

Museum of Bus Transportation
Board of Directors Meeting ~ December 6, 2016

Board Members Attending: Don Barlup, Doug Campbell, Tom Collins, John Dockendorf, Ralph Fetrow, Constantine Mandros, Howard Nice, Robert Smith and Ed Wolf

Participants by phone: Jeff Goldwasser, Michael Laffan, David Millhouser, John Oakman, David Schmidt, and Mark Szyperski

Also in attendance: Jot Bennett, Melissa Crawford, Ken McNelis Jim Tay, Angel Tollens (phone), Becky Tollens (phone) and Mark Watson (phone)

A quorum was declared and a moment of silence observed in honor of past Board member Oliver Ogden, and Jeannie Smith (wife of Bill Smith - retired AACA director).

AACAM Report

- Tom Collins gave a brief overview of the activities at the Museum.
- He focused on the selection of Jeff Bleimeister (who served as curator for a number of years when the Museum was first opened). Jeff is coming to the Museum from the Strasburg Railroad Museum where he was the director.
- It was also mentioned that the Museum is booked through the end of the year for special events; this will help its bottom line.

President's Report

- President Tom Collins circulated a note book containing all of the 2016 correspondence to date - many of which were thank you letters to donators.
- He also mentioned that he had completed the mailings to many of MBT's life members. To date that has resulted in an additional \$800 of revenue which was not part of our initial 2016 budget.
- He noted that the membership should be receiving the next newsletter within the next few days.

Secretary's Report

- Secretary John Dockendorf confirmed that the members received a draft of the minutes from the November meeting.
- There were two minor corrections to the minutes
 - Ken McNelis mentioned that his request to spend up to \$5,000 for a yard truck (approved in November) was not noted in the minutes.
 - Howard Nice was listed as Ken Nice under the Roundtable.
- **The minutes were approved as amended.**

Treasurer's Report

- Ed Wolf distributed the financial reports through the end of November – there was no extraordinary financial activity since the last meeting.
- Ralph Fetrow indicated that we have \$20,000 in cash immediately available should be wish to draw on it. That will increase to \$70,000 within a few days when a CD becomes due.
- Since we are projected to have a loss in both 2016 and 2017 he recommends purchasing a structured CD in the amount of \$30,000 and keeping the balance in cash.
- **The financial reports were approved as distributed.**

Old Business

Video Preparation

- Mark Szyperski reported that the Video is finished and was sent to the Board for review.
- There are three versions - a four minute, a two minute, and a one minute.
- The four minute version was available for viewing at the meeting and was lauded by all as a job very well done.
- David Millhouser had a hand in developing the video which will be used at various industry events early in 2017.
- The Board thanked both individuals for their fine effort.

Update on Additional Facility

- We are no longer considering the old South Hanover Township fire house - it was ruled out as not providing enough vehicle storage space.
- The Township's municipal facility (in Union Deposit) which may have worked will be retained by the Township (for possible flood relief).
- It was mentioned that D.B. Fisher (Lebanon, PA) is getting out of the charter business and that some of his 'pole barn' spaces might be available.
- John Oakman and Bob Smith agreed to meeting with Mr. Fisher to see if we could lease this space on a temporary basis.
- The old Lebanon Coach Company facility (in the City of Lebanon) might also be available - this will be checked out as well.

Committee Updates

Gift Shop

- John Dockendorf distributed some data on the sales through to November 30, 2016.
- Sales in that period are down about \$1550 from the same period in 2015.
- A discussion was held concerning selling certain items over e-bay. John will discuss this with the incoming Executive Director to ascertain what steps should be taken to affect that.
- John will also supply Mark Watson with items to place on Facebook.

Fleet Report

- Ken McNelis reported that additional titles and license plates have been received - including the 'Jim Lehrer' Flexible. Several more are due to arrive.
- He noted that there are three vehicles which have specific problems which need to be addressed.
- John Oakman offered to help resolve these problems - noting that the vehicles do not have to be titled in Pennsylvania.
- The evacuation plan has been revised - there will be a meeting at a later date with the individual involved to discuss their specific duties.
- Jeff Goldwasser reported that MCI has offered to donate, to the MBT a 'one off' 30 foot MCI. This unit was a regular 'DL' model cut down to a 2 axle unit as an MCI experiment. It would be shipped to us, at their cost, and cannot be sold. The board agreed to accept the coach but was concerned about storing it.
- David Millhouser commented, regarding this coach that MBT needs to develop a specific strategic plan to determine what vehicles it should accept or retain in the fleet. It was agreed that this would be discussed in a future meeting (perhaps part of our February 4 meeting).

Proposed Executive Meeting and Platform

- David Schmidt reported that several of the newer MBT board members have been concerned about the future of the MBT given our current finances and limited fund raising efforts.
- It has been proposed to:
 - have a new slate of officers
 - place a term limit on officers (it was suggested 2 years)
 - have fewer board meetings
 - make some changes to specific areas of the by-laws
 - make a greater use of electronic devices for communication (including the newsletter)
 - revise or combine certain committees
- The proposal has been discussed on a one on one basis with most of the board members - David Schmidt and John Oakman offered to meet with any Board member who had not been previously contacted. Ralph Fetrow and Constantine Mandros indicated they would like to be contacted.
- Mark Szyperski recommended that the board have a one day strategic planning session to discuss this and other MBT related issues such as the office and museum operation, the Spring Fling, and the Annual Meeting.
- After a brief discussion it was agreed to have this on Saturday, February 4 (the regular February 7 meeting would be cancelled) Tom Collins will set this up with the Museum staff.

New AACAM Executive Director

- Tom Collins introduced Jeff Bleimeister as the new Executive Director of the AACAM Museum.
- Jeff gave a brief overview of his background - noting that when the Museum first opened in 2003 he was the original curator - then left to become the Executive Director of the Strasburg Railroad Museum.
- He said he plans to attend as many MBT meetings as possible and will, as in the past, support us.

New Business Roundtable

- Trans-Bridge Lines will soon be in a position to in repairing bus #5409. Jim Tay will advise Tom Collins what needs to be done he will arrange a time and location for the work to be done.
- There was a brief discussion regarding obtaining a used para-transit vehicle (this was initiated by advisor Angel Tollens). Tom Collins is working on the possibility of obtaining one from nearby Capital Area Transit who is retiring several of them (the vehicle would have several uses in and around our Annex).
- Ken McNelis reported that he is still planning on running a trip (using a Wolf charter coach) to the Historical Bus Gathering in Evansville, Indiana (event scheduled for September 22-24) details to follow in MBT publications.
- The new proposal items came up again and several board members suggested that perhaps once adopted at the February 4 meeting, it should be phased in over a six- month period with more involvement of the current slate of officers included.

The meeting adjourned 8:35 pm.

**Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30 pm in the board room
Note change of date**