

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

The November 12, 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, Swav Kojro, Jim Ammirati, and Ed Zeglicz. Director Bill Trzaskus was not present. Also in attendance was member Tom McGrath.

The minutes of the August 27, 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, a Treasurer's report by Bob Ciolino, and a Finance Committee report by Ed Carter.

In his membership report Bob advised that as of November 10, 2024 the Club had 114 Regular Members and had 17 Long Distance Members bringing the total current membership to 131. Bob also advised that as of November 10, 2024 48 regular members and 11 long distance members had renewed their membership for 2025.

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 and those that had been paid in the current fiscal year. 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; 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; and 5) the trailer storage fee for twelve months of \$825 which has been paid. Bob also noted that \$3,000 had been budgeted for summer tasks and that \$1,541 of that amount remains unspent.

Bob advised that as of November 12, 2024 a total of 139 of the Lumberjack Lager cars had been sold, that those sales had yielded \$11,090.00 in receipts, and that the cars had cost the Club \$14,400 to produce. Bob said 54 cars remain to be sold.

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 November 12, 2024. Bob reported that as of November 12 the diner had a profit of \$764, the retail shop had a profit of \$4,411, and the service station (back shop) had a profit of \$1,416.

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 brokered CD issued by the First National Bank of Middle Tennessee that was acquired on September 20, 2024 and pays 3.9% per annum at maturity. Ed reported that as of November 6, 2024 the unmatured CDs had accrued \$1,805 of income for the Club. Ed advised that since the last board meeting the brokered CD issued by Citizens Bank had matured and that the principle and interest from that CD along with money from the Club's Sweep Account at JPMS and additional money from the Club's checking account had been used to purchase the brokered CD issued by First National Bank of Middle Tennessee. Ed said that two brokered CDs will be maturing in December. Ed advised that the Federal Reserve had lowered interest at its September and November meetings and consequently as the Club's existing CDs mature the Club will not be able to purchase new CDs that pay a comparable rate of interest.

The board then heard a report from Herb Koch regarding the back shop transition and reports from Swav Kojro about progress on the occupancy signal system and the sunrise/sunset lighting, the later of which included a demonstration of its current operation.

Bob Ciolino then advised the board that Nick Pucel had completed one of the electronics classes the tuition for which the Club had paid for and because of taking that class Nick had been able to repair a club circuit board that was no longer being sold. Bob said that Nick wants to take two classes next year for which total tuition would be \$1,040. Because the board had previously agreed to pay tuition for two classes and half of that money remains unspent because Nick only took one class in the fall, the board need only approve paying about half of the \$1,040 for Nick to register for two classes in the new year. Bob then made a motion that the board approve paying \$600 for tuition for Nick to take the third class. Ed Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Smolinski then gave a report to the board about the 2025 calendar photo contest. Joe advised that to date he had received no submissions from members.

Jeff Mills then advised the board about recent problems with the Club's Lionel Base 3 unit and said the Club needed to have a back unit that can be quickly installed should the existing Base 3 unit fail during an open house or a run session. Jeff then made a motion that the Club purchase a new Lionel Base 3 unit to serve as a back up. Ed Zeglicz seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion pass by unanimous vote.

Following that Joe Smolinski gave a report to the board about the Club's exhibit at the Joliet Library. Joe said the Club garnered good publicity from its exhibit and received favorable reviews from the library's administrative staff.

Jeff Mills then reported on the new extra run day and night running session. Jeff said both have been going well and that participation by members is increasing.

Tom McGrath then reported on the recently inaugurated once a month prototypical running day. Tom advised the sessions have gone well, but that only a small number of members have turned out to run.

The board then took up discussion of Christmas decorations in the Club and when to take

them down. Bob Ciolino made a motion to take down the Christmas decorations after the January open house. The motion failed for want of a second. Jeff Mills then made a motion to take down the Christmas decorations after the December open house. Ed Zeglicz seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed with 6 voting in favor, 1 voting against, and 1 voting present.

Ed Carter then brought up discussion of the Club's records retention and storage policies. Ed noted that in addition to himself different Club records are currently kept at the Club and by three different people: Bob Ciolino, Herb Koch, and Joe Smolinski and that some are kept in paper form and some are stored electronically. He said that some of the records that are kept electronically are stored at the Club and that for electronically stored records there appeared to be no offsite back up for them. Ed suggested that the Club consider purchasing an external hard drive that would be kept offsite and used as a back up for storage of Club records. Ed, Joe, Bob, and Herb agreed to inventory the records in their possession and to make a recommendation to the board about back up and offsite storage.

Tom McGrath then advised the board that the switching layout will be installed on the mezzanine. He said the layout will fold out from the wall when in use and when not in use it will be folded against the wall.

Swav Kojro advised that the Club needed a new Christmas tree. Bob Ciolino moved that the Club appropriate \$400 for the purchase of a new tree. Jeff Mills seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Herb Koch reminded the board that the special open house for Mi-Jack company employees is scheduled for November 23. He also advised that by an email vote eight board members had voted for version three of the two sided calendar the Club was having printed for the Mi-Jack visitors and that one had voted against it.

Joe Smolinski then informed the board that Trinity Services had contacted the Club about arranging a visit. According to Joe, Trinity provides services to adults with mental disabilities and would like to bring them to Club as a field trip on a Wednesday. Joe said Trinity estimated about 10 such adults would visit and said that they would be accompanied by two teachers. Joe said no diner service was needed. Jeff Mills made a motion to approve a visit by Trinity students and teachers on a Wednesday in January. Jim Ammirati seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Herb Koch then advised the Club that a Legacy on line class was available for a fee. Herb said he would like to take the class and thought Nick Pucell would be a good choice for a second member to take the class. Bob Ciolino then moved that the Club approve \$1,000 to pay tuition for Herb and Nick to take the Legacy class. Joe Smolinski seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion was approved by a vote of 7 in favor and 1 against.

The board then took up scheduling of the next board meeting and scheduled the meeting for February 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. There being no further business, upon motion by Herb Koch, seconded by Swav Kojro, and passed by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted

Edward Carter
Secretary of the meeting