

The Minnesota Streetcar Museum
MINUTES
Annual Membership Meeting
7:00 PM, Thursday, March 12, 2009
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Call to Order: Chair Dave French called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. There were 32 Museum members present at the meeting which constituted a quorum for conducting business.

Chair French introduced the Board of Directors who were present. French then reported on the state of the Museum focusing on accomplishments and challenges.

The following accomplishments and challenges were described:

- We are financially sound and solidly in the black.
- Donations held up in an uncertain economy. Thanks to our many generous donors.
- The Board and Treasurer take a conservative approach to the Museum's financial operations.
- Expenditures large and small are very carefully looked at by the Treasurer and Board.
- Special events have become increasingly important considering the general reduction in regular weeknight and weekend ridership.
- Some considerations with regard to the special events:
 - Increased streetcar wear and tear and resulting maintenance.
 - Increased crew requirements.
 - Do the events meet the mission of the Museum?
- MSM's volunteers aren't getting more numerous and younger. We need to recruit additional younger volunteers.
- Ridership was up slightly in 2008. This is a good trend in a bad economic year and shows that we have something to offer.
- Advertising and promotion could be important but is expensive and of limited value. We need volunteers who are willing to spend a few hours each month promoting our special events and sending out news releases.
- How can we better promote ourselves at low cost?
- MSM is in good shape but we can and should do better.
- French asked those members present to think about how they can help to improve our Museum.

At the conclusion of the presentation, a general discussion ensued regarding many of the points made by Chair French. A copy of French's state of the Museum briefing is appended to this annual meeting minutes.

Museum Treasurer Scott Heiderich was out of town and unable to attend the annual meeting. Acting Treasurer James Vaitkunas rendered a report on the financial status of the Museum for FY 2008. The financial summary reports and balance sheet created by the Museum's QuickBooks program were distributed to the members present as required by Minnesota law and are appended to these minutes. The reports were then reviewed by those members present. **MOTION:** Made by Bob Bayers and seconded by Stanley Kasal, to approve the financial report as presented by Acting Treasurer Vaitkunas. Passed unanimously by the members present.

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Acting Secretary Vaitkunas reported to the members that the two incumbents whose three-year terms on the Museum's Board of Directors have expired, Scott Heiderich and James Vaitkunas, have agreed to serve on the Board for an additional three-year term. Because there were no nominations submitted for the two vacancies on the MSM Board from the general membership, the standard procedure for sending out ballots and voting prior to the annual meeting was dispensed with in accordance with the Museum's by-laws. Vaitkunas then recommended that the members re-elect Scott Heiderich and Jim Vaitkunas to the Board of Directors by acclamation. Terms of these individuals will be three years and will expire at the Museum's annual meeting to be held in March 2012. **MOTION:** Made by Bill Graham and seconded by Jim Harrison, that Scott Heiderich and James Vaitkunas are elected by unanimous consent to be Directors of MSM for three-year terms to expire in March 2012. Passed unanimously by the members present.

Director Aaron Isaacs made a brief report on the status of the Isaacs carbarn at the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line. His presentation described progress and plans for installing the water and sewer service and the sprinkler system. Aaron reported that we have the funds to install the water and hook up the sprinkler system but the other carbarn expansion plans will have to wait for more funds which we do not now have. However, his planning committee is continuing with the planning and engineering process for the carbarn expansion so that phase of the project can begin as soon as sufficient funds are available.

Clyde Hawkins gave the members an overview of the plans for training and recertification in 2009 for both railways. Details will be in the forthcoming *Streetcar Currents* and in a special notice to all operating personnel.

Member Jim White made a presentation to the members on his work to refurbish the east end of the former TCRT Selby tunnel in Saint Paul.

No other old or new business was offered or discussed.

Adjournment. The business meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

At the conclusion of the formal business portion, Director Aaron Isaacs presented a PowerPoint presentation comprised of selected photos from the late 1940s thru 1954. These photos showed streetcar and city street scenes from both Minneapolis and St. Paul. Isaacs has obtained the photos for the Museum's photo archive from the photo "morgue" of the Minneapolis Star Tribune and the St. Paul Pioneer Press as a quid pro quo for doing the work in digitizing the photos.

Signed
James A. Vaitkunas
Acting Secretary