

MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM

Minutes

Of the

ANNUAL MEMBER'S MEETING

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Zoom Application Tele-Conference

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Call to Order: Chair **Aaron Isaacs** called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Zoom web-based application was used to conduct this annual meeting. This was done because of Covid-19 considerations with respect to several of our members.

Quorum. Corporate Secretary **Jim Vaitkunas** reported that thirty-seven (37) MSM Members are in attendance using the Zoom application at the call-to-order of the annual meeting. (*Attendance reached a high of 43 members at 7:26 PM and this count remained throughout most of the meeting.*) As of February 24, 2022 active MSM membership was 291 members. Therefore, a quorum was achieved and maintained for this annual meeting.

Opening Remarks. Chair Isaacs opened the annual meeting by giving an overview of how the meeting would be presented. First would be the state of the Museum presentation which will then be followed by reports from the Museum's officers and others. Chair **Isaacs** then introduced the museum officers and several other museum superintendents. Two important actions need to occur at this meeting: (1) the report from the MSM Treasurer; and approval of that report; and (2) the election of two Directors. Following the adjournment of the annual meeting, a short Board of Directors meeting will be held for the Directors to elect the Museum's Officers for 2022-2023 and to appoint Class B Directors. Chair **Isaacs** also stated that there will be no presentation after this annual meeting as had been done in past annual meetings, because MSM has created its own YouTube channel that has several video presentations and over twenty PowerPoint presentations with photos on various aspects of the history of Minnesota and Twin City electric railways.

State of the Museum presentation was made by MSM Board Chair **Aaron Isaacs** by way of a PowerPoint presentation which is attached to these minutes. Major topics of **Isaacs'** report to the members and presentation are as follows.

The Year in Review for 2021.

- The year 2021 marked the 50th anniversary of the beginning of streetcar operations at the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line in Minneapolis which occurred in August of 1971.
- Truck work on No. 1239 continues in earnest although it's taken longer than we first anticipated.
- While the truck work on No. 1239 continues, the shop workers are also accomplishing several things to backdate the car to the way it looked and was configured as of the year 1921. **Isaacs** described some of the highlights of the backdating and credited **Karl Jones** for managing this phase of the 1239 work.

- The work to rebuild the controller on Duluth No. 78 is complete and this car is ready for service in 2022.
- We contracted with a local electrical company to spend \$43,000 at CHSL to replace nineteen overhead line poles and adjust the overhead trolley wire system.
- Because of the Covid-19 pandemic MSM began operations on July 2, 2022, two months later than usual, and operated only through October 2022. At both railways we:
 - ✓ modified the operating schedules;
 - ✓ established the basic fare at \$3.00 per person four years of age and older;
 - ✓ established credit card only policy at CHSL eliminating the cashier's position at CHSL; and,
 - ✓ put all volunteer operating shifts on ShiftPlanning including all charters.
- The charter management system was totally reworked caused by the retirement of **Jerry and Muriel Olsen** who had managed charters for many years. Charters are now managed by **Pat Cosgrove** for CHSL and **Karen Kertzman** at ESL. Charters are now booked by e-mail, payment for charters is done online and at CHSL the Linden Hills station can be opened for sales during a charter.
- Several separate projects were accomplished in 2021 including new security video cameras at CHSL, energy audits at both railway's buildings and Mesaba No. 10 at ESL is being worked on with the goal to make it into an exhibit site.
- The Kids' Clubs were formed in 2021 led by **Rod Eaton**, who will give some details on them later during this annual meeting.
- Some good progress was made on items in the Russell Olson library, which were listed on the slide.
- We increased public outreach by the following activities.
 - ✓ We created our own YouTube channel. The short presentations on the channel focus on aspects of the Twin City Rapid Transit's operations, including videos taken in the 1940s and 1950s, photos of specific routes, company infrastructure, etc. Over forty slide shows and videos are now on MSM's YouTube channel.
 - ✓ Other outreach efforts were emphasized because of our reduced schedule in 2021: Facebook views increased by 14%; 30,000 YouTube views, 4,200 people accessed our historic streetcar photos; several Minnesota histories were scanned and posted for viewing by the public; and, rather than a live Santa visit we offered a virtual visit with Santa on line.
- Historic interpretive signs have been mounted along the former TCRT 44th Street streetcar private right-of-way which is now an alley and walking path. The signs were funded by the Linden Hills Neighborhood Association and the signs have received much favorable comments by the Linden Hills community.

Looking ahead to 2022-Projects we Plan to Work on. Now that it appears that the Covid-19 situation has subsided for the moment, here are the projects and activities we plan to execute in the year 2022.

- We plan to operate with a full schedule in 2022 with some slight modifications.

- Winona 10's bad motor will be repaired and installed in the car
- No. 1239's trucks completed
- The new tower car for CHSL will be completed.
- New electric speeder completed
- Solar power for streetcars
- Car barn energy upgrades at both railways
- Overhead wire rehab in ESL yard
- Mesaba 10 clean-up and cosmetic restoration continues
- WiFi cable installed from the Linden Hills station to the Isaacs car barn at CHSL
- All *Minnegazettes* will be available online

In response to a call for questions from Chair **Isaacs, Mike Lerdahl** commented that he's a new MSM member and the reason he became interested in MSM was as a result of viewing the videos that are now posted on MSM's YouTube channel.

Reports by Museum Officers.

Corporate Secretary's Report. Corporate Secretary **Jim Vaitkunas** rendered the report using a PowerPoint slide show. He commented that as of this moment, 42 MSM members are logged-on to this annual meeting, which is a good number but not as many as 2020's annual member's meeting.

- MSM Complied with all Federal, State of Minnesota and local statutory/regulatory reporting requirements
- Renewed all Insurance Policies – 2020-2021 premiums are as follows.

\$ 1,177	Liability
3,111	Property – buildings at ESL & CHSL
4,428	Property – streetcars
1,516	Director & Officers coverage
300	Volunteer accident insurance
215	Auto coverage
142	Miscellaneous fees
\$ 10,889	TOTAL

Vaitkunas noted that each year the premium typically increases by about \$500 but in 2021/2022 the total premium went down about \$150. This was because the Director & Officer's insurance premium was reduced.

- Total Membership in good standing. The membership numbers were down in 2021, not surprisingly because of the fallout from Covid-19. Our member count had been steady at around 310 members until 2020.
 2021 – 278 2019 – 310 2017 – 313
 2020 – 291 2018 – 312 2016 – 318

- Gains and losses for over the last five years (as of December 31).

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Expired/Deceased	32	36	27	41	40
Joined	32	32	31	12	27

Secretary **Vaitkunas** commented that MSM has gained 8-10 members since January 1, 2022 so it's likely we be back in the 300 member range before too long based on reports from MSM's Volunteer Coordinator **Pat Cosgrove** and Chief of Training **Bill Pekarna**.

- Annual Election of Directors
 - ✓ Notices sent to members on or about February 21, 2022.
 - ✓ No nominations were received from the Museum's members.
 - ✓ Two incumbent Directors will be elected at this meeting: **Aaron Isaacs** and **Dave French**. Voting will occur later in the meeting.
- Board Meetings held in 2021
 - ✓ Three Board meetings were held in 2021.
 - ✓ BOD meeting minutes are posted on MSM's website, usually no later than one week after the meeting. Members are encouraged to view the minutes.
 - ✓ All members are invited to attend Board meetings.
- Members are encouraged to renew their memberships through the Museum website.
- Members are also asked to renew for two years. Doing both saves our Museum funds spent on printing and postage of renewal notices, reminders, second notices, etc.

Treasurer's Report. Chair **Isaacs** reported that Treasurer **Chris Heck** could not attend this annual meeting because his work has him in Finland for a month. So, **Isaacs** will show the PowerPoint presentation that **Heck** prepared for the meeting. The charts are attached to these minutes.

Using the first cash balances chart, **Isaacs** stated that even though we didn't operate at all in 2020 and had a shortened season in 2021, we are in pretty good financial shape. **Isaacs** noted that we ended 2021 with a cash balance of around \$270,000 but we project a cash balance for the end of 2022 of around \$289,000. This lowering of the cash balance will result from some major expenses in 2022 such as the 1239 truck rebuild project and other projects. The MSM Board many years ago set a museum policy that it will never let the cash balance get below \$100,000. There's no chance that this will happen. Treasurer **Heck** manages the budget very conservatively.

Regarding the Capital expenses for 2021, it's clear that some projects take longer than anticipated so in these items we didn't spend the amount we budgeted as depicted in the 2021 capital expenses slide.

The capital projects for 2022 slide shows projected costs for three projects: Fiber Optic cable to the Isaacs carbarn from the Linden Hills station; Winona 10 motor work and window shades; and, rebuilding No. 1239's trucks.

The slide showing income history was shown and Isaacs pointed out several items that are worthy of mention.

- First, it's obvious that income in most areas for 2020 and 2021 was severely reduced because of the impact of the pandemic. We saw some growth in charters in 2021 and we budgeted conservatively with regard to passenger fares even though it's likely we'll do better in 2022 in this area.
- Second, there was good news and in merchandise sales. **Isaacs** commended **Bill Arends** and **Karen Kertzman** for their fine work in this area which showed some good numbers in 2021.
- Third, on the expense side, **Isaacs** commented that some of the amounts depicted on the chart vary from year-to-year depending on the projects and activities during that year. But in any event we budget expenses conservatively.

At the conclusion of his presentation, **Isaacs** asked if there were any questions. Member **Ted Colburn** asked why the utility expense remained high during 2020 and 2021 even though we didn't operate or operated with a reduced schedule. **Isaacs** replied that several factors could have accounted for that but that he wasn't entirely sure why the utility expense was that high except to say that the traction power expense forms only a part of the overall utility (gas, electric, internet, alarm systems, telephone) expense.

There were no further questions.

Chair **Isaacs** then called for a motion to approve treasurer **Heck's** report.

MOTION: Made by Jim Vaitkunas; Second by Karen Kertzman
That the MSM Treasurer's annual report be approved as to form and content.
VOTE: Unanimously approved by all members present.

General Superintendent's Report. General Superintendent **Bruce Gustafson** began his report stating that 2021 was unusual because of the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. **Gustafson** then rendered his report using a PowerPoint slide show which is attached to these minutes.

Gustafson began with an overview of the status of operating personnel at both railways as depicted on the slides. The number of volunteer operators at both railways was slightly reduced in 2021 compared to prior years. The factor which helped immensely in 2021 was the number who volunteered a significant number of hours compared to others on the crew rosters who either qualified but didn't operate or did only a minimal number of shifts.

2021 Operating Season Summary. **Gustafson** reported that the number of passengers carried in 2021 was approximately half of the number carried in the pre-pandemic year of 2019. The shortened operating season and the fact that we did no special events, especially the ones in the fall, contributed to the reduced ridership.

2022 Operating Plan.

CHSL – The regular operating season will begin on April 30th and run through the end of October

- Normal two-shift weekend operating schedule
- Will operate Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings in June, July and August
- Will operate Wednesday and Friday afternoons in June, July and August

- Saturday 1st shift will be a PCC shift with two cars operating. The second standard car will operate normally but also be available for charters
- PCC will also operate on Thursday evening in June, July and August
- Full slate of special event operations in October and November
- Special events planned include Summer Santa and autistic children's events

ESL

- Saturday one shift only with possibility of two shifts if crew are available
- Sunday one shift
- Tuesday Artisan's/Farmer's Market (confirmed by comment from **Karen Kertzman** during the meeting)
- Full slate of typical special events

2022 Start-up Activities

- Recertification test was described
- Meetings held with all operating personnel via Zoom
- Check-ride required for second year Operators and those who operated less than ten hours in 2021
- Point of Sales refresher training required at both railways
- At ESL check-ride on No. 78 required for all ESL operating personnel

Report from the Chief Mechanical Officer. Chief Mechanical Officer **Dick Zawacki** provided an update/status on availability of our operating streetcars as well as other mechanical topics. These are shown in several presentation slides which are attached to these minutes. The good news is that for 2022 both railways will have two cars available for service.

CHSL: Both No. 1300 and No. 322 are ready now to support training activities and for the coming season's operations. Currently the front bumper is not installed on No. 322, but that will not impact training activities.

ESL: No. 265 is ready right now to support training activities and for service when the season begins. No. 78's controller that was damaged by a fire and is now repaired. Other repairs and upgrades were also described. No. 78 will be available for check-rides in April. The Baldwin trucks under Mesaba No. 10 are being worked on to make the car mobile.

Zawacki then made detailed comments on the status of two important projects.

- No. 1239's truck rebuilding project is progressing slowly. There is no estimate yet on when both trucks will be finished. MSM does have two completely rebuilt motors and two additional motors are now being finished. Work on metal portions of the truck was described.
- Winona No. 10s bad motor is being worked on by Swiger Coil of Cleveland, Ohio. Estimate on when that work will be completed sometime late in 2022 but No. 10 will not be available for service until 2023 season.

At the conclusion of the presentation, member **John Dillery** asked about the status of the repairs to the bumper on No. 322 and **Zawacki** responded that it should be installed sometime this summer.

MSM Kid's Clubs. Rod Eaton presented an overview of the two Kid's Clubs created by MSM in 2021. Several slides were shown and discussed, and they are attached to these minutes. The clubs are for children ages six years old and up and are an outgrowth of the Streetcar Camps that MSM has conducted for a number of years. Organized into two camps, the children enjoyed the camps with some of the children coming back several times. But up until 2021, there was no way for them to keep in contact with MSM.

To solve this problem, several years ago Eaton along with Louis Hoffman and Leah Harp created the Kid's Clubs. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic and some other issues, the two clubs have operated virtually with communication to the members done through newsletters e-mailed to the members. Younger kids are members of the Car barn Club and older kids join the Clerestory Crew. The newsletters are issued monthly to keep the kids informed on MSM activities and to keep them interested in the museum.

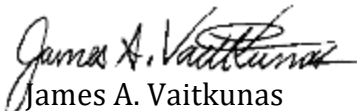
In 2022 the management team plans to give the club members a good number of activities, so the Kid's Club group has scheduled a specific event each month as shown on the slides. Currently the two Kid's Clubs have about two-dozen members with most joining the club after they've attended a streetcar camp. The thinking behind the camps and clubs is that when a kid reaches the age of fifteen, they can get involved in more serious activities with the potential that when they reach eighteen years old they can become an active volunteer.

When asked by Isaacs, Eaton replied that the MSM Board of Directors has created a Student Member category with reduced dues of \$15 per year to encourage young people to become members and be a future volunteer. The student member has the same privileges as a regular member except that they cannot vote in an annual or special meeting.

Election of MSM Directors. Chair Aaron Isaacs then briefed the members on the two Board Director vacancies for this election and the two nominees, Aaron Isaacs and Dave French. Both members agreed to serve as MSM Directors. Chair Isaacs then called for a motion to elect two Directors for a three-year period.

MOTION: Made by Rod Eaton; Second by Brian Long
That Aaron Isaacs and Dave French are elected by acclamation to fill Director positions on MSM's Board of Directors for a term of three years that expire in March-April 2025.
VOTE: Unanimously approved by all members present.

Adjournment. There being no further business, Chair Isaacs adjourned the MSM 2021 annual member's meeting at 8:10 PM.


James A. Vaitkunas
Corporate Secretary

ATTACHMENTS.
Board Chair Isaacs' State of the Museum report
Corporate Secretary's Report

Minutes
MSM Annual Members Meeting
March 24, 2022

General Superintendent's Report
Treasurer's Report
Chief mechanical Officer's Report
Kid's Club Presentation