

Members present: Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Jim Sahr, Kim Allen, Diane McWhorter, Sue Theolass, Lucy Kingsley

Other participants: Bill Wright, Charles Ruff

Scribe: Diane McWhorter

Agenda items that concern Charlie Ruff were moved to the front of the agenda. Charlie began by saying that as the Sauna was under contract with the Fair, he will talk to George when they meet to discuss the contract. Diane stated her conflict of interest. Others spoke of the importance of protecting the hand-crafted nature of the Fair. Some think there is room for other types of sales at the event, others feel that any toe in the door eroding the guidelines is difficult for juried crafters.

Veneta Fourth Friday events: Marie had to cancel but Charlie informed the committee of the intentions of this OCF collaboration, to help the Veneta Farmers Market hold entertaining events once a month, to bring attention to downtown Veneta, showcase some of the offerings of the Fair to locals who may not attend, and to further promote relations between OCF and the surrounding communities. The hours of the Friday Farmers Market would be expanded, the Fair would help schedule entertainment and crafts offerings, and the once-a-month trials would explore what would work more permanently. The Craft Committee was supportive and discussed some of the concerns that came to mind. Selling at farmers markets is a bit different, as people don't generally attend or plan to shop for crafts. The timing is difficult for those who sell on Saturdays. Local people would be more likely to try it. Some crafts will sell better than others, tote bags for instance. There are usually few vendor and customer services at farmers markets, unlike crafts markets. There should be some type of jurying, and commitment from those who do sign up to actually show up. People definitely need entertainment and food booths to want to stay longer than just a produce stop. Cathy, Bill, Sue and Jeff did meet with Marie last month and it has been suggested that she talk to Beth at Saturday Market. The Craft Committee submitted the following Motion of Support:

***Motion: Craft Committee supports the concept of the Fourth Friday event partnership between OCF and Veneta Farmers Market. (Diane/Kim) All in favor. 5-0-0

WiFi improvements: A project was put together to try to address the increased needs for wireless access for booths with credit card readers. This would be password-protected and people would have to be diligent about using the system for sales only. This will be a trial program, and a lot of hard work needs to be done to make it a reality. The Board will decide on capital projects at their March meeting. If the money is allocated, the physical work on site will still need to be done, mostly by a volunteer, Clif Cox. Thank you Charlie, and Clif, who put together the budget and the system, and will facilitate the improvements. We really appreciate the positive response to our concern.

Elders Craft Booth: The Craft Committee is united in having concerns about anyone selling crafts at the OCF who hasn't gone through the jury process. Any Elders Craft booth is all still in the idea stage, and when and if it is a real proposal, then discussion can go to another level.

Report from the Barter Fair Task Force: Lucy reported on her frustration and dismay with the process of a few participants who made it very difficult for the task force to do its work. The Task Force did succeed in identifying some of the real problems that lie behind the difficulties, and in forming a structure for a process to facilitate progress. The Barter Fair seems to serve a small group of people with self-interest, with resistance to change and increasing problems for those who are trying to serve the long-term health of the greater organization. It developed without process and to try to impose process at this stage is causing a lot of dissention. Management supports the idea of "pressing pause" this year. This would allow the resettling of the lands used and needed for Fair expansion. The Committee decided on a Motion of Recommendation:

***Motion: Due to the large number of unresolved issues, the Craft Committee supports the "Press Pause" option for the Barter Fair in 2013. (Kim /Cathy) All in favor. 5-0-0

Minutes Approval: Approve the minutes of the January 2013 meeting.

***Motion: Accept the minutes as written (Cathy/Lucy) All in favor 5-0-0

Letter for Packet: The Committee worked on a draft letter for the packet which will be approved by email and brought to the March meeting to give to Justin (who is scheduled to attend.)