

August 18, 2019

Fair Evaluation Meeting

Hosted by the Vision Action Committee

Location: Entertainment Fire Pit

Attendance: Paxton Hoag, Peaches, Lily, Diane Albino, Jon and Judy Silvermoon, George and Catherine Braddock, Lisa Parker, Aaron Kenton, Wally Bomgaars, Crystalyn Frank, Hilary Anthony, B-rad Lerch, Tex Prozanski, Komo Gustafson, Joanna Colby, Kirk Shultz, Jen-Lin Hodges, Shirley Anderson, Peter Cornelison, Village David, Ann Rogers, Jain Elliott, Jon Pincus, Wren Arrington, Eugene Jarschke, Sue Theolass, Peggy Burgus, Joe Magner, Kathryn Weit, Katy Parker, Bonnie Clarke, Michael Bertotti, Sandra Bauer, Tammy Wenham, Peter Jay Huiras, Jamie Freeman

The Four Principles:

- Whoever comes is the right people
- Whenever it starts is the right time
- Whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened
- When it's over, it's over

The Law of 2 Feet

Passion, Commitment and Responsibility

We ran the meeting in the format of a Marketplace of Ideas. Paxton explained the format would be a general group discussion, then we'd have time for each person to write some thoughts, concerns, feedback or discussion topics on post-its and place them on a board. As a group, we'd work to combine like ideas into categories and have breakout sessions on each category. We were all encouraged to join the group about we were the most passionate. Paxton also encouraged us to be like butterflies and flit from group to group to learn from each group, or to be like bees, and move from group to group pollinating ideas around the crowd.

After much discussion and organizational work, we determined the four categories that would best approach the issues brought up would be:

- Improving Patron Comfort
- Growth
- Infrastructure
- Miscellaneous

After the breakout sessions, we came back together and shared a summary of what we discussed. There was general consensus that some topics should be forwarded on to stakeholders or interested parties.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to attend. And thanks to those who brought snacks!!

Notes from each group are as follows:

Improve Patron Comfort

Participants: Diane, Bonnie, Shirley, Kathrine, Ann, Floyd, Lisa & Judy

DUST

Dust remains a big issue. Dust includes other particulate matter – from river flooding, from pesticides, & from porta potties.

Lisa said that White Bird treats lots of people for breathing problems.

Lack of grass in some areas adds to the dust, the use of straw can also have an adverse effect.

We want to get the word out about our blue water barrels & watering cans. Also important to know best times of day to water & best amount of water to use.

PORTA POTTIES

Complaints of: Not having timely cleaning schedule, or units not being serviced properly. Often units are out of TP or out of water for handwashing.

We would like to see lighting, fans & have signs that say Close the lids.

Discussion of amount of units pre & post Fair. Many are removed, or cleaning of units stops early on Monday, while there is still a large population on the property.

We discussed adding more money to the budget, so our needs are met.

HANDWASHING STATIONS

Toilets are often set up before handwashing stations.

We would like to see more handwashing stations set up throughout the Fair. Having them near drinking water, near food areas, in Chelamela & Xavanadu & more in the 8.

Ann said the infrastructure needs to be upgraded to accommodate our growth. She also pointed out that there are water tanks that we can use & we do not have to be dependent on the pipe system.

Shirley suggested an area as a food court picnic area, with shade, tables, handwashing stations & drinking water. We would like to see signage directing people to these areas.

SHADE & SEATING

People want more places to sit and shade is an important factor. Also more seating in nonsmoking areas.

There is a need for more shade at Main Stage.

Lisa said White Bird has to treat a lot of people in that area for heat problems.

Some areas designated as rest areas, are actually seating areas for food booth patrons.

Discussion of the storm & loss of canopy.

Ann pointed out that a lot of the trees lost were Oak & Ash, and perhaps we should look into what species to use to replant.

Katherine said the craft demonstrations in the shady areas on the way to the sauna were successful, and that we should do more of that.

TRAFFIC

Per Diane, there is never enough ADA parking. Also that some of parking was preempted for the fire show.

There should be more training for traffic, as many were unaware of changes made.

Discussion of shuttle service, as helpful getting into Fair, but inadequate return trips to out of sight and the Winery, especially in the evening. Some have close to a 2 mile walk to their vehicles.

Is there a need for more shuttle vehicles? We understand the need to accommodate our population, while not interfering with the public transportation.

PATH CROWDING

Some felt it was too crowded, even in Chelamela and Xavanadu, and in the 8. The Junction was slow, but not overcrowded. There were complaints from the public of overcrowding, and the inability to actually stop & shop at booths.

Floyd pointed out that the Fire show and the Garcia show were very helpful in moving the people out of the inner Fair.

GROWTH

Discussion of are we trying to grow, maintain or reduce the Fair population. As we increase our public growth, our internal growth also increases. Both grow together.

SMOKING

Smoking should not be by Main Stage, Childcare, Food booths, the ATM, or any major gathering areas.

ENTERTAINMENT

Discussion of crowds associated with Phil Lesh show. Do we want to grow?

Ann pointed out that the County regulates our growth. That we are spatially stagnant, we are spatially confined. That the public can not be in certain areas.

Floyd said we can apply for permits, that this is a step by step process and takes time till we get a final decision.

Discussion of who we want for headliners each day. Also the need to appeal to different generations and to diverse audiences.

GROWTH

Notes forthcoming from scribe. An updated version of these minutes will be posted when the notes are available! Thanks for your patience.

Comments for this group included:

- How are we going to respond to climate crisis? Sustainability crew has got board approval for ?% of carbon reduction by 2025
- We have a right to get full information, before we proceed with a project! That did not happen
- Communication: rubric of essential facts – before Fair Central hands off an issue for 4A solution
- Path Crowding
- Crowding on paths, in campgrounds, at stages
- Elder to Youth power transition on Fair management/direction
- Transportation
- Working with adjoining camp grounds
- Reduce our growth, Reuse our love and creativity, Recycle the truths
- Camping areas: right size services for fire, water, potties, recycling
- Getting too big? Causing problems for Veneta? Camping getting crowded

INFRASTRUCTURE

Topics:

Storage/Inventory

Site Readiness

Info/IT

Toilets

Patron Experience

Storage

Barn collapse needed instant fix/ caused confusion

Aggressive inventory - what's valuable and should be protected?

What's where? A list exists

Decon did it and handed lists off to others

Important to know what to take, what not

Kitchen – Pre Fair, Hospitality, Post, Culture Jam

Where does it go?

Transition period – going forward, how to know what to store

Upland kitchen combined with storage – always stored in the same place

Land use rules?

Legal uses per county...

Can shipping containers work? Custom fit boxes?

Cheap, secure, not ventilated

BIG barn designed to store our stuff

Winery

Doug's ___ (illegible) co-op that rents storage to the OCF

People rent storage to others all the time, legally

Maximize upland turf efficiency

Dug's NOT included in SUP – out of discussion

Site Readiness

Overtaxed Site Manager

Hopeful of less stretched site manager with new ED hire

stressed, frayed, risky Main Camp

Huge Risks going into pre-Fair – we were lucky

By time open to Main Camp – trees clear or not

Everyone working did their job – busting ass since March

Need for more aggressive forest management - park or nature preserve?

What system can the Fair use to get ready for the volunteers to be safe?

Who's a volunteer? And who's a 1099 contractor?

Can people go from one to the other and back?

Resource allocation under the gun

Communication Issues

Check with people about what they need – solve problems before people came asking for help

Put all those people out there – then infrastructure is behind the curve – resources are inadequate

SCOF and Piggy's are densely packed.

Toilets and Handwashing

The secret shower at WareBarn – Sanitation

New Recycling co-coordinator, Taylor – angry tirade re lack of sanitation post-Fair

Intestinal virus passed around

Honey Bucket crashes on Monday – traffic issues

This year's post-Fair population was unexpectedly large

IT Improvements Needed

Vendors being able to run credit cards

Areas with equipment problems

Maintain existing infrastructure – focused on new stuff that needs less maintenance

OLD radios high in trees – large expense but NOT large number of connections

New system – smaller radios

Cable modem/co-axial cables management – box with radio and power connection at ground level – each radio can handle 30 calls – more access and better service

Low maintenance, very effective, expensive to set up

High speed internet stopped working Thursday night. Board didn't pay bill in time

MISCELLANEOUS

Group members: Katy, Peaches, Paxton, Lily, and Wally (as a bumblebee)

- Increase Budget for OCF swag to sell at Commemorative Sales
- Lack of supplies at Commemorative Sales
- We need a better stock of T-shirts, posters, etc. at Commemorative Sales
 - Commemorative Sales will be preparing their own statement on the issues from this year's Fair. Overall they did a good job considering how many dissatisfied customers they had to interface with.
 - Their budget was cut this year, and they were working with the fact that there was a complimentary T-shirt offered to people who purchased a 3 day ticket before a certain date.
 - Ordering may have been complicated by the fact that there were 3 separate poster designs this year, and items had to be ordered for each

- Someone had a complaint re: quality of shirts and said they should be at least as high quality as the staff shirts
- Suggestions offered included print-on-demand, with the option to purchase old artwork, and pre-order OCF items; set aside inventory, or order from a different pool for comps and marketing offers; pre-ordering/pre-vetting of potential sales numbers
- In consultation with the budgeting process, maybe the Commemorative Sales budget should come out of a different pool, and be considered a revenue stream – this should allow for more agility to order more items, less focus on going over budget, and more potential as a marketing tool and money maker
- DOGS
 - We presume this is in reference to the fact that there seemed to be more service dogs on site than usual. We defer to Dog Control for policies on adapting to the increase. Stay tuned for info from them
- Of ALL the colors of T-shirt, for the 50th T-shirt, why black?
 - Just one of those things...
- BEST FAIR EVER! So, what did we miss that we won't know until 2020?
 - That's the million dollar question, but if you know an answer, please don't hesitate to reach out to the staff, the BoD, the Vision Action Committee, or the person you think can make a change!
- Gay Parade Feedback: negative Orig from: Gender Person: In-Face, Loud, Get used to it. Rude. Embarrassed
 - We were unclear on what this comment meant. Though concerning to us, we didn't discuss it because it required too much speculation.
- More country in the Country Fair
 - Our best guess on this one was that there had been a country band performing at the Youth Stage. We'd like to bring them back too!!
- The flowers at the main stage were pretty and decorative but some were too tall and blocked the view of the performers
 - This year's flowers were in front of the tall fence built for Phil Lesh. This comment is appropriate feedback to give to the flower crew via the Feedback Form, so that in the future, they're aware that their flowers are beautiful and do have the potential to block the view of Main Stage music enjoyment.
- Use of Yurt
 - The best explanation of this comment we could figure out was that QM communications moved to the Hub Yurt at one point during pre-Fair (likely July 4th). This brought a number of challenges, including the fact that not all emergency responders were made aware of the change.
 - Some were concerned that this also prevented other uses of the Yurt.
 - Also an issue for competing power sources.
 - One solution is to make both yurts (the caretaker yurt too, as long as it's empty) available to crews for continuous use if they still allow intermittent use by other crews (ie for trainings or meetings).