

In my twenty years in Sun-N-Sand I have served as secretary for three years, president for five years, and on some special committees. I have always tried to do what I felt was best for the club. One of the principles I learned from the long standing members was inclusiveness. That is; never change the club in a way that diminishes the enjoyment of some group for the advantage of another group. Another principle was to always include the membership in the final decision process on every major decisions. A third was always consult with the originating member before modifying or destroying his work.

Most recently, I have been in many conversations that consisted of others voicing complaints about events in the club. Those complaints have centered around the “E” layout design and the means by which it was approved. Some of the issues have become very divisive.

At this time I would like to address the current situation. I think the following words are particularly appropriate.

“Whether you want to admit it or not, this club faces a crisis. As a model railroad club we have been presented with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: The opportunity to become part of what promises to be one of the finest model railroad facilities in the Country. But, because of this opportunity, the Sun N Sand club will never be the same. We are already changed. Even if we were to choose not to participate in the new building we will have been changed. The club would likely dissolve, and even if it does not it would not be the same. If we move forward, as I believe we will, we will also change. It is also true that to move forward on this project we cannot proceed the way we have been. *We also cannot say something “is not an option.”* Everything must be looked at as an option because as I said, we face a crisis. We face a crisis of time, human resources, and budget, and all are critical to our survival as a Club.”

And Further”

*“IT IS NOT DC versus DCC, IT IS MONEY.”*

And

“The layout we are currently planning should not be built. It should not be built, but it must be built. But before we lay one section of track it would be prudent to examine every opportunity to not build what we have planned.”

In keeping with the sentiments I quoted I would like to propose discussing a new idea. I ask all members present:

1. Would you like to hear a proposal that:
  1. Cuts the implementation budget in half or better?
  2. That conserves club funds so that after installation we can turn our efforts to enhancing the layout?
  3. Includes the interests of all the members?
  4. Places detailed scenes close to the viewing public?
  5. Increases the area available to the five C's and other C's?
  6. Allows for future expansion?
  7. Has a complete budget?
2. All I am asking is some of your time to listen to a proposal from a group of members dedicated to the best interests of the club.