

Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Inc.
Executive Committee Meeting - Virtual
Thursday, January 16, 2025

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:11 PM MT by Don Stewart, Chairman.

Present:

Don Stewart - Chairman

John Ferrell

Tim Tennant - Ex-officio, non-voting

John Eng

Melissa Sellers

Absent: Bill Lock, Caroline Tower

Minutes: Melissa Sellers, Secretary

II. President's Report – Tim Tennant

- The commission meeting was moved to Saturday February 15, 2025; it will be held in Antonito.
- The railroad's 2025 season schedule has now been set and will start on Saturday May 31st, which is the Saturday after Memorial Day. The season will conclude on Sunday October 26th. The start is delayed until after Memorial Day due to employees' kids graduating from high school.
- Tim discussed the potential two-day photo charter. Since the season's ending date has changed, the updated request will be to ask for dates, during the week, in late September or early October. He mentioned that he had spoken to Scott Gibbs about this change and that Scott would also be discussing it with Ed.
- Online membership renewals/joins for the month of December total 118.
- Current membership stands at 1,906.
- A wealth of gifts came in during the month of December and into early January. We thank everyone for these generous contributions.
- The Friends have been notified of a generous gift to be received from the estate of Mark A. Walters. Mr. Walters lived in the Pacific Northwest.
- Rich Muth has informed Tim that he is resigning as the Docent Program Manager but will continue serving as a docent.
 - Rich has discussed this transition with many docents. Moving forward, it appears that the manager's responsibilities will be shared among several docents, with each taking on the role for one month at a time.
 - John and Veronica Bush have a casita on their property that includes a bedroom, sofa-sleeper, bathroom, and full kitchen (with dishes). They are willing to rent it out for \$1,600 per month from May through October, which breaks down to \$53.33 per night. This could be a suitable option for the docent manager during their month-long tenure.
 - Additionally, this casita might serve as a cost-effective solution for others attending work sessions, if available.

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- John Eng's suggested that docent tip funds could be used to support the accommodation needs of the docent manager or other docents.
- John F. will talk to a few of the potential docent coordinators and ask them to Join the Interpretation Committee so that we have better coordination between the groups in the future. Names suggested were: Hank Morris, Chuck Proudfoot, and John Porco.
- Wes Pfarner reports that 295 images from the photo collection were sold in 2024, which generated \$1,362.25 in sales.
- Stan Ames will represent the Friends at the Amherst Railway Society Train Show in West Springfield, MA January 25th & 26th; this is a really large show.
- The Spring 2025 Board Meeting and Banquet is set for the Holiday Inn & Suites, 5050 Jefferson Street, NE, Albuquerque.
 - The banquet will be on Friday, March 14th and the Board Meeting will be Saturday, March 15th.
 - The Hotel's telephone number is 505-944-2222.
 - Tim will ask the hotel to put fish on the menu for the dinner.
- Due to the 2025 C&TS season ending on Sunday October 26th, Tim has tentatively set space aside at the Radisson Hotel Colorado Springs Airport for October 29-30-31. Normally these fall meetings/banquet would take place October 22-23-24. The Radisson also has Oct. 22nd-24th available.

III. Meeting Minutes

- Approval of November and December executive director meeting minutes.

M/S: Eng's/Ferrell – Moves to accept meeting minutes from November and December of 2024. Passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Report – Tim Tennant

A. Budget vs Actual:

- We ended the year in the red, \$14,594.
- We were over budget on support and revenue by \$46k.
- Our member dues were under budget by \$15k, but campaign proceeds were over budget by \$27k. Are people giving less when they renew, but offering more during campaigns?
- Materials, tools, and supplies were under budget by \$18,880 (but we were given a gift to offset this), and rentals were under budget by \$12,349.
- We hadn't budgeted for the recruiter, and the Accufund and Salesforce costs were higher than expected.

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- Overall, we did better than expected, as our expected revenue vs. expenses for 2025 had us in the red by \$237.7k.

B. Detailed Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet):

- Total assets are \$2.1m.
- Unrestricted assets are at \$1.55k.

C. Cash Balances:

- We have \$251.5k in unrestricted cash and \$1.08m in total cash.

D. SORFA (Summary of Temporarily Restricted Funds Activity):

- Passthrough to commission has a \$10,000 expenditure for the railroad. This was a \$15k gift that was given to the Friends, with \$10k designated for the railroad.
- We had \$213k in contributions to SORFA, but expenditures of \$219k. So net SORFA assets decreased by about \$6,000.
- Some of these funds were replenished through the PNGPF solicitation. We are currently needing more funds for the Antonito CRF improvements as the ending net assets are \$29k in the red.

V. Interpretation – John Ferrell

- Meeting this Sunday. 2:00 MT time.

VI. Projects Committee – John Engs

- Zoom calls scheduled for Feb 8th and 16th to familiarize team leaders with requirements and responsibilities.
- Two train shows coming up, one in Colorado Springs and one in Denver.
- John will be working with the Boy Scouts in Colorado Springs and is working with some scouts from a New Mexico council. There is a troop from Kerrville, TX, that wants to come work at Cumbres during C & D sessions. The trail they will work on will be from the inspector's house and over the hill to the snow shed.

VII. New Business

- We interviewed a candidate for the executive director's position. There will be a meeting Friday to get board approval on the candidate.

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VIII. Adjournment

M/S: Sellers/Engs – Moves to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

5:55 PM adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Melissa A. Sellers

Melissa Sellers
Secretary