

MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes
Operations Discussion – February 8, 2023

Keith Anderson
Pat Cosgrove
Bruce Gustafson
Jim Kertzman

Bill Arends
John Dillery
Aaron Isaacs
Bill Pekarna

Todd Bender
Rod Eaton
Karen Kertzman
Dick Zawacki

The committee met in person for approximately two hours to discuss the following topics:

AGENDA:

SCHEDULE

Regular – CHSL

The full schedule will not have any changes from the final 2022 schedule. (Note: the second car experiment during the first shift on Saturday to support charter business was cancelled mid-season last year and will not be scheduled in 2023). As in 2022, charters will not be allowed during regular operations. The full schedule, which is effective between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day is shown below. A reduced (weekend focused) schedule will apply in May and September/October.

- Wednesday evening
- Thursday evening
- Friday afternoon
- Friday evening
- Saturday – 1st shift (PCC); 2nd shift (std car)
- Sunday – 1st shift (std car); 2nd Shift (std car)

The regular schedule will support (without changes to the operations) several events including, but not limited to motorette celebrations, American Sign Language interpreters, and participation in Minneapolis' Open Door event.

Regular – ESL (Karen/ Todd)

The major change in the 2023 schedule is the elimination of the weekday shifts associated with the Farmer's Market due to changes in the Farmer's Market. The full regular schedule is shown below.

- Saturday – 1st shift; 2nd shift
- Sunday – 1st shift

Special Events

A full slate of special events is planned for both CHSL and ESL, including some new ideas. Some events are shown below.

CHSL

- Summer Santa (new)
- All Aboard (event for autistic children)
- Kids Club events
- Returning favorites – PJ Party, Murder Mystery

ESL

- Art on the Lakes (June)
- Crazy Days (July)
- Apple Days (August)

CHARTERS

The charter season will begin April 29 and run through the fall (specific end date weather dependent). Given the success in 2022, the plan is to have the station (CHSL) open for charter activity. Charters are not allowed to conflict with regularly scheduled operations. As a compromise, given the popularity of Saturday charters, it was agreed that charters could operate at CHSL between 11a and the start of normal operations on Saturdays.

START-UP ACTIVITIES

Recruitment Activity

Recruitment numbers appear to be at an all-time high with over 100 individuals expressing some interest (this or last year). Bill Pekarna and Pat Cosgrove identified that the ideal number of trainees is between 18 and 24. Initial orientation sessions will be held in late March/ early April and will reduce the number of volunteers moving to the training phase.

Training

Overall, training will be led by Superintendent of Training Bill Pekarna with support from several members including of Jerry Betz, David Higgins, Andy Jacob, and Linda Ridlehuber at CHSL. Karen Kertzman will again lead the ESL training team, which includes Jim Kertzman and Greg Thomas.

Bill indicated that the training curriculum will be consistent with last year having the core training (classroom and on the car) at CHSL led by Bill. Once the car basics are trained trainees will be sent to the specific line, they are interested in operating at for line-specific training.

Recertification

All operators will be required to complete an online quiz. Ben Franske has volunteered to create the quiz based on input from the Operating Committee.

As in past years, operators who completed less the 10 hours of operation in 2022, will be required to complete a hands-on check ride. At this time (March 8) there are 5 ESL and 24 CHSL operators requiring a check-ride. Check rides will be completed in April.

All CHSL volunteers will also require recertification on the POS system. Rose Arends will again lead the POS recertification.

MECHANICAL

Dick Zawacki indicated that the following cars will be available in late April to cover training and other needs leading to the regular operations starting in late April.

- CHSL: Car nos. 1300 and 322
- ESL: Car nos. 78 and 26

ENGINEERING

Keith Anderson provided an overview of the inspection and maintenance plans to ensure the infrastructure is ready for operations. Keith did mention that the plan to install fiber optics to the Como-Harriet station will impact the ability to operate between the carbarn and 42nd Street in late April / early May. While this will not impact regular operations, it could impact some training/ recertification time slots.

POLICIES

- COVID. There will be no COVID-related requirements

NEW FOREMEN

The committee agreed on the following volunteers to be promoted to foreman. *(Note: as of March 8, I have heard back from everyone, but Ed and they are interested in moving forward).*

- Barb Gacek
- Dan Odegaard
- Ed Rapport
- Bruce Allyn