

Attendance: Kim Allen, Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Jim Sahr, Anita Parish, Diane McWhorter, Ken Kirby, Lucy Kingsley, Jeff Harrison

Other Participants: Jeff Allen, Bill Wright

Guests: Kaye Kintzley, Leisha, Katie Cousins

Recorder: Diane McWhorter

The Committee welcomed Kaye, Leisha and Katie to hear their visions of the Elders Committee progress and plans. While Elders don't have a permanent location at the Fair, currently displaying materials in the Still Living Room and camping together elsewhere, the Elders envision an Elders Village in a permanent location. There are currently about a thousand people identified as Elders or their companions. They are looking at several locations throughout the property and working with Path Planning along with many other Fair interest groups who would like more space.

The representatives explained that within the Village, Elders would like to offer small selling space opportunities to retiring craftspeople and qualified staff in the form of a cooperative booth. They see some kind of jurying system to maintain quality and appropriateness. This selling would be intended to show the range of talents in our elders, and allow for another option for transition for those who might give up their roles as booth reps or other jobs at the Fair. Some other aspects of their vision for the Elders Village could include interactive opportunities for the public such as guided tours, an Insider's Day at the Fair, dress-ups and face painting, and fun ways to introduce the public to our values, mission, and ways the Fair works. Some look at the Main Camp area as a logical place to site it once Main Camp is relocated

The Elders meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month. They welcome all to contribute to their discussions. To qualify as an Elder one must be at least 55 years old, and have been involved in the Fair for 20 years. The Council of Elders is composed of about 15 individuals and needs more participation.

Other ways to participate in Elders activities are to attend the Old Timers Picnic, and the Meet & Greet gathering on Thursday night of the Fair, at 8:00 pm.

The Craft Committee members did not have the opportunity to craft a position regarding the Elders Village concept during the extended discussion, but pointed out that non-juried crafts can already be sold in booth spaces during non-public hours. Any sale of non-juried crafts during public hours is not fair to craftspeople, who have successfully passed the jury process and have paid fees to sell. The potential burden to the existing jury system of adding in many staff crafts might be too much for it, and creating a different jury system might not promote equal treatment.

Craftspeople have an interest in displaying the finest quality and most innovative of crafts to the public to maintain our reputation as a premier hand-crafted arts festival. It wouldn't

be appropriate to give away items that are currently being sold by juried booth people (as in free tie-dye or face-painting.)

Many aging crafters cannot retire for financial reasons, and may not have health insurance, or a safety net. Some booth people take on booth sharing, partners, interns, or apprentices to help them manage their businesses. Most booths use passes to fill jobs needed to mount the show and sell the crafts. Some have been successful in involving youth and others have not. In many cases crafters are better situated for aging within their own booths and have not seen the Elders system as useful to them.

Other issues discussed by the Craft Committee included the confusion between the registration packet, guidelines manual, and registration letter regarding pass fees.

An explanation was made of how crews allocate passes and share any surplus or shortages.

A question about tinctures was answered (they are ingestible and must be sold through a food booth as with any ingestible substance. Some were grandfathered when this policy was set but grandfathering does not transfer from crafter to crafter.)

Some members would like to begin work on an Emergency Fund for booth people or all Fair Family and asked that it be placed on a future agenda.

Next meeting May 9, 2012. 6:00 pm at the town office. No meetings are scheduled for June, July, or August but they will resume the second Wednesday in September.