

Minutes - Board of Directors Meeting
Potomac Division, MER, NMRA
Online
April 1st , 2020

Call To Order

Call to Order by **Martin Brechbiel** by email of April 1, 2020 3:32 PM requesting the Board make a motion to accept an attached motion.

Contacted were Kalis, Brechbiel, Little, Broderick, and Dodge

Old Business

None

New Business

Discussion:

Brechbiel – “Give that Ernie Little, MMR has been doing the Computer Clerk job for many months (6-9) and has also recently taken over the majority of the duties and activities of the Web Master from Marshall Abrams, I feel that it is probably past due that this be made official.”

Motion 1

Martin Brechbiel made a motion on even date (see below)

I move that Ernie Little, MMR be appointed Computer Clerk and Web Master for the Potomac Division, MER, NMRA and be granted all privileges and authorities that accompany both positions. I also move that Ernie obtain all of the account information related to the web site such that this information not be lost, misplaced, or misused.

Motion Seconded by **Ernie Little** by email of April 1, 2020 5:30 PM

Motion Seconded by **Andrew Dodge** by email of April 1, 2020 5:55 PM (this is not a typo)

Vote

Martin Brechbiel called for a vote by email of April 2, 2020 5:39 PM on the motion on the floor

Second Aye by **Ernie Little** by email of April 2, 2020 6:28 PM

Third Aye by **Andrew Dodge** by email of Friday April 3, 2020 6:52 AM

Motion carried by declaration of Martin Brechbiel on Sunday April 5, 2020 8:30 PM

Recess called for by **Martin Brechbiel** on Sunday April 5, 2020 8:30 PM to resume on Monday with a second motion. Kalis directed to continue recording meeting results

Second motion by Nicholas Kalis

Fourth Aye by **Nicholas Kalis** by email of Sunday April 5, 2020 8:40 PM

Tim Broderick did not participate.

MOTION # 1 CARRIED

Discussion by Email

Martin Brechbiel wrote:

The planned integration of the Open House program into the Outreach Program (Clinics) has been openly known for close to a year. The plan has always been that the two programs would be folded together to present a unified set of activities and clinics and other presentations in the morning, e.g., AP awards, questions & information from the Board, followed by a lunch break, and then two or more open houses in the afternoon.

This was determined to be the course of action to follow as the Open House program simply does not provide adequate interest by itself to fulfill the desires of the members. This was noted in the survey that had been conducted by the Division Board in 2017, and evident at the April 2018 meeting that presented the state of the Division. The need to add value was obvious in order to draw more members. This same event template as stated is almost standard across the MER domain, and is easily seen as a successful model to adopt.

We have spent this past year and now well into 2020 demonstrating that this format is not only doable, but it is also a successful format to pursue. The Division's Board has left the Open House program essentially intact through 2020 because the hosts were already in place. All aspects of the Open House program into 2021 has been put on hold with no further actions to be taken until such time as the board has determined that the two programs could be successfully integrated.

After this past Saturday's event in Clinton, MD, and the distinctly high probability that the Division will be able to return there in 2021, combined with the Vienna club venue, and then Battlefield Baptist Church in the fall, we have three very solid venues available to move this plan forward in 2021. We also will have in high probability the miniCon again at St. Matt's in Annandale in 2021. We do need a fourth venue, preferably in Montgomery Co., or PG Co. in MD, but that will take some effort to define.

At this time, we need to move forward to bring the division's two ongoing programs into alignment so that they augment and support each other. To do so will require that we begin recruiting open house hosts for 2021 grouped in conjunction with our established clinic venues. To that end, I have requested our Open House Chair to start on this process. However, he has requested that I secure that directive from the Board not wanting to deviate from past operations. As such, I will make the motion as below:

I move that the Open House Chair (Nick Kalis) be directed to work to secure layout open house hosts for the months of March, June, September, and November in 2021 that will geographically align with and complement the venues that are in play (Surratt House, Vienna Club, Battlefield Baptist Church) and then to discontinue all other open houses in 2021. The Open House Chair shall also actively coordinate in all activities in scheduling and grouping open houses with those Board members organizing the clinic program to optimize the value added of this integrated activity to benefit the members of the Potomac Division. Additionally, through this motion all of the above information is incorporated in support of this action.

Nicholas Kalis wrote by email
Dear Board Members:

I salute the success we have had on our outreach program and Andrew and others for making it happen

My concerns about tying the open houses to our outreach stem from my experience as the Layout Tour Chairman

1. Many PD members are unable to prepare their layout for an open house without a two-year prep period
 - a. This two-year period has been successful in adding to the stock of presentable layouts in the division and more specifically in our tour
 - b. If we choose to be dismissive about the need for two years, then we will simply need to rely on tried and true prior hosts to repeat their open houses
 - i. Bear in mind, many of our veteran hosts are not getting any younger – we need new younger blood to sustain this program into the future
 - c. So how do we tie a first time host to a date or a month one to two years in advance when tying up a venue rarely can be done that far in advance? That is our conundrum.
2. In order to solidify this commitment on the part of the host – it must be made concrete – i.e. it must have a date or at least a month
3. Hosts commitments can evaporate at the drop of a hat
 - a. As it is, newbie hosts have often contacted the Layout Tour Chairman with “cold feet” and have sought to drop out
 - b. If we play “musical chairs” with these commitments, we open the door to drop outs from the tour
4. In order to have a goodly number of open houses in a year, we must strive to do it monthly – why?

- a. Severe weather, illness, family emergencies, lack of construction progress on the layout, yes, even the death of a host, have been the source of cancellations
- b. So for example if we shoot for 12 open houses per year, we might only get 10

The layout tour chairman position is an easy one if all we do is go back to veteran hosts... shooting for first-time hosts is a difficult chore and can burn out a chairman very quickly.

Thank you.
N Kalis

Motion Seconded by Andrew Dodge by email of April 9 2020 3:48 PM

Kalis votes Nay
Broderick Votes Aye by email of April 9 2020 4:09PM
Ernie Little Votes Aye
Andrew Dodge Votes Aye
Vote Count: Three Ayes; One Nay
Motion Carried 3-1

Meeting adjourned at April 16, 2020

Next meeting to be called to order when the results of the 2020 elections become final.

True and Correct:

Nicholas Kalis
Clerk

Accepted:


Martin Brechbiel
Superintendent