

Attendance: Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Kim Allen, Jim Sahr, Sue Theolass, Ken Kirby, Diane McWhorter

Other Participants: Bill Wright, James Nason, Justin Honea, Adam Budd

Agenda Approval:

\*\*\*Motion: Approve the agenda (Sue/Jim) 5-0-0 All in favor

Minutes Approval:

\*\*\*Motion: Approve the minutes of the last meeting (Sue/Cathy) 5-0-1 (Kim)

Board Liaison Report: Sue reported that the Board just held the retreat and she had some conversations about crafts with various attendees. Justin was installed as a Board member.

Cathy spoke to add that Tom spoke about the high priority of getting the WiFi system improved. Discussion: The technical limitations are great and improvement may not be seen this year, but adding more ATMs would be helpful. The whole Fair operates on two DSL lines and until the infrastructure is provided, the improvements won't be great. Renting towers is prohibitively expensive for short-term use. It's a capital investment but crafters would like a commitment to support their abilities to do business on the site. Craft Inventory and Registration get many questions each year. The password protection helps but the usage is just too great. Crafters can be notified in the packet what to expect. Sue will craft a statement to the Board to make sure this issue stays in their minds.

There were some comments about the vehicle pass fees that were unfortunate and painful from the crafter viewpoint. Everyone puts in a lot of effort and caring and brings many hours to the Fair, so the division between two "groups" is inaccurate and probably came from a position of not understanding each other's experience. Vendor passes will go up to \$80. Vehicle fees for volunteers were not raised to \$20.

Guideline Changes: #49 Proposed changes:

**49. Prohibited Items:**

- **Imported or manufactured items.**
- **Illegal drug paraphernalia.**

**Questions? Contact Craft Inventory Crew.**

[Remove: Imported or manufactured items are inappropriate for the Oregon Country Fair. No illegal drug paraphernalia may be displayed on OCF property at any time. Crafters who believe that any of their items may be interpreted by staff to be in violation of this guideline should contact the Craft Committee at the Fair office before the April 1 craft jury deadline to resolve questions about what they may exhibit at the Fair.]

Discussion: more clear and trimmed down, removes clutter. Handcrafted items brought in by a crafter

from other countries are not imports. Another guideline already says imports are “explicitly prohibited”, so “inappropriate” isn’t a good word here. “Manufactured items” are not made by crafters. The definition of manufactured item could be simply something not made by the artisan.

\*\*\*Motion: Accept the reworded guideline #49 to submit. (Sue/Kim) All in favor 6-0-0.

#51 (changes in blue) 51. **Returning Crafters:** For purposes of jurying a craft, a returning craftsperson is defined as a craftsperson who has been at one of the ~~two~~ **three** previous years’ Fairs selling their approved craft. A craftsperson may be absent from the Fair (on Leave of Absence) for up to two consecutive years. A craftsperson absent from the Fair for ~~three years or more~~ **more than two consecutive years** will be dropped from the records of approved crafters. Any craft for which a crafter is approved as of the 2015 Fair will remain on his or her list of approved crafts for as long as that crafter remains active at the Fair. **Crafters are required to have items in their inventory that they have made within the previous twelve months.** Returning crafters who wish to **have crafts they make, using different techniques and materials than those for which they are already approved, added to their list of approved crafts must** submit three digital jpeg images with a craft jury application and a non-refundable application fee of \$10 by the April 1 deadline.

Discussion: The guideline was incorrect when crafters on Leave of Absence are considered, so the numbers were changed to reflect that. The twelve month phrase refers to “stagnation” to encourage people to bring at least some new work. It’s defining “active crafter.”

\*\*\*Motion: Recommend changes as read (Kim/Cathy) All in favor 6-0-0

#52 (changes in blue) 52. **New Craft Vendors.** Each year **a few** new applicants are approved through the jury process to sell their crafts at the Fair. Applicants with the highest jury scores for that year will be placed in one-year-only booths and will be required to share these booths with other approved crafters.

For the purposes of jurying a craft, a new craftsperson is defined as a craftsperson who has not been at any of the three previous years’ Fairs selling their approved craft. **Crafts are identified by the techniques and materials used in their production.** New crafters...(no changes to the rest of the guideline)

Discussion: The words “a few” seem discouraging. Because CI juries on the basis of techniques and materials, we wanted to insert it here.

\*\*\*Motion: Recommend changes as read (Kim/Jim) All in favor 6-0-0

#54. Eliminate last sentence. 54. **One-Year-Only Booths:** Booth Registration will maintain at least 10 full-size booths as one-year-only booths. One-year-only booths are awarded to the top-ranked crafters (by jury score in the current year.) Top juried crafters have two styles of booths to choose from: full booths and single booths. Full booths are large enough for two crafters. Top juried crafters who choose these booths are required to find a booth partner to share with. Booth Registration will provide information on how to find a booth partner. Single booths do not require sharing with another crafter. Single booths typically are half the size of a full booth. ~~A crafter who is awarded a one-year-only booth for two consecutive years will not be eligible for a one-year-only booth in the third year but will be~~

~~eligible again the following year.~~

Discussion: This was seen as the hardest rule for one-year-only crafters to deal with. They are called scammers if they use the system as provided to stay in once they are juried in. The intention was to keep showcasing new products and crafters but there may be another way and Craft Committee is committed to looking for one. The reality is that networking to find new space is really impossible during Fair, and finding a space to share is almost impossible for those who need abundant space for clothing or furniture (for example.) Both Sue and James spoke about the difficulties. There must be other ways to showcase the new and still provide those juried in with spaces. Some crafters simply leave after two years when they can't find space. The best should be included every year. A different name besides "one-year-only" could be found. The Fair could find a way to provide space or another way to deal with the shortage of spaces. Maybe new crafters could be featured in the publicity or some special promotions instead. This system has been tried and has failed to be fair to crafters involved. Getting kicked out of Fair usually involves some really terrible behavior but we kick these people out after two years. It's insulting. There's more space right now so there is an opportunity to make the change.

\*\*\*Motion: Call the question (Kim/Sue) 5-1-0

\*\*\*Motion: Accept the new guideline #54 (Sue/Cathy) 5-1-0.

**#55 55. Awarding of Booth Space on a Permanent Basis:** Awarding of permanent placement will be determined annually based on availability of booth space and the evaluation of qualified applicants. If space is available, it will be awarded to the top-ranked crafter(s) from the most current Craft Inventory Jury scores who have:

1. Five years verifiable presence at the Fair as an active crafter
2. Presence at the Fair as an active crafter in at least ~~one~~ **two** of the previous three Fairs.
3. Top jury scores through the Craft Inventory jury process, in the current year of application.

Crafters who have met the above requirements and wish to apply for permanent placement should submit a letter of interest. The letter should indicate which booths the crafter has been in at the Fair and when, and what the jury scores have been---in other words, the crafter's history with the Fair. Letters may be submitted to [boothreg@oregoncountryfair.org](mailto:boothreg@oregoncountryfair.org). Craft Inventory, Booth Registration, and the Craft Committee will work together to confirm booth history and jury scores before any placement is made.

Booth availability may not be known before the April 1 jury deadline. Because of this, returning crafters who are interested (and eligible for) an awarded booth space on a permanent basis must submit a new application (with digital images and fee) to Craft Inventory by the April 1 deadline.

~~Under special circumstances, permanent booth placement may be done during the off season.~~

**Permanent booth placement may be done during the off-season, under special circumstances.** All eligibility rules apply to these placements. Any permanent booth awards will result from consultation with Booth Registration, Craft Committee, Craft Inventory and management.

Discussion: Tightens up permanent placement a little, making sure they are active crafters. Improves

wording.

\*\*\*Motion: Recommend the changes of one to two (Kim/Sue) 6-0-0

59. Add Aging Crafters to Youth crafts: 59. [Youth Crafters and Aging Crafters:](#)

Youth crafts: Youth age 18 and younger may sell unjuried articles (kids' crafts) in their registered booth or in the official Kids' Crafts booth. All items must be handcrafted, handmade, homegrown, hand-gathered, or significantly altered by the child selling the craft. We encourage you to list kid crafters on your Craft Inventory record. Youth who will be 19 at the time of the Fair must jury their crafts. They will jury as returning craftspersons if they were listed by Craft Inventory as active crafters (actually selling their crafts each day) for two of the previous four years. [When kids are not present selling their crafts, their crafts should not be on display.](#)

[Aging Crafters: When the handcrafting artist chooses to no longer sell their craft, they may retire to the Elders program.](#) A craftsperson who elects to obtain his or her wristband through the Elders program may not remain actively selling their crafts in any craft booth during the public hours of the Fair in that calendar year. [A crafter may come out of retirement and resume selling and obtaining a pass as a crafter in the two subsequent calendar years. When the handcrafting artist retires, family members who have helped in making the approved craft must jury their own work to continue to sell in the booth.](#)

Discussion: helps clarify the transition into Elders. Brings a sentence from 57 but would merely repeat it rather than take it out of 57. Helps clarify succession of booths. Changes title.

\*\*\*Motion: Recommend changes to 59 (Kim/Cathy) All in favor 6-0-0

60. Resubmit from last year with changes. 60. Craft-related customer complaints: [Written complaints will be forwarded to the Craft Committee for consideration.](#) The OCF may deny crafter status to vendors or prohibit sale of items or services about whom or which the Fair has received substantial ~~unresolved~~ customer complaints. [The Oregon Country Fair reserves the right to prohibit anyone from selling at OCF or any product from being sold at OCF.](#)

Discussion: Sentences re-ordered to make more sense. "Unresolved" isn't necessary. Need the disclaimer!

Changes from Registration: Justin asked for discussion on a few points.

66. Justin will take the changes in this one. Substitute "artisan" for "folks." We respectfully requested that he make this change. Justin also agreed to look over the "Types of booths" paragraphs and may use them in his section. We asked that he change "maintained" to "held" in the matter of booths owned by the Fair.

[Displaced crafters will be placed on the Wait/Share list.](#) There were no objections to this change. The Committee has trust in Registration that they try to place people whenever possible but sometimes it is not possible.

Next meeting January 13, 6:00.