

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 27, 2024 MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
CHICAGOLAND LIONEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC.**

The August 27, 2024 meeting of the board of directors of the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club, Inc. (CLRC) was held at the CLRC club house in New Lenox, Illinois pursuant to notice. President Herb Koch called the the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present when the meeting was called to order were: officers Herb Koch, Ed Carter, Bob Ciolino, and Joe Smolinski. Also present when the meeting was called to order were directors Jeff Mills, Bill Trzaskus, and Ed Zeglicz. Director Jim Ammirati arrived shortly after the meeting began. Director Swav Kojro was not present. Also in attendance was member Clayton Pape.

The minutes of the June 25, 2024 board meeting having been previously approved by email, the board took up the balance of the consent agenda. In connection with the consent agenda the board unanimously approved a membership report by Bob Ciolino and the Treasurer's report by Bob Ciolino.

In his membership report Bob advised that as of August 27, 2024 the Club had 114 Regular Members and had 17 Long Distance Members bringing the total membership to 131 as compared to 125 a year ago.

In connection with the Treasurer's report Bob also reported that as of August 27, 2024 total receipts from the sale of items in the Flaherty donation were \$18,183.75 and that total receipts from the sale of items in the Walter donation were \$17,082.00. Both amounts being unchanged since the last board meeting.

As part of his Treasurer's report Bob then reviewed the anticipated major expenses of the Club during the balance of the fiscal year that began on April 1, 2024. In that review Bob noted the following major expenses: 1) insurance annual premium estimated to be \$2,500.00 which will be due on January 7, 2025; 2) condominium association dues of \$2,400 annually (\$600 per calendar quarter) plus an annual \$200 fire alarm inspection fee (\$100 per unit) that is paid to the condominium owners' association, both of which are paid through December 31, 2024; 3) ADT annual charge \$850 which is paid; and 4) real estate taxes for 2024 of \$5,008, half of which was paid on June 1, 2024 and the balance of which was paid on August 15, 2024; 5) summer tasks for which \$3,000 has been budgeted; and 6) expenses for the 30th Anniversary Party expected to be \$3,273.00.

Bob advised that as of August 27, 2024 a total of 133 of the Lumberjack Lager cars had been sold, that those sales had yielded \$10,640.00 in receipts, and that the cars had cost the Club \$14,400 to produce. Bob said 65 cars remained to be sold and that the break even point for the Club on the cars will be achieved when the Club sells 55 of the remaining cars.

Bob also gave a report on the profitability of the Club's three business centers that covered the period from the beginning of the current fiscal year through August 27, 2024. Bob reported that as of August 27 the diner had a profit of \$746, the retail shop had a profit of \$3,575, and the

service station (back shop) had a profit of \$1,268. Bob also reported that the Club had made a profit \$664 on the Boy Scout Merit Badge event.

Ed Carter then presented a report from the Finance Committee. Ed said that the Club currently holds seven brokered certificates of deposit (CDs) issued by various financial institutions, the newest of which is a one year Bank of America CD acquired on July 25, 2024 which pays 4.8% per annum at maturity. Ed reported that as of August 23, 2024 the CDs had accrued \$1,700 of income for the Club. Ed advised that with the Federal Reserve expected to lower interest at its September meeting that as the Club's existing CDs mature the Club will probably not be able to purchase new CDs that pay a comparable rate of interest. He said in the fall the Finance Committee would reexamine what investment instruments might be available to replace the CDs as they mature and noted that earlier in the year the Committee had explored agency debt instruments, such as bonds issued by the Federal Home Loan Bank, for possible purchase and would probably look at those again in the fall.

The board then took up discussion of back shop operations and changing purchasing authority following the death of Charlie McCarthy. Bob Ciolino moved that Tom Zeglicz be authorized to make purchases for the back shop from Lionel and that Tom Zeglicz be given a Club credit card to pay for those purchases. Ed Carter seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The board then heard a report from Swav Kojro by video about the status of the Sunrise/Sunset lighting in the clubhouse. In the video Swav reported and demonstrated that the lighting sunrise/sunset lighting was operational. The sunrise/sunset lighting will be tested during the September open house. If the test is successful the Club will advertise the sunrise/sunset lighting beginning with advertising for the October open house.

Bill Trzaskus and Herb Koch then gave reports about the status of the upcoming Club's 30th Anniversary dinner.

The board then took up the matter of purchasing a Smart TV. Herb Koch outlined the benefits for the Club that a Smart TV would provide and proposed that the Club purchase one. Ed Carter noted that a motion to make that purchase had been considered and discussed extensively at the last board meeting and had been voted down. Ed then moved that the proposal be tabled until after the first the year. Jeff Mills seconded the motion. Following discussion, with Swav Kojro voting by phone, the motion to table was passed by a vote of five in favor and four against.

Ed Carter then reported to the board about the status of the officer and director elections in 2025. Ed advised that the election announcement would be placed in the November newsletter and that pursuant to the election rules those members interested in running for a position would need to notify the Election Committee by January 5, 2025. Herb Koch, Bob Ciolino, and Ed Zeglicz all of whom are incumbents up for election in 2025 advised that they would run again.

The board then took up consideration of adding an extra run day and a night running session. Jeff Mills presented a draft of rules that would govern night running and the added run day. The rules were based on rules previously approved by the board for night running. After discussion Jeff agreed the rules needed some editing and would re-submit them to the board for

approval. Herb Koch then moved that a committee be created to evaluate and appoint a manager for the night running session and for the extra run day. Ed Zeglicz seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Bob Ciolino then advised that he thought the board should begin to consider developing a new club car. After some discussion Bob made a motion that the Board explore the development of a new club car that would be produced in a quantity of 100 cars and that the Club explore and compare production of the cars by Lionel, MTH, and RMT. Jeff Mills seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed with 6 voting for the motion, 1 opposing the motion, and 1 abstaining.

The board then took up consideration of matters relating to the upcoming CLRC Swap Meet. The meet will be held at the clubhouse and is scheduled for September 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Bob Ciolino made a motion that the Club charge a refundable fee of \$10.00 per table which would be returned to the seller when the seller sets up at the swap meet. Ed Carter seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Joe Smolinski then presented a report about the status of the HO layout at open houses and also reported that the Club had been featured on the cover of the August issue of *Neighbors Magazine* that included an article about the Club and its 30th anniversary. Joe provided each board member with a copy of the magazine.

Joe Smolinski also reported that the Club will set up a static display at the Joliet Library Train Expo which will be held at the library beginning September 30, 2024 and will run through October 31. Joe said he would set up the display during the last week in September.

Herb Koch then advised the board that the Club's magnetic sign had been damaged and needed to be replaced. Herb made a motion that the Club purchase a new sign. Ed Zeglicz seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Mills then raised a concern about members who try to sell trains and leave them on display and unattended in the clubhouse. Jeff said that he did not want to be responsible for such items left in the clubhouse when he closes up. Ed Carter made a motion that members wishing to sell their trains be allowed to do so either 1) by display in the clubhouse or 2) through free ads in the newsletter and that those members who choose to display and sell their trains in the clubhouse may do so at their own risk and that displayed items must be removed from the clubhouse when he leaves. Ed Zeglicz seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The board then took up a request from Ken Yeager to pay Joe Filisko for the music Filisko was providing for the Club's 30th Anniversary video. Ken is producing the video which will be shown at the 30 Anniversary Dinner. It was noted that the Club paid Filisko \$150 for the music in the Club's 25th Anniversary video, that Filisko said the Club could use the music any time it wanted, and the music in the 30th Anniversary video would be the same music that was used in the 25th Anniversary video. Joe Smolinski made a motion that the Club not pay Filisko. Jeff Mills seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The board then heard a request from member Clayton Pape to allow a visit to the Club by members of the Aktion Club. Clayton explained that the Club is a program of Kiwanis International for adults living with disabilities. Clayton said the visit would not require any special accommodations for the visitors. Bill Trzaskus made a motion to approve a visit by the Action Club on Wednesday to be determined. Jim Amimirati seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Bill Trzaskus then reminded the board that the Club had received a donation of maps of the New York Central Railroad from LaSalle Street Station in Chicago to the Illinois/Indiana state line. The maps which are in sections are all at least 50 years old and the Club does not have the facility to properly preserve and store them. Bill made a motion that the Club donate the maps to the Illinois Railroad Museum. Jeff Mills seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The board then took up scheduling of next board meeting and scheduled the meeting for November 12, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. There being no further business, upon motion by Ed Carter, seconded by Jeff Mills, and passed by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Edward Carter
Secretary of the meeting