

Minnesota Streetcar Museum
Operations Committee – March 3, 2021
MEETING MINUTES

Bill Arends
Rod Eaton
Karen Kertzman
Jim Vaitkunas

Todd Bender
Bruce Gustafson
Jim Kertzman

Pat Cosgrove
Dave Higgins
Bill Pekarna

AGENDA:

The agenda was focused on determining a reasonable open date given the current COVID situation and the need for extensive recertification efforts required due to the cancellation of the 2020 season. As such, the discussion was focused on training and the schedule.

There is a great deal of uncertainty regarding the future pandemic conditions and restrictions when we are planning to operate in the summer. For the purposes of developing a 2021 operating plan, we are assuming that conditions will allow the museum to operate and that we will operate in compliance with the CDC and State of Minnesota requirements that are in effect at that time.

As Opening Day approaches, we will refine our operating plan to address COVID restrictions and requirements. The Operations Committee will meet again in April to discuss COVID, the results of operator willingness to operate, and other topics not fully covered during the March meeting.

SCHEDULE

Opening Day

Targeting the first weekend in July (Friday July 2)

Regular Schedule – General

The biggest internal issue with developing a schedule is the uncertainties around how many of our existing crew members will come back and be willing to operate in 2021. As such, the committee developed a prioritized shift schedule, which is shown below for each streetcar line.

To determine the number of volunteers returning I will send out a survey along with the recertification quiz in early to mid-April.

Decisions / Next Steps

- Developed prioritized regular schedule
- Rod to develop recertification quiz
 - o Will leverage material Rod developed to show operations over CHSL

Regular Schedule – CHSL (Prioritized)

- Saturday 1st shift
- Sunday 1st shift
- Friday evening
- Wednesday afternoon
- Saturday 2nd shift
- Friday afternoon
- Sunday 2nd shift

As can be seen, we are not planning to operate weekday evenings in 2021

Regular Schedule – ESL (Prioritized)

- Saturday
- Sunday
- Farmers Market (if held)

Special Events - CHSL

Special events are more susceptible to impacts from COVID restrictions. At this time the events have not been fully scoped but are included as part of planned schedule.

Rod presented a summer-fall schedule, which is similar to prior years with the following exceptions:

- Murder Mysteries will not be held
- PJ Parties will not be held

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1	2 Start Service	3 July Fourth Service	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Owl Service	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 July Fourth Service	

July

- Start of Service*
- Fourth of July
- Owl Service
- PJ-Party
- Murder-Mystery
- *Tuesday through Sunday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Streetcar Camp	20	21 Owl Service	22
23	24	25	26 Streetcar Camp II	27 End Wed/Fri Afternoon	28 50th Anniversary	29

August

- Owl Service
- Streetcar Camp
- Streetcar Camp II
- End Wed/Fri Afternoon
- 50th Anniversary
- PJ-Party
- Murder-Mystery

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	End Daily Service		5
Labor Day Service	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	Owl Service	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	Company Picnic
27	28	29	30			

September

End of Daily Service
 Labor Day
 Owl Service
 Company Picnic

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
				1		3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	Patch	17
18	19	20	21	22	TRANSYLVANIA TROLLEY	End Regular Service Trick 'r Trolley
25	26	27	28	Graveyard Ghost Stories	Streetcar Named EXPIRE	LATE SHOW

October

Pumpkin Patch
 Transylvania Trolley
 Trick 'r Trolley
 End Regular Service
 Graveyard Ghost Stories
 Streetcar Named Expire
 Late Show

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5		7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	Holly Trolley	28
29	30					

November

Holly Trolley

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	3	Holly Trolley	Vinternatt
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

December

Holly Trolley
 Vinternatt

Special Events – ESL

ESL is not planning any special events at ESL except for Ghost and North Pole Trolley.

SCHEDULE – Charters

As part of the survey I will ask if operators are interested in operating charters. I would like to offer charters beginning in late May or June, operating in a similar fashion to what we did in the fall of 2020 – offering charters to close family units or circles of friends.

TRAINING – NEW VOLUNTEERS

Pat Cosgrove reviewed the current list of 63 potential volunteers. Pat had contacted the potential volunteers and ~21 have expressed an interest in being trained for the 2021 season.

Decisions

- Given the list of interested volunteers it was decided that there would not be any further recruitment efforts
- Pat Cosgrove, Bill Pekarna, and Dave Higgins will set up 2-3 zoom orientation sessions for interested volunteers. (Dates to be set)
 - o The group confirmed the requirement to be a member for training
- Bill Pekarna and Dave Higgins will develop a training plan leveraging the materials used over the last couple of years modified to allow more online training
 - o The group discussed the possibility of developing a YouTube video on general car set-up and operations

TRAINING – EXISTING VOLUNTEERS

Since most of the members did not operate in 2020, all operators will be required to take a test ride in addition to an extended recertification quiz. With an early July opening recertification testing will begin in late April or early May.

All volunteers will also be required to complete Point of Sale (cash register) training

PCC TRAINING

Chris Heck has volunteered to lead PCC training. Dates TBD

FARES (2020 Discussion)

In the 2020 Operations Committee meeting the following fare decisions were made:

- Vinternatt will increase from \$5 to \$6
- CHSL Holly Trolley will increase from \$4 to \$5
- For Halloween Rod is considering a “Fright” pass at \$10, which would allow unlimited rides during the event
- ESL will continue to price their Halloween and Christmas events at \$4 to grow volume

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

- **Car Availability**

Dick Zawacki provided the following update/status:

- CHSL: Both 1300 and 322 are ready right now to support training activities. Currently the front bumper is not installed on 322, but that will not impact training activities. Certainly, the bumper will be put back on the car in time for regular service at the beginning of July.
- ESL: 265 is ready right now to support training activities. We may have 78 available for training at the beginning of May, but I think it is best to assume that the earliest the car will be available is July 1. I have left a message with Howie Melco to discuss the work still needed to get the rebuilt 78 controller installed, tested, and approved for operation. The question of the status of the second controller on 78 has yet to be determined.

- **Fares**

- We need to confirm 2020 proposal for changes in fares (April Meeting)

OPERATIONS CALENDAR

3/27 1p; 3/28 noon; 3/30 evening	New operator orientation zoom meetings (Pat reports approx. 12-13 responses so far)
Late March	Rod to develop recertification quiz
TBD	New operator training begins
Mid-April	Bruce to send quiz and survey of interest in operating to existing operators
May 1	Recertification check rides begin
June 1	Charters can operate (earlier if volunteers available)
July 2 (Friday)	Regular schedule operations begin