

Southern Oregon Railway Historical Society
Membership and Board of Directors
Regular Meeting July 30, 2026, 3:30PM
At the Medfab Conference Center
1109 Court St., Medford, OR

1. Meeting Called to order at 3:40 pm by President Ric Walch.
2. Roll Call: Ric Walch, Donnie Brown, Mick Smith, Eric Muller, Francis Gauthier, Allen Dobney, Trish Callahan, Lyle Bozworth, Bruce Kelly, Shane Waggoner, Janet Dock, Rick Aubin, JR Donavin, Joseph Newstead and Ken/Donna Hill.
3. Consent of the Agenda: The agenda was approved by consensus.
4. Approval of Minutes: A copy of the minutes of the June meeting were made available. Trish moved that they be accepted, Joseph seconded and was unanimously passed.
5. Treasurer's Report: Donnie Brown presented the Treasurer's report. His report was accepted as presented.
6. Committee Reports:

Medco 4:

The Board wants to get a handle on the engine shed and #4. We want to go in there and get everything organized so that we can allow people to walk around and see #4 up close. JR moved some of the junk away from the East side so patrons could at least take a guided walk near it. ~~We~~ want to offer Jerry an opportunity to give us permission to use his tools or remove them. Per Shane, the cutting torches belong to Jerry, but Shane and Ric have sets that could be used. Joseph says that there are some steam related tools there. The Board will send a letter to Jerry about these issues.

Joseph said Mt. Ranier had the same refurbishment issue, and it only cost \$80,000 to complete and he believes that we can do it more cheaply. Unfortunately, we have to start from the beginning as we don't have any of the requirements for certification documented. Bruce received a call from California Boiler. Allen says the tubes can be cut out and reused to see what needs to be done to the #4 boiler. Jerry says that we can do the boiler while it is on the engine so that when it's done then the clock starts running. Form 4 has to be completed.

Burger Shack: Trish is still out of commission for the near future, but no other issues were discussed.

Newsletter: nothing new

Website: nothing new. It will be transferred to Blue Host and will be set up alongside JCHA website.

Butte Falls: Trish's term is expiring and BF is more of a question mark. Lots of issues were raised by Christine Gleason. New mayor is less likely to commit to our project. We have gone from 25 community members to 4 now.

This means we need to look for different options. Eric asked who controls trackage in White City to Tolo? Corp owns it and is not interested in hearing about our using any of it. Ric says that #8 could run on that track. Ric needs to get with Scott at Terminal RR.

Excess Sales: \$1400-1500 this month. GOOD WORK ALLEN

RR Park: Shane's lawn mower purchase: it's in the shop. Ken should know by tomorrow and it should be ready by next week. Russell Walch has been keeping the grass mowed with his push mower and he has been watering it 2 times each day. WE ALL OWE RUSSELL OUR THANKS!

Weed trimmer: Mick moved that we purchase an electric weed trimmer. Not more than \$400 and it has to be an Ego. Trish seconded and it was unanimously passed. Janet suggested that we ask Ian for recommendations since he works with yard maintenance.

Senior/retirement home visits are scheduled for 9/25. The Burger Shack won't be open, but we will need to have at least 3-4 members there to help show the seniors around.

7. Membership Applications: Don Wells came into the museum on the last run day and paid his \$20. Ken moved to accept. Trish seconded. All agreed to accept him as a new member.

8. Old Business:

Motorcar repairs: George says no go next Sunday. It might be down for the rest of the season. Consider re-engining it we need find something that is in ready supply. What about the CN motorcar? That is an option. George said that if we wanted another engine, they would do all the labor gratis. Toyota engine? This will take time.

Ken's motorcar can only pull one trailer. 2 cyl. Onan. He will make a call to Russell about whether anyone in his chapter of NARCOA might be able to loan us one.

9. New Business:

Francis wants to get companies to donate \$\$ to the club. Ric: What we normally do is to erect a sign in the park as a thank you incentive. Who makes the sign? We usually see that it is made. Francis wants reassurance as to the contents of the signs. And we acknowledge the contribution by letter. Francis asked what the minimum donation to get a sign.

What about the whole park donation? If it benefits the park as a whole, then we usually go to Bruce, and checks would be made to the Medford Railroad Park.

Bruce: Bill Myers planted some trees between their area, and the Steamers and Bruce want to have them removed. Ric agreed they were not a good idea and should be removed. And we need to avoid having individual decisions that impact other clubs. Francis asked where these decisions need to be aired. Talk with other clubs first and then the Park committee.

Shane wants to buy a dump trailer for the clubs. Cost shared between MGRR, Steamers, and SORHS. 7000# gross and it has a scissor lift. 5'x10' Cost is \$7100 split 3 ways. Ric: concept is good but how we do we share it. Who gets to tow it?? Shane, Ted, What if it has crap in it all the time? It will require license and that costs \$128 for 2 years. Key to each certified member to the lock. So what happens if it is full of brush and another wants to use it. BioMass or Hilton fuel. Tentative yes from the membership. Insurance? Covered by the vehicle that pulls it.

Francis has some weed/grass killer in pellet form. Ken says that needs to be applied well before the public gets there (72 hours). Bruce: they put down herbicide between the tracks. Francis will call Bruce to work that out. ---Jerry used to spray well before the park opened and that usually kept down the weeds.

Allen: books in the bookcases that aren't pertinent to our area—and sell the ones that don't apply to SO Railroading. He had 40 books and he's down to 13 and some went for about \$60.

Cesar (who has the motor from Amtrak) says he doesn't have time to work on the engine; he has bought some parts for it. Francis will pay him for them. It is a Tecumseh 17hp and that company is out of business. Ken says all it needed was an ignition unit. Francis says they bought a flywheel.

Russell Walch wants to be a member of the park committee Board of Governors. Ken will withdraw and let Russell take his position.

11. Meeting Adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Next meeting will be August 13, 2026 at 3:30PM