

Early Television Foundation

Board of Directors Meeting
January 29, 2022

Attendees: Dave Abramson, Dave Arland, Geoff Bourne, Chuck Conrad, Matt D'Asaro, Bob Dobush, Blake Hinkle, Steve McVoy, James O'Neal, Dave Sica.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

Financial:

We have about \$13,000 cash on hand in the bank. There are no significant expenses expected. Next expenses will be for the 2022 Convention (if held.) Income continues, primarily from sale of CRTs and other items and from memberships.

Membership:

Membership currently stands at approximately 140. Our membership drive has been particularly successful this year, compared to the approximately 110 members we had at this point last year.

Equipment Donations:

We were given four sets from the estate of Gary Miller. One appeared to be a prewar Gilfillan G-12, but upon arriving at the museum it turned out to be an RCA TRK-120. This is still a rare, valuable and interesting set and it is in fairly nice condition. It will make an excellent fundraising sweepstakes prize. We also received an RCA 648PTK which is in nicer condition than the one we currently have on display so will be swapped out for it. Also an RCA 630 PCS, the less commonly console version of the 630 tabletop receiver, similarly in better condition than the one we currently have. And finally a Norelco Protelgram projection attachment.

We've also received several cameras, including an Ampex unit that was used with their early model home video recorder, and a Diamond Power industrial monitoring camera.

Expenses:

Our expenses, beyond the usual utilities and salary, have been essentially zero. No significant new expenses are anticipated in the near future until (if) we host the Convention in May.

TK-41 Project:

No progress. Steve will check with Barry and either determine that some progress will be made on the items he's restoring or request that they be returned to the museum.

A discussion ensued regarding whether a full restoration to working condition or a modification allowing the camera to simulate operation would be appropriate and/or possible. The consensus was that even though it would be difficult to keep a TK-41 running, a rare and important piece like that deserves to be kept in operating condition if at all possible. A modification might be

expedient in the short term as long as it is reversible and does not permanently alter the camera.

Advertising and Publicity:

There have been no new advertising or publicity efforts made recently. Due to the decreased tourism during the panic, we've not reached out via tourism listings. We did put a fairly significant effort into launching an advertising campaign just prior to the onset of the pandemic, so that has essentially produced no results for us.

Museum Attendance:

Attendance averages around 120 visitors per month. There have been no midweek tours, primarily since Steve has not been in Hilliard, but also because that type of activity dropped off during COVID.

Museum Volunteers:

Managing midweek tours would be more practical if we had more volunteer tour guides, and Steve is following up on a couple of possibilities.

Fire Inspection:

The museum passed this year's fire inspection with little fanfare as most of the significant issues were identified and remediated last year.

Building:

There has been no progress (or even any further discussion) regarding the city of Hilliard's proposal to have the museum move to a new building.

Online Meetings:

Our monthly online meetings continue and have been well-reviewed and well attended. Attendance ranges between approximately 50 participants between Zoom and YouTube and close to 100. It was suggested that we try holding the online meeting on a weekday evening to allow those who have been unable to participate in the Saturday evening events and will try this for the February meeting if possible and see how it goes.

Board of Directors Elections:

There is a vacancy on the board with the passing of Chuck Azar. We have a sufficient number of members for a quorum at present, so we'll wait to fill Chuck's position in May at the anticipated in-person meeting held during the Convention.

Convention:

Assuming we hold the Convention at the beginning of May, Steve anticipates we can wait until as late as the end of March to put plans into effect as we monitor the course of the pandemic. It was suggested that we needed to start scheduling and promoting the event soon in order to let everyone know that it will be happening this year and allow time for attendees to make travel plans.

Depending on precautions recommended at the time of the event, options include limiting the number of people in a room, or moving to a venue that allows more room. Due to the possible limited number of presentations that will be available and the desire to keep crowds down and keep things moving, a smaller number of formal presentations was viewed as a possibly good thing, allowing a less-hectic lunch break and more time for other social aspects of the get-together, which has been viewed by some as deficient in the past.

Steve will check into availability of venues and flexibility for booking closer to the event and/or canceling if that should become necessary. Steve has announced that the next Convention will be the last one that he will personally manage, so we'll need to put plans and personnel into place to 'apprentice' for each of the key positions at the next Convention.

The weekend of May 6-7-8 seems to be the best date for the Convention at this point, avoiding a conflict with the Kutztown Radio Show.

The Future of the Early Television Foundation and Museum:

At an upcoming board meeting, we'll discuss all the various tasks that go into running the organization, the documentation of those responsibilities that Steve has put together and how the organization should be structured to allow it to continue to function in the future. This discussion will likely be too lengthy and involved to hold at the general meeting during the Convention, so will be scheduled shortly prior to or after the Convention.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Submitted by Dave Sica
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