

OUR FAIR CAROUSEL, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2014

Present: Peter Boehm, Barbara Deneen, Michelle Furrer, Trude Harmon, Peggy Kipka, Bob Marabella, Mike Merrick, Nancy Peterson, Kevin Points, Jim Weichert, John Willy

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

Minutes of the meeting of October 3, 2013, were approved as mailed.

Finance. Jim Weichert distributed a draft report from the auditor. Revenues for the 2013 season were up over 2012 because of the change in ticket price from \$1.50 to \$2.00. Factoring in depreciation of the building (in other words, credit for prepaid expenses) we took in more than we spent. That had not been true in 2012. Weichert noted that the number of riders did not decrease, and raising the price was the right decision to solve the problem. He said the carousel is on a good, firm financial footing.

Weichert also distributed a trend analysis for the past seven fiscal years, leading him to these observations: (1) Ride revenue had decreased for five straight years; in fiscal 2013 it reversed that trend and increased 25 percent. (2) Merchandise sales in 2013 were down 20 percent from the peak of about \$25,000. (3) Operating expenses are pretty constant over the 7-year period. (4) We had contributions of about \$1,000 each year for five of the years. (5) Our cash balance, net of our \$103,000 certificate of deposit, represent about 92 percent of our annual operating costs.

Boehm said we should try to understand the reasons for the decline in ridership. Weather has been a factor, but some of our down years were counter to the experience of the Como campus. He said he believed that having the sidewalk next to our building closed during lengthy construction projects had a negative impact on our traffic. He also is concerned about occasional negative reports about the demeanor of volunteers.

Weichert said he would mail the final audit report and will file it with the attorney general's office. The board approved the filing.

We have paid the sales tax we owed the state due to incorrect legal advice years ago. We owed it for a three-year period and now we will subtract that amount from our next payment to the city.

Boehm said our inventory at the end of the fiscal year stood at \$16,468. We had 72,135 riders during the *calendar* year. The bank balance at the end of the calendar year was \$86,964, which is \$8,686 more than at the end of 2013.

Volunteer debriefing. The post-season debriefing surfaced two noteworthy ideas. It was suggested that those who are awarded more free tickets than they can use be invited to

distribute them to people who can use them. Perhaps the volunteer committee could come up with a vehicle for doing this. Also, the “hour” buttons we award are valued by volunteers but they wear out after a while. We should make higher-quality ones. There had been some discussion of parking and safety at the debriefing; Michelle Furrer said there is a new police camera in the lot.

Personnel. Clyde Boysen administered Tammi Beckley’s performance evaluation after the 2013 season and recommended a 1.5 percent cost of living increase, which Boehm has included in the budget.

Budget. Boehm presented a budget that includes some modest expenditures for activities to observe the carousel’s 100th birthday and for some customized items, such as the band organ cd, coloring book, and history book, that will be considered long-term inventory. The budget was approved.

Gift shop. T-shirts for adults and children are among the special items being developed for our 100th birthday season.

Carousel. Kevin Points reported that the carousel is in good condition. One project that will need to be done is to secure the lag bolts under the horses; some are stripped and will be replaced.

Band Organ. Mike Merrick reported that he and Bill Nunn are in the process of whittling six hours of music down to one hour for the cd. They expect to finish by the end of January, after which the recordist will sweeten and edit the tracks. The manufacturing process itself takes two weeks.

Restoration. Boehm said the platform and some other places need touchup and will be painted in April.

Fund-raising. Boehm said we have 17 horses left to be adopted, and he hopes that the carousel’s 100th birthday might generate some new interest and activity in that area.

Communications. Nancy Peterson reported that a committee of volunteers is helping plan 100th birthday activities that will generate visibility and allow us to acquaint a new generation of people with the carousel and its story. There will be small activities each week and one large birthday party on Saturday, August 9.

President’s report. Boehm said we will replace 40 more windows at the top of the garage doors before the new season. We will bring in scaffolding for Mark and volunteers to work from.

He reported that he was summoned to the carousel at about 2:30 a.m. twice in two weeks. On December 29 or 30, he arrived to find a fire truck in the lot and three firefighters in the building. The compressor, which keeps air in the pipes and water out of the pipes in the front of the building, had failed. Water filled the pipes and froze. While Peter waited,

a man worked from 4 to 6 a.m. de-icing the pipes and removing sprinkler heads and valves. The compressor had to be replaced; this is the third new one in two years. Boehm said clearly something else needs to be done.

On January 6, when the temperature was minus 21 degrees, he got another call, this time because of a “low pressure alarm.” When the work was done the previous week, the temperature sensor had been placed against the outer wall, which caused it to register a temperature low enough to set off an alarm.

Michelle Furrer reported that the concrete repair work is included in a two-year capital maintenance request because it is a bigger project than expected. It will be scheduled when similar projects are being done elsewhere on campus.

Boehm asked Mike Merrick to meet with Kevin Points and Mark Carlson to talk about the possibility of creating an automatic oiler for the top bearing.

Barbara Deneen reported that she has contacted a man who can do the work of etching a cornerstone date on our building this spring. Boehm asked her to get an estimate of how much time and cost are involved.

Boehm said the Coney Island style horse that has been on display in the window at the pavilion is being sent to Florida for an inventory of Jerry Cafesjian’s collection. Carrie Martinson said she will try to get a carousel piece for our window display.

The next meeting is at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 24.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. ???

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy A. Peterson, secretary