

OUR FAIR CAROUSEL, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting
April 14, 2016

Present: Ben Albaugh, Peter Boehm, Clyde Boysen, Tom Braun, Barbara Deneen, Michelle Furrer, Trude Harmon, Gary Jones, Peggy Kipka, Bob Marabella, Carrie Martinson, Mike Merrick, Bill Nunn, Nancy Peterson, Kevin Points, Jim Weichert, John Willy. Executive Director Colleen Murphy Roth.

The meeting came to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2016, were approved as mailed.

Finances. Jim Weichert reported that there have been no changes to the auditors' report since the board gave approval at the January meeting. He said the accompanying letter praises our financial procedures in glowing terms. Weichert also said all filings are up to date. At the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2015, we had \$277,000 in cash. As of April 1, after paying the City of St. Paul and the annual property and liability insurance premiums, we had a balance of about \$175,000.

Weichert said he was still considering the purchase of CHS preferred stock, which the board had authorized in October 2015, and was watching the performance of the market.

Volunteers. Bob Marabella shared minutes of a March 10, 2016, volunteer committee meeting. The group was charged by the board with making volunteer recruitment its top priority for the year. Among their proposals was contact with retired teachers (including a program about the carousel), a new flyer that was being prepared by the executive director, and one or more volunteer fairs at the carousel. The group asked for updated volunteer information on the display boards in the building and also was looking into new and improved volunteer buttons.

Colleen Murphy Roth reported that volunteer openings were being advertised on OFC's website and Facebook page, and on volunteer referral sites. Tear-off posters were placed outside the carousel and in area businesses. Posters and flyers were placed in local churches, schools, and libraries. A volunteer fair was scheduled for Saturday, April 23. Meanwhile, Roth was continuing to meet with various organizations including retiree groups and high school volunteer-based activity groups.

New volunteer training sessions were slated weekly, on Friday and Saturday mornings.

Gift shop. Roth reported that Mike Mariana had ordered a variety of new merchandise, which was arriving and being stocked in advance of the April volunteers' cleaning day.

Band organ. Mike Merrick reported that the band organ would be re-installed April 15.

Carousel. Kevin Points reported that the planned off-season repairs had been completed. New pieces were installed and there was no noise from the new gear shaft.

In addition, the new automatic oiler had been installed but was not ready to operate. The project still needed low-voltage wiring for an on-off switch as well as a camera to be operated remotely.

Restoration. Tom Braun reported that he had talked with Linda McDonald about metallic paints, which have worked well in place of foil in some restoration projects. She may test it to see whether it holds up better than foil.

Braun worked with Kevin Points and Mark Carlson to determine the best way to repair horses that had become loose on their poles. Carlson tightened lag bolts wherever possible. Where lag bolts could not be tightened he inserted dowels to give bolts a new contact surface. The 11 worst-case horses were repaired this past off-season; more will be selected for work next fall.

Communications. Nancy Peterson reported that she will continue to work with our Facebook presence, aiming to increase our audience from its current number of about 4,100. She plans to edit and reformat the web site before turning it over to a designer. She worked with Roth on new informational panels for the display cases around the building.

Fund raising. We received a \$5,000 payment on a horse adoption and were expecting a payment of \$2,500 on another.

Executive director. Colleen Murphy Roth reported that the building's compressor has been a continuing problem as a valve repeatedly worked itself loose. A temporary compressor was installed while a new permanent one is on order. She got estimates on painting the floor and walls of the interior of the carousel building, and it was about \$10,000, too expensive to do this year. A new cash register and credit card machine will be ready to operate this year. A volunteer cleaning day has been scheduled for 9:30 to noon on Saturday, April 16. Volunteers will be able to sign up for volunteer shifts on a web-based management program called Volgistics.

She has hired staff including Mark Carlson as mechanic and shift supervisor, Sonda Bennett as shift supervisor, and Mike Mariana to operate the gift shop. She is negotiating to fill a position for cleaning and brass polishing.

New business. Michelle Furrer reported that the city's budget includes funding to repair the broken concrete on our east-side patio. The funds will be available in April 2017 but she may be able to make a case for doing the work early.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 13, at the Como Streetcar Station.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy A. Peterson, Secretary