

Members present: Jim Sahr (chair), Kim Allen, Anita Parish, Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Ken Kirby, Diane McWhorter, Lucy Kingsley (Board Liason). Other participants: Bill Wright, Jeff Allen. Guests: Charlie Ruff, Tony Clementi, Sue Theolass

Recorder: Diane McWhorter

Housekeeping: Deane Morrow is replaced by Lucy as the Board Liason. The Liason is a voting member. The February and March meetings will also be moved to the second Tuesday (Feb. 14, March 13) but the regular meeting night is the second Wednesday of each month. No meetings in June, July, August, or December. Jim called Justin and left a message regarding this meeting.

There was a suggestion that the Fair begin with a big gong or bell to mark the opening and closing. Lucy offered to bring the “singing bowl” to committee meetings as indigo does to the Board meetings.

Members took the opportunity to dialogue with Charlie regarding Craft Committee issues and other related subjects that have come up over the past months. They will be listed here by subject matter.

Registration: It has been important in the past to work closely with Craft Inventory and Registration to get feedback and make decisions about siting new vendors. There has been a lack of response from Registration to Craft Committee requests, although Justin did come to the October CC meeting and relations were repaired. Craft Committee would appreciate his presence or that of a representative for him at key meetings, perhaps November and March. Charlie agreed to follow through with Justin to ease any remaining difficulties in connection with the groups, and to suggest that he attend the March meeting.

Communication: Some members feel that the committee has difficulties in communicating; others disagree. The committee is a vital one with a lot of potential to support the Fair and the crafters, and is shrinking when it could be growing. There could be new meeting processes that might ease any internal difficulties. Possibly a refreshing of meeting or group agreements and process would be helpful, or a half-day mini-retreat including some visioning, which is a common practice of many groups to enhance their operations.

Current Issues for Craft Committee: Lucy, as a new BOD liaison, asked what the current issues were, and how the jury system works. Jim described the current jury system, which is very similar to the original design (by Lucy), as an excellent process. Craft Committee participates in deciding how many booths to site after the jurying, and deals with complaints from booth people as they come up, case by case

Party Booths: Although there is a perception that many booths are craft booths in name only and not actively selling crafts, Craft Inventory has investigated many and feels that the problem is much less than the perception, and continues to encourage crafters to share their booths and bring sufficient stock. It is known that some booths' craft production is not that robust; this may be increasing as crafters age.

Booth Space: The committee feels that new booth space is not being created quickly enough, and there is an ongoing need for more spaces. None were planned for the Gypsy Way loop. Booth space has declined, or been converted to food booths, and has gone from 250 to 244 in the last 6-7 years. Those six could be reclaimed as a way to return to balance.

Deadlines: Members feel that all of the deadlines for jurying and registration could be moved at least a month earlier to ease the last-minute decision-making. It would be easier to find and fill booth spaces for new participants if the intentions of present crafters were known earlier. Operations supports the change and the process would be to coordinate with Registration and Craft Inventory coordinators, who have been supportive as well, to make the change for 2013. Ken confirmed that CI and Registration support the change of moving the deadlines one month earlier. Ken will talk to Jeff Harrison and a proposal will be crafted.

Charlie spoke about the ideal nonprofit, where Board Committees make recommendations to the Board on policy changes, but the deadlines question is just an operational change, and does not have to go through the Board, just the parts of operations that would be affected. The deadlines change seems to be in line with other Fair operations which have already been moved to earlier dates.

After-hours sales operation on East 13th: Members have identified an ongoing problem in the space next to booth 280 and across the street from it. Ken has talked with the seller for several years and she has been responsive, but she stores her displays and stock in an unimproved park space during the day, where it is unattractive and not in line with the recommended use for that space. Her crafts would meet the guidelines but she is not juried and not officially connected with a booth space. The problem is increasing as others join the scene. The committee suggests improving the space with benches and tables so that it is no longer available to her, and making it clear to her that after-hours sales need to happen within a booth space, and wonders if there could be some Security involvement since Craft Inventory does not work at night. Charlie suggested that the guidelines are very clear that sales need to happen in a booth space, and that the soft approach is "the Fair way" but firmness is also required, with the ultimate resort being asking the seller to leave. Kid crafter guidelines are somewhat loose as to defining what is "in" the booth, using nearby areas at times. Charlie will take the issue to Path Planning to see if any improvement of the space is planned, and suggests that members might want to attend Path Planning meetings and work with them regarding transforming the space. There are Security Path-Rove personnel assigned to specific areas during the day, and Craft Inventory has noticed that the support has helped limit problems.

Barter Fair and Gypsy Way: Moving the Barter Fair this year is in the proposal advanced at the Board meeting of Jan. 9, which was tabled. There will be a work session on Feb. 11. To create more craft space, the Crafts Lot is the most logical area to move, so that camping needs to move to where the Barter Fair now is, to honor the needs of crafters who need close-in, secure storage and camping. There are other issues with the Barter Fair that can be addressed in conjunction with the relocation, including ending it and changing the operation of it, such as restricting vendors to 10x10 foot spaces (also in the present proposal.) Craft Committee can be instrumental in this discussion.

The new Gypsy Way loop concentrates on being a quiet area for kids' activities and the effort has been to take a slow and careful approach to siting commerce there. This will be a big issue for many for the next few years. Members lamented the loss of the pony rides.

Issues that concern Operations: Charlie mentioned a few items on his list to discuss or clarify, including party booths and the Booth Rep system, and informed the Committee that the Food Committee is working on a Sale of Business policy for transfer of food booths. He suggested future discussion of how craft booths pass from person to person to make sure our policies match our Fair ethics.

All members are concerned about the continuing evolution and improvement of the Fair, and the continual refreshment brought by new crafters. Ideas might include asking new people to invest in their space in some way, to build something nice for the Fair, not just for themselves. No one wants to be the kind of fair where people bring a popup and aren't invested in their landscape.

Another piece of the issue is how Booth Reps or crafters can transition to Elder status or another type of involvement with the Fair. Crafters aren't really included in the Elders Committee as it now stands, because of the concern that Booth Reps will just use Elders to gain an additional pass or two. Some thinking needs to be done on how this will work better for craft booth operators.

Charlie was asked to talk about the logjam and what the plans for it are. He spoke about the difficulty of the unknown effects of changing things in the river, and said that it is certainly being monitored, and people are learning all the time how to control erosion and do as little as possible to interfere with the river. It will do what it does, and we have to adapt. It could be dangerous downstream if it builds too large, but things will change significantly every winter and adaptation is really the only choice. There is no simple answer. Future development may occur on the east side of the river since a new property was acquired, a little over 40 acres extending to Territorial. Twenty-two acres of that is rare Willamette oak riparian habitat.

Tax Issue: Anita did a lot of good work in contacting the vendor and figuring out what probably happened. The case-by-case methods work well in situations like this, and it does not seem that policy development or further action is necessary. It could be that the committee would like to craft some guidelines for commercial transactions, as suggestions to vendors who might not be familiar with the particular conditions of selling

at a Fair like ours. Different credit cards have different policies and those transactions are generally left to the vendor.

Vehicle Stickers: The recent adjustment in prices was seen as a way to simplify a confusing situation. There is no longer an Outta-Site sticker. Volunteers will pay \$10 and booth people \$20, with the reasoning that booth people have the opportunity to earn their costs by selling goods. Any sticker bought at the last minute through troubleshooting or solutions will cost \$20, whether or not the purchaser is a volunteer. Process for access to the Eight will still require a full-load teddy, so this won't lead to an increase in cars inside the Fair.

The committee requested that there be an improvement in the shuttle service, which was doubled this past Fair. (It can't be run during public hours). The goal is to cut the number of cars for everyone.

Booth Fee Increase: The Board listened to booth people and tried to structure the increase to protect smaller booths and shift increased costs to those who seem better placed to afford it. The staggered pass costs allow reps to purchase less if they can't afford it. There will continue to be increased fees applied in a rotation from one group to another, as costs will continue to increase.

Charlie and Tony left, and the committee thanked them for attending and participating in the discussions of Craft Committee issues.

Members received copies of the feedback report.

Cathy wrote a letter about glow sticks for the packet and members approved the format (it says No Glow Sticks quite simply on one side, with an explanation on the other side.) She has a concern about all of the flammable curtains in the camping areas and the possibility of finding nontoxic fire retardants to treat them with. Probably every tent should have a fire extinguisher.

Items for future agendas: Booth Rep transfers policy recommendations, deadlines proposal, Barter Fair visions