

Barter Fair Task Force
February 12, 2013
Meeting Notes

Facilitator: Colleen Bauman

Scribe: Amanda Moore

Present: Spirit Leatherwood, Sheila Showalter, Judy Dottino, Joseph Newton, Sue Theolass, Karen Hyatt, Amy Hand, Jon Pincus, Lucy Kingsley, Greg Rikhoff, Amanda Moore.

Voting members present: 8/10 Absent: Paxton Hoag and Jon Silvermoon

Introductions:

Greg Rikhoff and Karen Hyatt; Co-coordinators from Admissions crew are present tonight with input and questions regarding process of the MMBF.

Guest Input:

Karen and Greg discuss with the BFTF how admissions has been tied to Barter Fair registration, the process in which this happened, and the thoughtful problem solving that is necessary to improve a MMBF as we experience significant cultural change during the next two years. Land grab and vending & camping territory has been a mediation concern amongst vendors and BF staff and the registration process and vending space needs to be streamlined and managed to effectively address this issue. An advanced, organized preregistration is preferred since most volunteers are stressed and tired on Monday. Not having camping with vending would help this issue. In the past, most MMBF passes were purchased on Monday morning from a small admission crew who staffed the BF. The Admissions Crew traditionally has managed the cash exchange, registration process and management of the MMBF. In 2012, registrants received a flyer upon receiving their registration tag informing them of the changes coming to the future of BF. Ideally, a crew to manage all aspects of MMBF would alleviate the added responsibility to Admissions crew and other crews.

Lucy discussed the OCF purchase of the new Henderson property adjacent to Suttle Road and OCF. Operationally this property is under consideration for the sticker and wristband booth to be relocated to. It would remove the sticker booth off of the flood plain and allow all OCF participants to be wrist banded and such prior to entering OCF property. This would help with accountability issues. A Barter Fair Monday Market preregistration line would be included at the kiosk and ideally would be supported by a stand-alone crew managing and running all aspects of the MMBF. Having two BoD appointed co-coordinators would be the first part of managing and implementing a stand alone crew and would help the transition of the MMBF this year and beyond. These co-coordinators would act as liaison between existing crews and ideally would help implement a BF crew.

Amanda reviewed the idea to have preregistration at the sticker booth that would relieve some of the pressure on volunteers Monday and would be safer for accountability concerns and for secure monetary exchange.

Pre-registration was further discussed as an idea for future MMBF folks to receive a packet either by mail or from their crew leaders for informational changes and pre-

registration process to participate as a vendor in MMBF, like all others registering for upcoming fair.

Concern was raised that many vendors from Barter Fair have not been included in the changes and discussion regarding BF. Judy would like to reach out to the folks who registered last year and inform them of the significant changes. It was pointed out that Tony C. and Indigo put out a lot of literature informing folks of the MMBF changes. Of the 159 BF registered vendors from 2012, 1/3 of vendors gave either a phone number, email or snail mail contact info. It again was pointed out that we have tried to contact all OCF members to let them know changes are coming by an October FFN statement from our task force. We reached out for interested BF folks contact us via an email account we started for direct communication. Our information is posted on the .net website and all meetings are open. Greg Rikhoff clearly stated that we cannot be using the supplied contact information outside of registration for direct outreach to folks, since their consent was not given to be used in this manner. Many agreed that personal fair family contact information will remain private and respected. It was pointed out that we cannot inform anyone of significant changes until the BoD decides the future of BF for 2013 and beyond. Once the BoD makes decisions regarding MMBF, then Administration should send out a general letter to all OCF contacts regarding the implemented BF changes. At the Jan. 5, 2013 BFTF meeting, homework was given to: Amy, Amanda, Joseph and Jon P. to form a BFTF subcommittee to prepare and make a report/statement on behalf of the BFTF once the BoD finalized their decisions.

Budget Placement Request Report

Lucy informs the BFTF that the \$7,000 requested specifically for implementing a 2013 MMBF was approved by the Budget Committee. This funding was based upon last years fees generated from registered BF vendors.

BoD Liaison Report

Lucy is acting as the BoD liaison for the BFTF. She explained 3 motions to present to the BoD from the BFTF for approval and discussion. The group discussed and considered her motions.

Motion 1: BoD recognize the BFTF 10 voting members as a committee with 2 additional spots to be appointed by the BoD. This way our working group will be a recognized and sanctioned OCF committee.

Motion 2: To present each motion to the BoD in our BFTF presentation packet to be voted on item by item by the BoD. Opens formal discussion of each topic, comments will be included in the BoD official report and allows transparency to the OCF community.

Motion 3: To Present a 2013 pause option as requested by management.

Comments, concerns with Report Refinement:

Motion 1: Discussion was made regarding a BoD appointed committee and the process and time in which this happens. Letters of request must be sent to the BoD for consideration and may take up to 2 months for appointed committee to be formed. Lucy felt that by requesting our voting task force to become an official committee would not delay the process of continuing our work towards a 2013 MMBF or for a future 2014 MMBF if there were an approved pause motion by the BoD. It would be imperative to have a variety of folks representing all aspects of the OCF, including

vendors if we had a BoD appointed committee. Cultural change needs to have a BoD appointed committee to make a successful event as the fair evolves, just like all other crews and committees. Another point was made that an appointed committee would have equal responsibility and function amongst all members in tasks and projects. Concern was expressed that there is not enough continuity within the voting group to continue as is.

Motion 2: The group agreed that the recommendations as motions should be gone over individually. One change was requested (report refinement) in a recommendation that the import motion be amended, since this topic is passionately debated by opposing sides. The motion originally presented read: Imports in 2013 be allowed with a phasing out of imported finished items by 2015. Only fair trade imported raw materials will be allowed to be vended at OCF MM/BF by 2015 according to OCF Guidelines.

The new motion will read:

Imports in 2013 will be allowed. A phasing out of finished imported items by 2015 will be further discussed at future meetings.

Approve: 4 Opposed: 2 Abstain: 2

It was noted that Crafts Committee will not be happy with this amendment. Some BFTF members felt that we have to focus on a 2013 MMBF, and that long term changes like the imports issue needs to reviewed and discussed at length before a recommendation/change can be implemented. It was pointed out that the BoD does policy, not detail.

Motion 3 "pause option": It was a heated discussion that our task force was not given this task for consideration. Concerns surrounded pausing a 2013 MMBF we may lose the MMBF altogether; 2014 will be a busy year for transition and a MMBF will be dissolved and not implemented that year either. The 2013 pause was suggested by management as a fourth option, but is not what the task force is supposed to be considering. We are assisting management and the Board in exploring implementation. One voting member expressed concern that a pause recommendation is the intent to remove MMBF. Some felt we had to work with management and the BoD for a successful event and transition. Concern was also expressed that there was betrayal within the voting group of the BFTF. It was expressed by one member that it should not be considered betrayal if after listening to operations/management and exploring implementation, a pause seemed the best option to some. Lucy agreed that she will present Motion 3 as a BoD member and not as a BFTF motion.

Homework:

The BFTF will reach out to affected crew and participants surrounding the big changes coming to MMBF. We will be asking them to please read the BFTF report packet presented to the BoD meeting in February and to comment to their BFTF liaison.

Spirit: Admissions

Sue: Craft Committee

Jon P: Troubleshooting and Path Planning

Judy: BF participants..... again reminded we must contact them via administration general letter

Joseph: Lot Crew

Amy: Pre/Post & Recycling

Amanda: will fill in as needed for outreach and will create a MMBF Facebook page for outreach and communication in hopes of reaching vendors.

Lucy: She is doing liaison work for the BoD meeting

Sheila: wants to work with Judy on outreach to vendors.

Next Meeting will be solidified via email. Our meeting was brief due to a following OCF committee, which patiently waited for their turn to gather and discuss. Thank You!