

Vision Action Committee Notes from OCF Evaluation Meeting, 8.13.2017

Following the Teddy Bear Picnic approximately 20 people gathered on August 13, 2017, a rainy Sunday morning at the Yurt, for a free ranging and at times passionate discussion of “*Where is the Fair going and how do we get there?*” Paxton Hoag facilitated the meeting for the Vision Action Committee (VAC). Attendees included crewmembers, elders, artists, booth personnel and one OCF board member. The majority of folks were over the age of 30 but some young adults from the Pre-fair Kitchen Crew represented their age group well.

A short list of some of the major topics that were brought up at the meeting is shown below. If you want to see the entire list or listen to a 2-hour recording of the meeting visit the *OregonCountryFair.net* site, look under Committees: Vision Action.

- We are all one crew; let’s not stay in artificial silos (vendors, site crews, artists, etc.)
- Work to break down the Web of Fiefdoms
- Volunteer help is needed for post fair clean up and the Culture Jam (can you help? contact the VAC)
- Appoint or hire a Volunteer Facilitator who could handle social media and provide youth volunteer support
- Consider that the Fair is also a multi-generational party with a purpose
- Succession plans are needed for the 100 most vital people who put on the fair. An intergenerational power shift needed.
- Our infrastructure is badly out of date, electricity, water capacity, other?
- We need to make the transition from a town to a city (now over 10,000 FF members)

Reoccurring themes were the need to bring more youth into training for leadership roles, create a venue for late night electronic music, work to break down barriers between the crew, vendors, artists and others. Many meeting participants expressed their love of the fair and left feeling that they had been heard. Now we need to translate some of these concepts into action!

Photos of this event can be viewed at: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/B9wkhDdBNbVeDKCl2>