

Minutes of the August 13 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Early Television Foundation
Submitted by Dave Sica 8/28/2015

Early Television Foundation
Meeting of the Board of Directors
(telephone conference)
August 23, 2015
7:00 PM

Attending:

Dave Abramson
Chuck Azzalina
Geoff Bourne
Bob Dobush
John Folsom
Darryl Hock
Steve McVoy
James O'Neal
Dave Sica
Jack South
Chuck Azar joined the meeting at 7:50 PM

Minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed prior to this meeting. President Steve McVoy asked if there were any corrections or additions.

OLD BUSINESS:

James O'Neal remarked that we had discussed investigating the possibility of signage, specifically a sign on main street to direct people driving through the town to the museum. Steve was going to look into it. Steve had asked the person in the Hilliard tourism department but hadn't received a response. He will check again. Geoff Bourne motioned to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Jack South and passed by unanimous acclamation.

Steve had previously sent a one-page summary of finances and information about the convention to each board member. He recapped the information on that summary:

- There are currently 141 paid members of the museum, up from approximately 100 last year.
- There is approximately \$5,700 in the bank, which includes approximately \$1,500 left over from the RACS fund and \$150 in the CRT Rebuilding Room fund.
- We used money we made from the convention to replace the museum's asphalt shingle roof at a cost of approximately \$5,600.
- The parking lot is in bad condition and needs to be re-paved. We have received an estimate of \$23,000 to perform that work. We need to discuss how we will come up with that money.
- Our Federal Tax Filing, Form 990PF is posted online. It contains our financial information:
 - Our assets are about \$900,000 This includes everything we've received from donations, which is added to whatever we already had. Anything we sell is subtracted. The amounts don't necessarily reflect market value of artifacts. This figure doesn't really mean much or matter much. Steve suggested that might be a good idea to get an estimate of everything in the museum in order to be accurate. There was discussion regarding how we might best obtain accurate appraisals, and how to value items in the collection for insurance purposes. Darryl mentioned that a company in Pennsylvania offering insurance to collectors required a detailed list of items along with a self-appraisal.

CONVENTION REPORT:

There were 119 attendees this year, which was up a few from the previous year.

Auction sale was 'phenomenal,' mainly because of the inclusion of items from Ed Reitan's estate. The total auction sales figures includes items such as the RR-359 that were sold after the on-site Convention auction.

DONATIONS:

\$6,400 in cash donated. This is significantly higher than last year.

\$10,500 received from the sale of equipment surplus to the needs of the museum.

\$5,000 in commissions on auction sales.

Conclusion: the Convention was quite profitable. Although because of the Reitan estate items this year, future auction figures will not likely be as high, the cash donations are trending upward.

There has been a lot of valuable equipment donated this past year. Of special note

- CBS-Remington Rand Vericolor camera
- Dumont 15" prototype color television.
- RCA projectors, cameras, multiplexors and other items.
- Two 21CT55s donated recently.
- Pending pickup: Emerson C502 21" color set in New York City.
- Finally, WGN's original color studio is in a barn in Wisconsin: 3 TK41s, support equipment, monitors, cables, and an unknown amount of support equipment. Photos coming this week.

We should consider getting at least one or more of the cameras running and then sell off the rest of the set. By way of compare*son, the TK40 sold this year for about \$13,000. We could probably sell 2 TK41s plus our 'partial' TK41 to raise a significant amount of money.

PARKING LOT:

Install permeable asphalt? This is being installed as an experiment by the DEP in various places in New Jersey using available grant money. DS will investigate

Gravel? Would be less expensive than asphalt but lot requires markings. Pave with asphalt in handicap parking areas only?

We'd only need to raise \$15,000, then our operating income could cover the rest.

We could restore 2 of the TK41s, then sell one as "working" which might bring a significant amount of money. Possible purchasers: ABC/CBS/NBC?

Restorers: Chuck Pharis, Jay Ballard? Jim Diaz?

Approach WGN for some financial support?

CRT REBUILDING:

Nick Williams was at the museum for 5 days in August. Another person was there for the weekend, along with another interested guy from in town who has a PhD in physics.

They got to the point where they had the equipment set up and working. Nick successfully rebuilt one tube before he left.

There were problems with the vacuum measuring equipment. John Yurkon took the equipment to test and fix it.

So at the present time, we have a working plant. We have the necessary parts stock needed to rebuild tubes.

We are still missing a manager. Nick has 4 years to go before he retires from the navy. In the worst case scenario, it will be 4 years before we start rebuilding tubes.

Bring in Scotty from Hawkeye or the folks from RACS to conduct a training session? Steve will ask Jerome if he has any information on whether it might be feasible to do this.

Dave Abramson asked whether the CRT rebuilding operation would continue as part of museum, or if we should operate it as a separate LLC?

We discussed insurance, and safety procedures. Steve McVoy will ask John Yurkon for advice on formalizing safety procedures for the CRT rebuilding process.

We decided that people will be required to sign a waiver in order to enter the CRT rebuilding room. Steve will investigate how the liability waiver should be worded.

Steve McVoy will make a list of all chemicals used in the operation and obtain an MSDS for each.

Steve will investigate what we would need to do to operate the CRT Rebuilding as a separate LLC. We will not proceed with doing this until we are ready to ramp up to operation, but we'll find out what potential costs and benefit.

Jerome Halphen and Dave Sica will work on developing an English-language version of the RACS manual.

CONVENTION REVIEW:

Comments received in response to the survey were generally favorable.

Dates of Convention were seen as being good.

Can we pre-vet the presentations for future Conventions? How?

James O'Neal suggested having prospective presenters submit an abstract of their presentation ahead of time. We want to keep the review/approval process fairly informal; not make it so arduous as to discourage people from presenting

If we solicit papers, we might get a bigger pool of possibilities, at which point a presentation committee could investigate and weigh possibilities for approval.

Steve asked James O'Neal to put together a procedure and schedule on submitting papers. James agreed to do so.

NEW BUSINESS:

New ideas: three things that have come up to think about:

1. Fall swap meet? Steve will compare dates against scheduled football games, radio events, etc. Museum of Radio & Technology (Huntington) meet is scheduled for Oct. 17, Kutztown 9/18-19. Early October?

We should publicize through local collecting groups: DS will build on work developing contacts at NJARC.

There are online listings of all collecting club; Chuck Azar will forward this information to everyone.

Steve will float the idea on the main online forums and via a bulk email broadcast. If we don't get a good response, we will cancel it.

ESTATE MANAGEMENT:

Steve suggested providing information to collectors regarding designating disposition of items in their collections in their wills and designating monetary bequests to the museum from their estates.

The purpose would be to encourage and guide people in their estate planning rather than have

Dave Abramson suggested creating an online form for prospective donors complete with all the legalese.

Bob Dobush offered the Gilmore Car Museum in Kalamazoo MI as a good example of an operation already doing this. They have a list of benefactors on the wall, forms available, etc. There is a section to "learn about wills and bequests" on the WOSU website wosu.org. We will develop a list that can be posted on the website and emailed to people interested in making a donation to the museum.

OTHER IDEAS?

Jack South: Should we change percentage that museum charges auction? Possibly raise it up to 12.5%? We'll put that discussion on the agenda for the next meeting.

Dave Sica asked if we were going to discuss having a Kickstarter campaign and/or accept prepaid orders for rebuilding services in order to raise cash to fund the remaining expenses of installing and starting up the CRT lab. It's a little premature since we aren't talking about actually starting in 'business' for possibly 6 years yet. We'll discuss that at the next meeting too.

Jack South reminded that we'd discussed the possibility of expanding our interest in terms of types of equipment and years covered in order to attract more museum attendance. Also, the possibility of putting together a travelling exhibit? (Travel to Universities, Engineering Schools, High Schools, Organizations.) We'll discuss this on the next agenda.

Dave Abramson suggested that we at least try to develop a 5-year plan: The future of the museum, the status of the CRT lab, Funding management costs in the Post-McVoy era, etc.

Next meeting: around Nov. 1, date TBD by Steve and board advised.

Motion to adjourn: Jack South, second by John Folsom. Approved unanimously by acclamation.

The meeting ended Aug. 23 at approximately 8:35 PM.

David S. McVoy, President and Treasurer