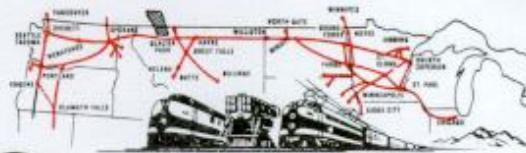


GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Founded in 1973 as
Fraternal Order of Empire Builders

October 6, 2004

To: GNRHS Directors
GNRHS Officers

RE: GNRHS BOD meeting in Spokane Washington, July 10, 2004.

The events associated with our BOD meeting have required considerable time and effort for me. Since I did not know, prior to the meeting .that Connie Hoffman was not going to attend, I felt an obligation to tape the meeting and keep my own personal minutes. [I had inquired if Connie was going to be present. And, I checked on this Saturday morning.] Additionally, I made a poor decision to record the meeting on the slowest speed on the recorder. Available tape recorders usually have one speed-fast. I did find one. The GNRHS tape recorder went with Lowell Hanson and delivered to Ray Chappell.

Listening to the tapes took approximately twenty five hours. I would listen and input into software. [MS Word] I cross validated with my notes, Bev. Tracy's emailed notes, and shorten comments from others. The dilemma was to write exactly what was said or interpret. I tried a combination and focused on precision. I did five drafts. At this point, the information needs to be disseminated to you. Deadlines are coming up fast for several items. While you may have taken all the handout materials, I have decided to include the entire package for your use.

I am looking forward to Ray's skills on this task.

Sincerely,

James H. Larson, Ph.D.
President

The following officers were absent: Vice President Mike Lunak, Secretary Connie Hoffman, Superintendent of Locomotive Power Ron Erickson, Lee G. Thompson, Fr. Dale Peterka, Gregory G. Johnson Esquire, and Delbert W. Hoffman, Editor Emeritus Peter Thompson was unable to attend the meeting.

A motion was made by Bye and seconded by Chinquist to accept the Havre BOD minutes. It was approved by a unanimous vote. New Business items were stated and included in the agenda.

President Larson asked for new business items. The following were proposed:

1. Phil Gjevre: Bruce Barsness, reported that on the substantial time expended to get the quarterly Goat and Reference Sheets distributed and the need for help. Motion made by Gjevre for a Task Force, created by the board, to study the publication process. This motion became part of item seven.

2. New item: [Salmon] to study the use of credit cards for the company store and web-site purchases.

3. [Chinquist] notice that many train magazines have Connie Hoffman listed as Secretary and \$20.00 membership dues. Chinquist proposed a review of current notices and indicated changes were needed with a new secretary.

4. Gjevre: motion for a long range planning effort for GNRHS.

5. Tracy: Review the GNRHS by-laws

6. Tanner: Membership/Genealogy officer [tabled at Havre] /Legacy committee.

7. Motion Tanner/Thorsett// Bye-Membership committee to do survey.

The GNRHS By-laws state that officers are elected for a two-year term and since this was done in Havre, it was not needed in Spokane.

Connie Hoffman had submitted a letter of resignation to the Board. The letter was accepted [motion by Bye & Thorsett] by the Board with regret. Discussion occurred about the process of appointing the new secretary.

The procedure as moved by Chinquist/ second by Gjevre that the Secretary is appointed by President. The vote was unanimous to accept this approach.

President reported three candidates have been nominated: Marilyn Thomas, Ray Chappell, and Jan Tanner. President asked for other nominations. Decision to be announced at the business meeting. The President expressed this needed urgent resolution. If needed, there would be a conference call. [After reviewing candidates for the position, Raymond Chappell was invited to become the Secretary and accepted the appointment.]

Officer's reports were given by :

President Larson: President's report is attached. President noted Barsness is doing an exemplary job. And, this includes Dave Durfee, Martin Evoy III, Father Dale. Ron Erickson has made many significant contributions to preserve GN 400. Additionally, Lindsay Korst has done an excellent job with the GNRHS web site. This also applies to the "good works" of Salmon, and Thorsett who equally deserve recognition.

Vice President Tanner: [75th Empire Builder celebration]

Seattle area: GN members in a June 5th meeting with eight members attending. There was a program speaker from Sound Transit.

Empire Builder 75th Celebration attached materials. Tanner's involvement led to the production of an informational brochure and button to distribute on the Empire Builder. Chicago Amtrak employee, Mark M., liked the approach and bought 1000 copies. Amtrak put the brochure and button in their package on July 10-12, 2004. GNRHS members were involved at Portland, Seattle, Edmonds, Everett, White Fish, West Glacier, Essex, East Glacier, Havre, Shelby, and St. Paul. Brochures and Buttons were given to passengers who responded favorably to the items, Salmon was present at St. Paul.

Scott has a couple hundred buttons for convention attendees. Buttons are for sale at Rail-fare for a dollar. Bye indicated that the Board needs foresight and concern for benefits arising from similar projects. Legacy committee could have provided coordination. Efforts were made to involve Amtrak over a year ago, but daily operations prevented earlier. \$1900.00 costs were borne out by the GNRHS. Photos provided by GNRHS are available for future use by the

Society. Barsness inquired about flexibility to approve projects like the brochure and buttons for the 75th anniversary of the Empire Builder.

Chinquist-T-shirt [see attachment]: The initial invoice cost [\$2500] was for the project. Currently there is \$1500.15 in the fund and \$230.00 seed money for the convention activities. There 153 shirts [out of the 300 produced] left for the Rail-fare and web-site sales. Non-members have paid an additional \$2.00. Chinquist noted the excellent presentation at James J. Hill Library celebration by Thomas White and President Larson.

Treasurer James Knollmiller: Treasurer report: We are solvent. [See attached report]. He requested that convention officer provide detail information on revenue and expenses to Knollmiller. There is a sizeable amount in the archival fund.

Gjevre: Asked about the number of checking accounts for the GNRHS. Knollmiller listed the accounts.

Sornsinn commented on the choice of investments noting that money market accounts do not change in value. Informal suggestion to discuss various low risk options for the GNRHS. President discuss with Jim Knollmiller and future conference call.

Director Sornsinn inquired about GNRHS investments and feasibility of alternative investments with greater return. Sornsinn is going to investigate and report possibilities to Knollmiller.

Recess at 10:00 am and returned at 10:30

Editorial team: Bruce Barsness & Dave Durfee

Report by Barsness/Gjevre: [see report attached] September Goat deadlines and materials were given. Names are not usually listed on writing projects which provides problems. Duane Buck will write up the Model contest. September issue is usually the Treasurer's report. Photos are needed for mugs and freight cars. Reference sheets-quality of diagrams, blue prints and other illustrations are problematic reproductions. Although, Father Dale does an excellent job with the calendar.

Bruce did request assistance in the June 2004 Goat. Persons need skills in Photo Workshop and Page maker software, [see Goat and attached email

message] Gjevre will provide a picture of the mug. Dave Durfee noted the lack of new authors for future reference sheets. Dave suggested a need to stimulate and work with potential authors. Bruce reported a number of authors discuss, and start reference sheets, but move slowly toward completion. There is a need to have a person who could spend the time with authors, review and facilitate the completion of the reference sheets.

Gjevre: The Goat is the glue maintaining the presence of the GNRHS. Jackson Street and GN 400 Hustle Muscle are important parts. Motion [Gjevre] to create a Task Force to study the publication of the Goat [Durfee, Barsness, Salmon, Gjevre, and three members; President may participate] which will be publicized in the Goat to provide justification for the Task Force, budget and expense control, alternative publishing methods, joint publishing ventures with other organizations. Task Force will make preliminary findings to the BOD not later than November 1, 2004. Participants pay Task Force expenses. Second [Thorsett] and question BYE in reference to budget process. Bye was supportive of additional funds for the Goat/Reference Sheets.

Bruce gave a justification for increased expenditures due to reproduction of photos, blueprints and other illustrations. The funds would be used to purchase the services. Salmon noted other railways historical are purchasing services for their publications. Sornsin indicated complete trust in Bruce Barsness. Motion was carried by unanimous.

Hartranft letter was discussed. A consensus by the directors was that letter responding to the issues should not come from the BOD. Only a letter of receipt. Durfee sent materials back to the author.

Duane Buck gave no report.

Membership-Duane Amdahl

Duane Amdahl provided current membership rosters for officers and directors. The decline in membership over the past two years has slowed down. . Getting the Goat out in March did help with the membership renewal process. If an effort to reinstate 200 non-renewals were successful, it would return the membership to 2300-2400 level. Members seem to forget to renew.

Membership card sent to members was proposed. Gjevre's last attempt using a letter sent to 300 non-renewals-yielded 80 renewing members. Duane called for help in this area. Mailing renewals in January requires 40-60 hours per week for Duane. Gjevre will consult with Duane to write a letter and contact non-renewals. New applications from new brochure generated a few members. The web-site continues to bring in new members.

Bye: GNRHS should do a membership effort with a membership card. The importance of the membership card to motivate dues submission. Bev importance of card and need for return envelope. Membership committee Amdahl, Gjevre, Thorsett. Sornsin include 2003 and 2004. Update at the second conference call*

Duane Amdahl and Phil Gjevre will contact 2003/2004 non-renewal members to re-establish membership status.

Archives-Stu Holmquist [given by President]

Report on Jackson Street [attached] -President's comments: Stu does receive many requests for information. There are sometimes hidden reasons for the requests not aligned with research purposes associated with archival operations. GNRHS is the "keeper" of the BNSF files for legation issues. Stu has provided "expert testimony" for legal matters.

Stu has expressed appreciation to many GNRHS members who have given time and effort in archival activities. Questions about the response to the locomotive drawings mailed to directors were aired.

An Archive Committee was formed. Salmon [chair] with Chiquist, Larson, Thomas, Thorsett, Holmquist and Sornsin as members.

Web-site/Back Issues Officer: Report by Cliff Salmon [and Lindsay] Cliff is sending out about 500 back issues, Goats, and calendars. Thanks to Cliff, there is a new copy vendor providing higher quality and lower cost. Web page contract will be renewed at Inter-Land. The cost is \$21.00/month. The name/site will be renewed for seven years at approximately \$100.00.

Lindsay: [attachment for a credit card account] Suggest the use of credit card to generate sales, membership, and other purchases. He contacted the NPRHA for additional operational information. Key is to establish the credit card account, probably in the Twin Cities, for administrative purposes. There are two types of credit card accounts [see attachment], first to set-up a secure

site. Second is the credit card transition and if the inventory is presentj the credit card is processed. Lindsay will set up the secure web-site through Interland and work with persons having access to financial accounts in Twin Cities. Salmon-proposed to set up a small committee [Salmon, Lindsay, Sornsin, Amdahl, Thorsett and Knollmiller/Thomas] and a motion Salmon/Bye to implement the above motion.

Should this credit card open to non-members? The committee will report to the BOD. And, the sales tax issue needs review for this operation. GNRHS has a sales tax number for Minnesota and Knollmiller reports to Minnesota State government. Motion was passed.

Freight car/mug/badges: Dave Thorsett gave a report on freight cars. The gondolas are sold out. Tank cars, boxcars and new cars [40 foot Inter Mountain box cars] cumulatively accounted for 900 sales. BOD thanked Dave for the high volume sales.

Superintendent Locomotive Power: Ron Erickson [submitted]

AFE Resource Officer: Martin Evoy III

Resource Coordinator: Max Ulver

Max reported the Bruck has received exterior restoration. Stumptown is awaiting the release of the Larry Hoffman funds to pay present bills and begin a new phase of restoration. Ken worth declined to replace the motor. Lowell Hanson will contact Connie Hoffman to assist her planning for a trip to Whitefish to view the BRUCK.

Max Ulver: Bruck — The Bruck is being painted at this moment. Stumptown will have a paint bill without funds. Hopefully, the Hoffman funds will be released to pay for the restoration. The major restoration is being completed. A plaque design is being considered. Waiting to hear from Connie Hoffman. The GNRHS policy was Connie was the charged with releasing the funds. However, Connie has not visited the Bruck.

Item 10. Salmon indicated there is increased GNRHS members participation in archival activities at Jackson Street. President's observation that changes will occur at Jackson Street Roundhouse and make it more positive for the GNRHS. Considering Holmquist's report and motions on page four, there was a motion to re-elect Stu as archive officer and approve the additional items

listed on page four. Thorsett/Chinquist moved and it passed. Salmon, Thomas, Chinquist, and President Larson, Thorsett, Holmquist on the committee. Budget covers the daily expenses-telephone/MOU/office. Custodian of Records was approved [John Thomas]. Sornsin was included in the archive committee. Passed.

Item 07 Goat/Reference Sheet plan for remaining issues of 2004[given by Barsness and found in the attachment]

Item 08 Report on GN 400 [submitted by Ron Erickson and attachment three]

Item 09 Status of the Bruck [given by Max Ulver]

Item 10: Report on Jackson Street [submitted by Stu Holmquist-attachment four; report by Cliff Salmon and Jim Larson]

Item 11: Future Convention Sites:

The Board considered various sites. Thorsett moved Fergus Falls and Gjevre seconded. NP is in Fargo. Williston was included in the discussion. Tanner made the observation that members may have not belonged to society nor participate in past conventions. Bruce provided background and issues about the convention location. Max Ulver campaigned for Williston and Lewis/Clark celebration. Passed with one nea. Following years: Tanner proposed Everett WA for 2006 and Williston 2007. Gjevre proposed.

**2005-Fergus Falls, MN
2006-Everett WA 2007-
Willston, ND**

The BOD Directors and Officers met after dinner on Saturday, July 10, 2004. President outlined agenda items.

Item 12: Heritage Fund Disbursements:

Approved 2003 Havre decision to award \$750.00 to Iron Goat Trail. Larry Hoffman funds to be released by Connie Hoffman upon satisfactory progress on restoration of the Bruck.

Jack Porzig had requested GNRHS to acquire/fund Caboose. No action was taken.

Item 13: Initiation of the "Information Coordinator role [Bev. Tracy] Discussion on "Information Coordinator" and Custodian of Records. Secretarial duties have been limited. Role of the Custodian of Records [See item 3-attached materials] was described in Gjevre's reading of the duties. This does not appear to conflict with the GNRHS by-laws. [This is appointed position, but not officer position.] Moved by Gjevre and second Bye. The Custodian grants access to the records. There is only one key. Bev. Tracy should oversee the Custodian of Records. Passed.

Information Officer: position description- this would be correspondence addressed "to whom it maybe concerned." This is an "inquiries" responsive activity. Membership, Editorial, Archival, and other specific contacts will continue to name officers. All other inquiries will go to Bev. Proposed by Sornsin BOD appoints Bev. Tracy and she should research the best way to present this position, implementation plan within one month [operate for 90 days] and communicate this to the BOD. Second by Bye. Passed

Item 14: Report on 75th Anniversary activities for Empire Builder-June 10 & 11, 2004: Reports by Scott Tanner and Jim Chinquist. Given by Tanner/Chinquist in officer reports.

Item 15: Depot colors: Martin Evoy III

Gjevre sponsored Martin Evoy III motion for Depot colors and reference sheet. Martin detailed the history concerning this proposal and the reference sheet to be produced. Costs and revenue were given for the project Sornsin inquired about the number of colors and costs. If the costs are in "set-up," then could other "paint chips" from Empire Builder be included. Gjevre proposed the BOD would authorize the editor to spend \$1250.00 above and beyond usual costs. Second-Sornsin. The Treasurer would set up a fund, \$3.00 from each member, for the reference. Cost on a per color or page basis for the reference sheet. Bruce indicated it was on a "color basis." A color manufacture would have to make specific colors and send it to the printer. No votes for the motion and several neas. Proposal did not pass.

Item 16: Membership committee: composition and action [see attachment five
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Item 17: Genealogy officer: appoint Hildegarde Evoy and define the role. Hildegarde Evoy III would receive the inquiries and direct persons toward various information sources. A tabled motion was brought back to the board.

Gjevre/Bye moved the return of the motion. Originally moved by Tanner at Havre BOD. The position would re-direct persons to other sources not GNRHS materials. Gjevre pointed out the litigation activities arising from genealogical searches confirming that a person worked for a railway. Question was does the GNRHS need to be a conduit for legal matters. Bye-the Railway Retirement Board has the information. Ulver indicated this is a Labor intensive and growing task. Sornsins indicated that "Doing nothing" is not acceptable. The position is a "resource" not a "research" person. Officers are appointed by the President and Hildegard would be appointed, review the genealogical position, and report back to the BOD in six months.

Item 18 Policy on acquisition, collections and disposition. Question about legal issues. Bruce will place a notice, once a year, in the Goat indicate GNRHS is interested in your items. Stu needs to clarify the issue. Refer the item to Archives Task Force. Passed.

Item 19: Company store and credit card implementation [included in officer's report]

Item 20: Task Force to review GNRHS publications [dealt with in previous passed motion.]

Item 14/21: Long-range planning committee [see attachment six] [Delete item 14], [Item 13 is struck] Bye discussed convention meeting times and alternative schedules. Many different ideas were aired in the next minutes. No motions were made. Copies were distributed. Membership survey was suggested by Bye. This would be included in the Membership Committee duties.

Gjevre Long-range planning committee: [see attached motion] The BOD meet, not later than October 31, 2004 to set short and long term goals for the Society. (Item 4) Moved by Gjevre and second BYE. Sornsins indicated that additional specificity to move action forward. Who should be responsible for various issues? Clarification was offered. Questions about responsibility for the "homework" and the focus of the activities. President and Gjevre to define a "division of Labor"

**Bye will do membership and retention.
Salmon-Archival activities Holmquist-
collection inventory.**

Item 22: Review GNRHS by-laws

Gjevre moved to direct the editor to include the by-laws in the December mailing. Any review would become an item for the Long range planning committee.

National Convention Officer: yes or no- [Thorsett] Bye-suspend the office and establish a three member committee to plan the Fergus Falls convention.

Second-Gjevre. Committee would do the same as a NCO. Should the committee would plan the Everett Convention? It is the National Convention Committee and it will appoint the local arrangement committee. Passed.

Composition: Chinquist, Larson, Gjevre, and Barsness.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.