

# Tennessee Valley LEGO Club Meeting Minutes – June 2014

**Meeting location:** Baily Cove branch of the Madison County Library

**Meeting Date:** Saturday, June 28, 2014

**Attendees:**

Josiah Blake
Charles B. Naumann
Jennifer Garlen
Justin Nolan
Tim Atkins
Franklin Atkins
Chris Bolton
Will Ellett
Caleb Ellett
Logan Ellett
Renee Lowder
Brian Rippetoe
Bill Boettner
David Bissell
Tammy Bissell

**Discussion Items:**

1. Botanical Gardens G-Scale build – we have been asked to submit a proposal for a commissioned G-Scale building for the Huntsville Botanical Gardens. The building will be designed and built as a collaborative project. ETA for completion is November 2014. Chris is going to obtain additional information from the contacts at the Botanical Garden. Peter Campbell will likely be involved in the CAD design.
2. Brickfair, AL 2015 (January 15-18, 2015) – theme for Brickfair is LOVE and there are plans in the works to do a “World of Light” style display session where the MOCs are lit and the house lights in the convention center are turned down. We need to be thinking of how we can incorporate LOVE and light into our MOCs and collaborative displays.
3. Skyhorse Publishing has joined with TNVLC to provide review copies of books. The club will provide reviews within 7-10 business days of receiving the books. Any club member can volunteer to write a review and once the review has been completed the book becomes the permanent property of the member who reviewed it. The first few books that will arrive for review include:
  - LEGO Fairy Tales
  - LEGO Shakespeare

- Extreme Bricks
4. Themes and theme leaders – as the club grows we need to decide what themes we are most interested in focusing on and who will take charge of those themes. Some identified themes include:
    - Town/Train Collaborative
    - Micropolis Collaborative
    - Great Ball Contraption Collaborative
    - Super hero and fantasy stand alone or collaborative MOCs
    - Bionicle/Hero Factory
  5. Brainstorm new games and activities for club meetings – what activities would club members like to engage in during meetings?
  6. Badge and T-Shirt orders – Chris Bolton is the current point of contact for ordering club brick badges. Cost per badge is \$7.00. Contact Chris to place an order. Tim Atkins is the point of contact for ordering of T-Shirts. Tim can provide pricing and color selection details.
  7. TNVLC Summer LEGO Extravaganza review – over \$6000 raised for the Madison County Library system.
    - Feedback – activities were a great success however attendees would like to see more opportunities as demand exceeded supply
    - MOC tables were really well represented however more space and better organization of MOCs into categories or themes might help (space was an issue)
    - What can we do to make next year better – queue line activities such as having Judson (Emmett) show up to occupy the crowd while they wait.
    - Josiah, Franklin, Bill, Renee and Le recognized for outstanding contribution during the show.
  8. TNVLC Holiday Show – pre-planning
    - The contract arrived from Trinity United Methodist and all is in order. The cost to TNVLC for rental of the gymnasium all day on December 13-14 with setup on December 12 is set for \$200 which is half of the standard fee. The contract listed the standard fee of \$400 however it has been confirmed and noted that the actual amount due will be \$200.
    - What should we call the show for the purposes of marketing and advertising?
    - We will need to do more of the advertising for this show including contacting Rocketcitymom.com, WLRH and other media outlets. Chris and Jennifer will begin working on the promotion subsequent to the next club meeting in August.
    - MOC cards for displays
    - Flags for nominated MOCs
  9. Next informal meeting will take place at the Newk's restaurant on the corner of Whitesburg and Airport Rds. Members and families are welcome and we will be gathering around 6PM. This is a great opportunity to prepare for upcoming club officer elections and proposals for revisions to club bylaws.
  10. Schedule for the next few months:
    - August 2 (Saturday) – Books & Bricks at Monrovia – the theme is candy and we still need volunteers to assist.

- August 16 (Saturday) – Club meeting and cookout at the Bolton’s house (9402 Dons Court SE, Huntsville) – Hot dogs and drinks provided, bring a dish to pass. We will start gathering at approximately 3PM.
  - August 31 (Sunday) – AFOL Day (who’s going to which store – carpool?)
  - Sept. 13 (Saturday) – Earth Fair Block Party – we will likely have a tent and the display will be smaller (no town/train) and will only be for one afternoon. Stand-alone MOCs or micropolis may be perfect.
  - Sept. 19 (Friday) – Books & Bricks – Oscar Mason Homework Center – this site is in a economically depressed area so we are looking at expanding the program to reach more kids. We will need lots of club volunteers to help.
  - Nov. 9 (Sunday) – AFOL Day
11. The club needs to re-address the issue of achieving 501c3 status as an educational non-profit group. This will help to remove some of the complexity out of money handling and allow the club greater flexibility.
  12. Club bylaw revisions and officer elections – We missed the normal deadline for officer election in January due to a large amount of club activities. We will be nominating officers during the month of July and voting on the candidates at the August club meeting. We will also vote on any revisions to the bylaws including the election timeframes.