

The meeting was held at the OCF office, beginning at 6:00 pm.

Attendance: Committee Voting Members present: Jim Sahr (Chair), Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Kim Allen, Vince LaRochelle, Ken Kirby

Participants: Bill Wright, Jeff Allen, Mark Pankratz, Rebecca Bradvica, Jon Silvermoon, Linda Mello, Ed Cooley
Members absent: Anita Parish (voting), Lara Howe (voting, co-BOD liason), Deane Morrow (co-BOD liason, non-voting)

Agenda: 1. Consideration of using a scribe to take minutes at the CC meetings
2. Deadline for booth reps to give notice to juried crafters in their booth, if the Rep wants to end sharing the booth with them (Guests: Linda Mello, Ed Cooley)
3. Update on letter of support for Path Planning's efforts to be sent to the BOD (Cathy)
4. Sale of unjuried craft items from inappropriate booth
5. Discussion of Barter Fair guideline change and its effect on the Fair (Cathy)
6. Announcement: This year's new crafts for the OCF will be juried on April 9, at 10:00 am, at the Lane County Mental Health center off of MLK Drive across from Autzen

1. Consideration of using a scribe to take minutes at the CC meetings:

***Motion: Diane should be our scribe (Vince/Cathy) All in favor. (4-0)

The members then held introductions around the room. Jim gave the history of the Craft Committee, which he formed with Wren Davidson, and Lynne Caulley and Bob (last name not available). It began as a Craft Guild, which the Fair Board turned into an official Fair Committee.

2. Deadline for booth reps to give notice to juried crafters in their booth, if the Rep wants to end sharing the booth with them (Guests: Linda Mello, Ed Cooley)

Discussion: There needs to be a policy for this kind of situation, when there are conflicts. It could begin with Craft Committee, then go through the Grievance procedures if a solution was not found. The deadline should be as close to the end of the Fair as possible, say October. A key may be to define the purpose of a craft booth, as a location to sell crafts, not a fiefdom. The handbook does state this, on page 18, guideline #47. It's important to define the issues in each case, and if they can be solved, and protect confidentiality in some cases. Grievance procedures should be the last resort. Registration needs to be part of any solutions, and in practice is the decision-maker.

Guests shared details of their OCF participation and their situation, which also includes another crafter who was excluded by the Booth Rep. They feel the OCF process has been confusing and difficult to navigate. They have exhausted the OCF remedies (Solutions, one-year-only booths) and are boothless after 27 years. They feel the process needs to be clarified as regards to who makes the decisions, Registration, Booth Reps, or ? They've been told to re-jury, in order to be eligible for a permanent booth space. They would be willing to accept the maintenance of a one-year-only space in exchange for a permanent location (they have identified a possible location.) They proposed guideline changes to address what they view as the root problem, the definition of Booth Rep.

Succession of booths to family members has been a gray area even though regulations do restrict it. A Booth Rep's power needs to be restricted to being a contact person, not an owner, and family succession should be through the craft business only, not relationships. New craft businesses within families could possibly jury as returning crafters. The system has evolved awkwardly and needs refinement. Listings are complicated, as the recent guideline suggestion to switch to business names brought up. A related problem is historical booth formation which gives excessive frontage to some booths and makes booth creation difficult in established areas. A survey might be done to record numbers and locations of crafters to dilute "party booths", which are largely a myth at this point, but a part of the problem. OCF participants generally feel like family members, which adds an emotional element to any of these issues, unlike other shows where you are assigned a 10x10 and that is the expectation.

It was suggested that the purpose of the OCF might be summarized as "To put on a show to raise money in order to do good works," and that sometimes the defining of "family" causes us to lose sight of this purpose. There is a new survey committee or crew which might be accessed to get more information. This problem has been discussed in committee for at least fifteen years and one of the best solutions might be to create expansions of the paths through Path Planning. Even one-year-only booths may not exist at present, and it is well-recognized that more booth space is needed. There may be room for a step between CC and Grievance to assist crafters in disputes without endangering their status by making things official.

The committee will work by email and at their regular meetings to craft a guideline to recommend to the BOD in the fall for implementation next year. Cathy suggested that CC will work with Registration to make sure this particular situation is resolved for this year's Fair, at minimum, and members felt that Registration would indeed find a solution. The deadline for the packets to be sent out is March 26th, if a survey or informational statement is to be included.

3. Update on letter of support for Path Planning's efforts to be sent to the BOD (Cathy): Cathy is still working on a letter to the BOD to support the committee's work. Path Planning and CC share the same goals regarding the dire need for making space for booths displaced by erosion and new juried crafters, and recognize the difficulty of the problem. She will circulate it by email.

In future booth siting, working within the neighborhood system by attrition, it may be possible to set maximum booth size, according to the conditions on the ground. It is unlikely that any displacement of campers or crafters would take place without sufficient advance notice due to the changes Path Planning has been discussing, according to an informal report from BOD and committee members. Several important changes are in discussion, including Gypsy Way, Crafts Lot, and moving Main Camp, but the process is slow and careful.

4. Sale of unjuried craft items from inappropriate booth: This was an informational report concerning sales of unjuried items by performers, which they have been doing for a number of years, stemming from the allowed sale of CDs at performances. Discussion points included objections to sales of unjuried items that compete with sales of juried crafts of similar nature, and the related issue of imports and commercially made products being sold at the OCF. Craft inventory has not monitored these booths in the past, as they are not in their jurisdiction, and Registration is not an enforcement crew for situations such as this. These issues have also arisen in locations such as Community Village, for fundraising purposes, and while members are sympathetic to the need for performers and non-profits to raise funds, the items are not their products, but constitute advertising of their products. Crafters pay to sell their goods and are juried and regulated. Committee members support enforcement of the guidelines and protection of the integrity of crafts and the Fair. Dialogue with the contact people in charge of the sales will be pursued.

5. Discussion of Barter Fair guideline change and its effect on the Fair (Cathy): The guideline change passed at the last BOD meeting in effect authorizes selling imported items at the Fair. Acknowledging the reality that imports are being sold at the Barter Fair, the policy has still been that they are prohibited. Imports that enter the Fair in the evenings are most likely brought in through BF participants. Saying they have to be Fair Trade is unenforceable, and will not solve any of the problems. Committee members feel strongly that the Fair should clarify the process to support the guideline "Sale of unapproved crafts is not allowed. Imported or manufactured items are explicitly prohibited." (Guideline #70), and not undermine it, and will work to craft another guideline to counteract this contradiction in policy. It is unclear who regulates the BF, and the many issues are well-known, such as the inequality of space and unfair space selection process. A survey could be done to identify who indeed sells at the BF, and what they sell.

This is part of an ongoing attempt by the BOD to regulate the BF, which is a large and complex issue. One position the CC could take is to use this opportunity to completely ban imports during the Fair, or allow unjuried crafts made by the maker to be sold outside of public hours only in designated booth spaces (as is the current policy), and ask that enforcement be provided in the evenings. It would be useful to express concerns to the BOD as to how the guideline they just passed will be implemented, and help them understand how crafters feel about the issue of imports being sold. The BF is generally seen as harmless, but the sale of imports is a very real threat to the prosperity of the juried craftspeople, though this may not be understood by people who are not familiar with the lives of craftspeople, and although there is a discussion of the issue on OCF Discuss (online) it does not represent all interested parties.

With a few hours a day and some small amount of budgetary resources, some enforcement could be done to address the problems within the Fair.

6. Craft Jury: committee members are encouraged to attend the jurying on April 9.

The agenda being covered, some discussion was held about other issues. One member proposed rejurying all crafts in 2013 or 2014, as a way to improve or regulate what is being sold at present, and revitalize the Fair. Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 13, at 6:00 pm at the OCF office.

