

**Minnesota Streetcar Museum**  
**Operations Committee**  
**Operations Discussion – February 16, 2025**

Keith Anderson  
Pat Cosgrove  
Bruce Gustafson  
Bill Pekarna

Bill Arends  
John Dillery  
Aaron Isaacs  
Jim Vaitkunas

Katie Barron  
Rod Eaton  
Karen Kertzman  
~~Dick Zawacki~~

**AGENDA:**

**ENGINEERING (Keith. Aaron)**

- CHSL Activities
  - North-end run-off expected to be completed in 2025. Will not impact operations
  - Canopy work planned to start week of 4/7 and go through several phases over several weeks. Planned completion prior to season start. Will realign spring switches away from platform siding, if work is expected to impact training activities.
  - Keith and Miles will conduct spring maintenance activities
  - Keith was asked to look at guy wire north of the Wm Berry Bridge as it appears loose and may be coming out of the ground
- ESL
  - Tie replacement program planned and budgeted. Timing TBD
  - Spring maintenance activities will start once weather permitting. Planning to check track, switches, and overhead.

**MECHANICAL (Dick)**

- Car availability. All cars are anticipated to be available for the start of the 2025 season. No issues.

**SCHEDULE**

**Regular – CHSL**

- Time changes:
  - September – end at 7:00p rather than 7:30p
  - October – end at 4:30p rather than 4:00p
- Owl Service will be suspended for the 2025 season based on neighbor complaints. Will re-evaluate for 2026 season
- PCC schedule adjustments
  - PCC will operate (pending confirmation from Dick) will operate 1<sup>st</sup> shift on Sundays in September

- For the month of June we will test a full day (two shifts) using the PCC. This is to see if we can get more volunteers for the challenged 2<sup>nd</sup> shift and to provide more options for PCC volunteers
- Potential to go to 3 shifts on a weekend day vs the two currently scheduled.  
The Committee discussed the challenge of filling weekend shifts, some believing that the length of the shifts (4 hours) discourages volunteers. This topic will be discussed during the recertification meeting, leading to a possible test period in the fall.
- Full schedule
  - Wednesday/Friday afternoon
  - Wednesday/Thurs/Friday evening
  - Saturday – 1<sup>st</sup> shift (std car); 2<sup>nd</sup> shift (std car)
  - Sunday – 1<sup>st</sup> shift (PCC); 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift (June – PCC; Post June - TBD)

#### Regular – ESL (Karen)

- Karen mentioned that reductions in the number operating volunteers is putting at risk the schedule – which has been protected only by significant hours by a small group of volunteers. Last year only one new volunteer came out of the training program
- As a result:
  - Karen asked that we seek CHSL volunteers to train at ESL
  - Karen will evaluate ticket purchases to determine if changes to the schedule need to be made, based in part on long-term crew availability

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### CHSL (Katie)

Katie provided an initial list of events and timing.

- The notable change is moving the Halloween events up one week. For example:
  - Pumpkin Patch moves to the first weekend in October
  - Transylvania Trolley moves up to the second weekend in October
- Vinternatt will return for 2025. Katie discussed an option to use reusable plastic bags/containers for the luminary rather than filing paper bags as is currently done. Retaining the plastic containers would reduce some of the prep work.
  - Open question for Katie is where to store the plastic containers

#### ESL (Karen)

Karen reviewed some planned activities and some that are still undergoing review. Full schedule will be developed in the next month or so.

#### Additional Schedule Items

- All Aboard/ Neurodiversity – Katie and Bruce will work with Leah to get details on planned activities

- ASL. There is funding for only one more event, which will take place during the Doors Open event. Katie will explore options to use free volunteers to provide additional dates.
- Doors Open event (Aaron) – CHSL. Will operate as was done last season – 3 shifts: 4 car barn docents. As noted above, the event will also have an ASL interpreter.
- Company picnic. Leah has volunteered to lead the event. Bruce will follow-up with her.

### CHARTERS (Pat)

- Charters for members will be allowed prior to the start of the season and after the end of the regular season up to the final scheduled event, weather permitting.
- Pat will continue booking station agents for certain charters that want the opportunity to purchase merchandise.
- Motorman Certificate. Will be advertised and booked as one hour
- Pat asked that we identify other foremen to be charter foremen.
  - Bill will ask the trainers if they would be interested

### MISC. OPERATING ISSUES

- Boarding Operations (CHSL). We will go back to boarding at the front and unloading at the rear to avoid congestion. We will continue, however, to have the conductor initiate the permission to move the car forward by a ring of two bells once he/she has received the “all clear” from the platform attendant. The motorman does not return the signal.

### COMMUNICATION – CELL PHONE POLICY

The committee had a robust discussion on the use and potential misuse of cell phones. The outcome is that changes to the museum’s policies on cell phones will be included in a broader review of the operating rule book, which will take place in the second half of March. Bruce will schedule the initial meeting.

The review committee will consist of:

- Jim Vaitkunas (chair)
- Bruce Gustafson
- Katie Baron
- John Dillery
- Karen Kertzman
- Bill Pekarna

### START-UP ACTIVITIES

#### Recruitment Plan (Pat)

- Pat indicated that he has an extensive list of individuals who have expressed interest over the past year or two. As such, Pat will not be actively soliciting any new recruits.

### Training - new (Bill P.)

- The training program will follow the same format as has been done over the past few years. Bill mentioned that it takes on average 5.7 sessions to successfully qualify as a volunteer for operations. Historically, Bill and team have evaluated to continue training once an individual reaches 8 sessions. Given the track record in training a successful candidate and wanting to speed up the process, Bill and team are considering shortening the evaluation period to 6-7 training sessions.
- The training dept.'s kick-off meeting is scheduled for Monday 2/17
- Organization/ Roles
  - Training Superintendent – Bill P.
  - PCC Training lead – Katie (unless Fred Beamish is planning to return)
  - ESL – Karen Kertzman

### Recertification

- Check Rides. Required for all second-year operators and anyone with fewer than 10 hours of operation
  - Bruce will identify the members requiring check-rides
- Quiz. Will be completed as part of the MANDATORY foremen and operator in-person meetings.

The quiz will be refined based on modifications Bill P. has made to use in his training sessions and feedback from the Operations Committee.

  - Bruce will distribute the current, revised quiz from Bill

### NEW FOREMEN

New foremen are required at both locations. Karen indicated that she has 2 candidates in mind. For CHSL the solution is less clear.

- Potential CHSL Foremen
  - Marion Garcia (Bill P to follow-up)
  - Tom May (Aaron to follow-up)
  - Ed Rappaport (Bruce to follow-up)
- Bill P also mentioned that he believes there are several good candidates from last year's training class who would be eligible for the 2026 season