

Attendance: Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Kim Allen, Ken Kirby, Jim Sahr, Diane McWhorter, Vince LaRochelle, Sue Theolass, Lucy Kingsley Other participants: Jeff Allen, James Nason, Samantha Backer, Dave Peek, Justin Honea Scribe: Diane McWhorter

Justin reported on recent progress of CLOG and brought a letter Registration will send to booth reps regarding possible moves to the new area. The letter will ask for letters of interest for moves of established craft booths. There is a budget of \$3500 for infrastructure for the new booths, and there will be about 14-15 sited this year. Framework for wood palapa-style booths on spaces of about 15'x20' will be provided by construction crew and will include space for camping. Another model for booths will be half of what is being called Craft Alley, booths which will be slightly smaller, on one side this year and the other side next year, with some camping space. It is hoped that a total of 22 craft booths will be sited this year. Some will be permanently designated one-year-only to create an area that is always new to customers.

Craft Committee will participate in discussions of siting booth reps or other crafters who want to move. Crafters in the "solutions" category will be considered for placement and could be encouraged to jury so that they have current jury scores as the guideline for permanent placement is specific. There are about 7-10 crafters in that category. There was discussion of requiring jurying for those who have not juried in a long time, but it was thought that some kind of criterion grid would be more fair: considering the craft, history of the crafter, why they are seeking space, and the details of their situation and needs. There must be a clear and equitable process for any evaluation. It makes sense to develop a process before filling the new area. Maybe only giving "permanent" status to 2-3 crafters this year would be best, and Registration should continue moving slowly on siting decisions while the process is refined. We have to say what we do, and do what we say.

Justin will return next month with an outline of some type of criterion grid and a proposal for evaluating booths for permanent placement. The process might be in development for this year and a guideline change proposed in December. The process is tough on newer crafters and grandfathered ones are never held to any standards at all (except the daily check-in by Craft Inventory.) There should be a level playing field for all crafters.

Board Liaison Report: Sue reported on the guideline change discussions and the frustrating process used by the Board. It was a step backward to our goal of clarifying guidelines and CC seemed to be accused of strategies we hadn't even considered. It is most likely too late to rescind the guideline change even though we didn't propose or agree with it.

The simple language of "every item brought to OCF for sale or display must be made by the approved crafter" should be used in the guidelines. There was discussion of how discouraging it is that there is a free-for-all of items for sale in the campgrounds, both pre-Fair and during, and most of them are not hand-crafted. It doesn't seem like something that can be controlled and may be what crew members are defending in this issue of "imports." The guideline we suggested was in the area of craft jurying and wouldn't affect those sales, or the Barter Fair, and those things weren't in the intention, but they might

be making the imports issue more difficult. There are differences of opinion about manufactured goods as well. There are lots of Fairs going on at the same time and there isn't general agreement that the hand-crafted one should be protected. It's discouraging to not have the level of understanding at the Board level about even the terms that are used. The Board stumbled over what the meaning of "Oregon Country Fair" is: the organization, the event, the property, the three days of public attendance, or some other interpretation. That could be a place to work, defining the hours when craft standards apply. In regard to sales in tent areas, some found that there was respect about what could be brought into "the eight" during Fair hours. Barter Fair used to be the outlet for many of these "tent sales" and that worked rather well to contain them and to give crew members a way to fund their Fair expenses. There is good support during Fair for stopping unauthorized sales, through Security and CI. There is language in the community agreement signed by all wristbanded members that gives the Fair authority to remove people, so that is covered in that location of the guidelines, though not specifically to craft issues. Our recommendation was not seen as a tool for management and crews as we intended.

Gaining Board understanding and support seems a vital issue for the survival of the crafts sector. Board members are there to serve members and not to make things more difficult. The arguments seemed flippant and irrelevant, and the amendments were refused by the sponsors and they were overruled. It didn't seem like a well-considered process or solution. We will send in a Board Report to the next meeting giving more information about what we are doing in hopes that understanding will be gained. Advancing the Craft Policy Document will be impossible without more Board support. If more CC members are at the Board meeting it may help. We can be a squeaky wheel and gain respect with our respectful presence and persistence at what we are knowledgeable about and what matters to us. Diane will start a report, email it, and we can work on it at the work session on Saturday the 21st.

Peach Pit Listing of Artisans: There has been discussion of adding more information (as well as more correct information) to the listing in the Peach Pit. Business names would be helpful to some crafters. The info booths have the data and we had talked about sending people there. We will put this on the agenda for March.

Vision Action Committee: Diane reported that the VAC is working on an Advocacy Guide for people trying to make projects happen at Fair. They have a section for listing crews and committees and what they do so that is a great place to send the information we have been preparing on that subject. They will be having a Vision Action summit in April. Diane also reported reaching out to Lacey McCarley with a personal letter. Lacey was grateful to be contacted. She is interested in working on booth succession and will be someone to contact when we get to those discussions.

Charlie's email: Charlie expressed his regret for missing the meeting and said that he and CI had decided on a process to deal with the sanction letters and will complete it asap. He expressed his sadness that the Board had not passed our guideline recommendations. He hopes to attend our next meeting.

Next meeting Thursday March 12th. In April we will return to our second Wednesday meeting night.

CPD Worksession Saturday Feb 21st 11-2 at the office.

