format could help to standardize the reports presented by the various Divisions. Particular attention is drawn to the Bank Reconciliation portion as that documents the accuracy of a treasurer's report.

Action: Motion made, seconded and unanimously approved as follows: That each Division review this suggested Annual Financial Report format and take action on it by the next FGRS Board Meeting.

Privacy Statement: Les Smout presented a suggested Privacy Notice form. It has been the interest of FGRS to maintain the trust and confidence when handling personal information about its members. Discussion followed as to how to implement the policy. A suggestion was made to create two Membership Rosters, one printing "everyone" and one "limited."

Action: Motion made, seconded and unanimously approved as follows: "Our Privacy Notice" is approved. A separate mailing of the statement will be sent to the current membership for them to complete. "Our Privacy Notice" will be added to the Membership Application for new members.

Membership Report:

Ruth Timmons provided a 2009 Paid Members Roster as of February 27, 2009 to the Board for their use as an officer or director only. She noted that 170 of out of approximately 244 people as of 2008 have paid their dues. January 31 is the cut-off date for delinquent dues. Those not paying their dues by that date will receive their last Newsletter in February.

"Missing You " notice for non-renewals?:

Action: Motion made, seconded and unanimously approved as follows: Each Division Director will decide how to proceed with membership follow up.

Librarian's Report:

As the new Librarian, Jim Lemon asked the Board as to their interests regarding his function as Librarian. Stan Kotas suggested that he prepare a statement for the Newsletter introducing himself and possibly outlining procedures for loaning out materials and other information as he wishes.

Newsletter:

Pete Smith reported that the Newsletter is going very well and that publishing deadlines are being met.

Webmaster:

Keith Wolfe reported that he wishes to change the passwords for each Division in March to be effective by April 15. This is being done to restrict appropriate areas of the website to paid-up members only. The user names will remain the same. He requests each Division Director to provide him with a new password in lower case by March.

Central Division Report:

Betty Gilbert reported that Central Division is continuing to progress well. There was a very successful train show in Deland with great FGRS participation. There was an extensive layout which required a day and a half to set up utilizing John Rowland's mountains in the middle. We had 6 new members sign up there. Our meets are tentatively scheduled through December with one scheduled for 2010. Our attendance generally has been good with some new members attending and participating in activities. However, our last meet in February in Vero Beach had

unexpectedly low attendance. There has been some talk that members in that area will not be renewing their FGRS membership. Weekly maintenance at the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children's layout is functioning very well. This year we are running 5 Hartland flat cars that are seasonally decorated by club members with small scenes and changed monthly. The train layout remains very popular with the patients, their families and the hospital personnel.

Southwest Division Report:

None

Tampa Bay Division Report:

Tom Jonkhout reported that his first meet as Director went very well at Morrison's home. The Selby Gardens display was well received and the Division received some income for this. The swap meet at Pete Smith's was well attended. In March, Tom says he would like to begin some Fun Runs and one is scheduled for March 7 a Kish's home in St. Petersburg. In April, there is the Green Thumb Festival and on April 18, there will be a Family Fun Day in Northday. The schedule for the rest of the year is full, beginning with a combined meet in March with South West Div. in Sarasota, the Southeast Garden Railroad Show in Dalton, GA., and the Great Train Expo in July.

Old Business:

2010 Celebration: Stan Kotas announced that current plans include a picnic and train ride in Parrish, FL. Tentatively, this is scheduled for late March, 2010. Stan asked for volunteers to organize the event, including tent rental, and food cost estimates. Keith Wolfe has agreed to initiate this effort until the next Board meeting and Ruth Timmons has agreed to assist him. Stan stated this celebration party will be free to members.

FGRS Hats & Caps: Keith Wolfe showed samples of caps, logos and shirts. These were all very well received. A suggestion was made to include both shirts with and without pockets.

New Business:

By-Laws Review: Stan Kotas had previously requested that Board members think about other possible By-Laws revisions that might benefit continuity of officers on the Board. Vic Gilbert presented the concept of alternating two year terms of office with four of the elected officers. Jim Lemon suggested adding a provision that would include having the outgoing officer attending the first Board meeting with the incoming officer as an effort to assist in the transition process.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved as follows: Vic Gilbert is to provide an electronic draft of his proposals for review by the Board prior to the next Board meeting.

Epcot 2010: Stan Kotas reported that he spoke with Robert Carr from Disney. There will be no Epcot train display involving FGRS in 2009. However, Carr has indicated that he would desire FGRS assistance for a train show in Epcot in 2010. He indicated that Jack Lynch has joined Bachmann and that Union Pacific may be involved also. Housing and food vouchers would be provided.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved as follows: In principle, FGRS supports involvement with the 2010 Epcot Flower and Garden Festival which will require details for the volunteer participation. The motion recognizes the project is in the very earliest planning stage and qualifications in the details need to be determined.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2009, at a location yet to be announced.
The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vic Gilbert, Secretary