

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MAY 7, 2001

PRESENT: Brad Lerch, Marlene Monette, Jim Newhall, MD, Bear Wilner, Charlie Zennache, Jim Sahr, Michele Sharpy, Lawrence Taylor, Jack Makarchek, Etienne Smith, and Charles Drew & Diane Albino (alternates).

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALENDAR

Steve regretfully announced that Fisher, one of the site cats for the past ten years, was mauled and killed by a dog yesterday. We will miss her.

The May work session on trust-building has been rescheduled to Sat. 6/9, 5pm, on site. Dinner will be served afterward. The date was published incorrectly in last month's issue of the Fair Family News. Hopefully, this new date and location will attract more participants.

Sat. 5/19 Archaeology Crew will demonstrate flint knapping at Doris Ranch for Historic Preservation week.

Thurs. 6/1 - ??? No Dogs Allowed on site.

Sat. 6/9 Main Camp opens.

Sun. 6/24 Crisis Intervention training will be held on site for staff. Other Fair family members are welcome to attend. refresher course will be held 10-12am; the initial training session will be held 1-4pm.

6/1 - 8/1 The Grievance Process moratorium is in effect. (Please elaborate what this means...)

MINUTES APPROVAL

Jim moved, and Bear seconded, the minutes of the 4/2/01 Board meeting be approved.

Jack corrected his statement regarding a medical marijuana station on site. The Fair will emphasize educating the public about medical marijuana this year and it will continue to pursue the possibilities of having a medical marijuana station on site. Kim Allen's e-mailed correction ---

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

MEMBER INPUT

Laurie Bleckman, (Shemuel), spoke to the Board regarding the suspension of her booth, #041, Create a Potato. The booth was put on probation in 2000. "I was sure the camping misunderstanding would have been resolved after last Fair. If there was a problem why did the general manager wait until April 13th 2001 to send us a letter about activity that happened last year? ... If there is documentation that singles out an individual who broke the rules, I think suspension of that individual is more appropriate." (Operations recommended a one-year suspension because Create a Potato booth members violated their probation by continuing to assist non-wristbanded folks to camp overnight.)

Several members spoke in support of a Children's Craft Booth. Wren Davidson (crafter) was offended by comments made last month that it is a bad idea to have Fair youth's primary orientation to the Fair be about making money. She feels this comment was a "slap in the face" to artisans. She trusts we'll work it

out. Sandra Brown (Children's Craft Booth proposer) said the adult staff's role will be one of guidance more than supervision. They would help youth learn about being active in an alternative economy. There are many staff youth that want to sell crafts at the Fair; they just need a space. Crafter youth may sell out of their parents' booths. Alexis said she likes to make and sell things to support herself. She likes to be in a community of other youth crafters. The booth needs to be made big enough to fit the kids. David Helton (Registration Coord.) met with Hilary Anthony (Chela Mela Coord.) and Sandra. This proposal does not have the same space needs as a craft booth. He thinks they can find a place for the Children's Craft booth.

Bill (crafter) asked the Board to grant traveling money and camping passes for a group of elders from Green Grass in the Lakota nation. "The first chinupa, or red stone pipe, that was gifted to the Lakota by White Buffalo Calf Woman is kept here in a small cabin. Arvol Lookinghorse is the caretaker of the pipe. His brother Ivan poured the sweat that Bill attended. Ivan needs information about alternative energy which he hopes to bring to the reservation. Bill suggested he come to the Fair and the Energy Park. Bill added their community would benefit from the information they brought home. Their drumming circle and singing would be a welcome addition to the Fair.

Vic Parkison (Pre-Post Security) offered an "outside perspective" in that "a lot of toxic crap" has been going on. The Fair site is big enough to hold people in conflict with each other. No one should be excluded from the Fair. He added that he was joyful to see "perma-grin" starting at the Spring Fling already.

Shemuel requested suggestions for the aging teen problem which her daughter (and many other Fair teens) faces.

STAFF & OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager. Leslie thanked norma for doing an incredible job organizing the Spring Fling. Thanks to Rock Badger, Denny Guehler, our new Vanna, and Reverend Chumleigh. Thanks to Steve, Andy, Deb, and the arborists for a wonderful tree walk on site yesterday. They had a wonderful time with 100-year-old living beings. She will attend the annual Respect Our Community's Concerns (ROCC) meeting in Veneta on May 8. They are currently really happy with us and willing to work with us. We received the final approval from the City of Eugene for the town office off-site parking plan so we won't have to pave the back yard! Leslie announced that we have the same Back Up Managers (BUMs) and Swimmers as last year. The BUMs include, Steve Gorham (aka Grumpy), Sallie Edmund, and Zak Schwartz. Swimmers include Robin Smith (aka Sharklet), Doug Green, and Floyd Prozanski.

Administrative Assistant. norma thanked everyone involved with the Spring Fling, especially everyone who donated items for the raffle. They made \$475 which helped offset the costs for holding the event. Thanks also to Andy Strickland and Dick Stewart for setting up the hall, Bob Fennessey for booking the entertainment, Denny Guehler for being the "voice of the Spring Fling", Bear

Wilner for being a lovely Vanna, Reverend Chumleigh for entertainment, Steve Wisnovsky for the current Site Report, Marshall Landman, Mary ???, and Shelly Winship for staffing the raffle table, and Leslie for support. Thanks to Mike Lesiak for mowing the town office yard. All applications processes are closed until next January!

Site Manager. The site is green, wet, and soft. The wildflowers are blooming in abundance. Psycho-spiritual rejuvenation happens every day on site. Because we've had such a dry, warm spring, the paths are greening up nicely. Thanks to Howard McCartney and Randy Nowell (aka Roundfoot) (VegManECs) for mowing. Thanks to Frank Sharpy and Chad Niebach for their technical assistance. Chad is a grass seed breeder and researcher. He helped create a blend suited to the site's unique conditions. Thanks to Kevin Hillary & John Schafer, the Fair's arborists, for hosting a tree walk on site yesterday. Thanks again to Howard for organizing last month's Highway Pick Up. The Fair received a positive review for our Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant. They recommended full funding of the Indian Creek restoration project. Work will begin in the fall once the grant is funded.

Treasurers Things are great. We are transitioning from one fiscal cycle into another.

President Jack thanked Charlie for facilitating the Board meetings. We are beginning a new Fair. We must come with new expectations. We cannot fall back into thinking that everything is the same and nothing has changed. Thanks also to all who kept the she-wolf in your thoughts. She passed on last month.

OLD BUSINESS

DONATION TO SMART

Dr Jim, and Lawrence seconded, moved the Board donate \$500 to SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) of Lane County.

SMART is an early intervention literacy program. Volunteers read with kids in grades K-3 twice a week. The money will be used to purchase books and supplies. The Board has \$1400 left in their donation line item.

The motion passed: 8 in favor and 2 opposed (Brad & Jim).

DONATION TO EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Charlie moved, and Etienne seconded, the Board donate \$250 to the Early Education Program.

Last year, the Board donated \$500 to EEP. They are a private, non-profit preschool that blends children with special needs with typically developing children, ages 2 1/2 to 5 years old. They need to increase their one-on-one staff ratio.

The motion passed: 8 in favor and 2 opposed (Michele & Jim).

REVEREND CHUMLEIGH'S PROPOSAL

Jim moved, and Lawrence seconded, the Board accept Reverend Chumleigh's proposal.

Background: Rev. Chumleigh proposed that he would bring his 60' X 40' rain-proof circus tent and sound system to be set up anywhere on site. He would like to bring at least several new acts to perform in this new venue, including a Mexican glass harmonica player. He also envisions holding workshops for young, aspiring vaudeville performers before the event. He also asked for \$3000 to cover costs and to pay the performers. Rev. Chumleigh said the stages are crowded and are "getting stuck in hippie amber." He'd like to bring something new to the Fair. He has received encouraging e-mails from Mick Westrick and Shelly Winship (Vaudeville Coordinators). He also added that he has really lightened up on the Board in his acts during the past couple of years!

Peach Gallery: Steve G said he has positive and negative reactions to the proposal. Rev. Chumleigh's show on Saturday night in the parking lot last year was very positive. The show ended by 11:45 and Rev. Chumleigh met every commitment he made. However, Steve is concerned about the expense and how this will integrate with the rest of entertainment. The proposal needs more groundwork. Leslie echoed Steve's positive and negative response. She is also concerned about confusion for the public if they are invited to attend a show held in the parking lot after Sweep. Leslie thinks Board funding individual entertainment venues or creating new stages would set a bad precedent.

BoD: Several BoD members responded that Shelly had called them to express her opposition of this proposal. Jack supports the proposal. The Fair needs this. He encouraged Rev Chumleigh to flush out the proposal with the coordinators for review next year. Brad envisions an early and late show in the front of the parking lot. A 7pm show could act as a vacuum cleaner to suck Fairgoers out of the 8 and thus assist Sweep. Several others also support the concept but not the proposal in its current form. They agreed with the reasons stated by Steve & Leslie and that they did not want to circumvent the coordinators.

Rev. Chumleigh asked to withdraw the proposal. He said he was sincerely shocked and hurt. He thought he had both coordinators' support. He would not have come to the Board otherwise. He added that communicating with Vaudeville coordinators over the many years has been "a living hell." There are no other channels. He was told to bring this to the Board.

The motion failed: 4 in favor, 5 opposed (Jack, Michele, Charlie, Bear, and Dr Jim) and 1 abstention (Etienne).

YMCA CULTURE JAM

Charlie moved, and Brad seconded, that the Board allocate up to \$200 for the Culture Jam hosted by the YMCA on DATE???

Background: The YMCA is holding a modified culture jam in honor of its 150th anniversary. They will have a Family Jam in the morning and a Teen Jam in the afternoon from 3-7pm which will end with a performance. The afternoon theme is the future, projecting ahead 150 years. The money will be used to reimburse the artists for art supplies.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed. (Diane voted during Jim's temporary absence.)

EVENT CARTS

Craig Patterson (Event Carts Coord.) is developing strategies to reduce our collective dependence on fossil fuel vehicles at least within the gate. He likes to quote Tom Bender of Rain magazine, "appropriate technology reminds us that before we choose our tools and techniques, we must first choose our dreams and our values, for some technologies serve them while others make them unobtainable." Last year, he observed that there were times when no carts changed hands. Craig wants to promote the concept of "reasonable use time" which would consider the distance and task the cart would be used. One possibility for next year may include asking for a deposit which would be returned if the cart was returned within the "reasonable use time." They are also developing an electric powered truck and a human powered train which may eventually run through the 8 on Sunday night to help haul people's stuff out to the parking lot. Craig poses the question to all of us, what is our collective carbon foot print?

MEDICAL MARIJUANA STATION

Brad moved, and Charlie seconded, that the Board directs Fair counsel to further research the status of the federal laws relative to criminal prosecution and civil forfeiture, to have a conversation with Lee Berger, attorney for XXX, and report back to the Board by the June Board meeting.
The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

OPERATIONS GUIDELINES

Etienne moved, and Michele seconded, that any event that management becomes aware of and feels the need for gatekeeping, the event will happen in a remote and well-secured area of the Fair.

Peach Gallery: Several spoke in opposition because the motion is too vague, that Fair members are their own best arbiters, and it limits freedom of expression. Vic is supportive from a Security perspective. It is good to be prepared.

BoD: OK, one more time. Board members spoke in opposition to this motion because as Jack said, "the Board does not need to control content." This is an operational issue and Ops is as sensitive as ever after the volume of input on this issue for the last 10 months. Bear and Marlene thought the agenda title was mis-leading. Other interested parties would have been present to speak if they had known its true intention. Others spoke in favor because they feel a responsibility to protect family members. Michele said it is not intended to stop anyone from doing anything, but just don't do it on the path. Don't read any more into it.

The motion failed: 3 in favor (Diane voted during Brad's temporary absence) and 7 opposed (Jack, Lawrence, Jim, Charlie, Bear, Dr Jim & Marlene.)

Michele asked folks to respect all speakers. It is hurtful to see smirking faces as one is giving their opinion.

QUOTE THAT SLAB

Brad asked Board members to choose their top three selections. Jack protested that his entry was rejected by the project coordinator. She had excluded some

for length or content (it didn't fit within the scope of the project.) Jack submitted his own words, "Earth's fabric worn about to tear. We care." The selection chosen by the Board is XXX.

JULY MEETING DATE

Jim moved, and Marlene seconded, the Board hold the July meeting on Sunday, July 8, at 4pm on site.

Jim rejected Bear's friendly amendment to change the date to Sunday, July 1. Bear advocated that July 1, would be less hectic for all Fair staff. Jim likes the tradition of holding the Board meeting on the weekend before the Fair. Leslie reminded the Board that the July meeting usually has a Fairly light agenda.

Bear moved, and Brad seconded, that the above motion be amended to the Board will hold the July meeting on Sunday, July 1, at 4pm on site. The motion to amend was approved: 8 in favor and 2 opposed (Jim & Lawrence). The amended motion was approved: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

EMPLOYEE EVALUATION DATE

Marlene moved, and Charles seconded, the Employee Evaluations will be held on Monday, September 9, at 7pm at Central Presbyterian.

The motion passed 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Brad).

The Board also agreed to hold the September Board meeting on Tuesday, September 4, so as not to compete with Labor Day. Diane may be absent as she is a member of another Board which meets on Tuesday.

FULLER PROPERTY

Charlie moved, and Dr Jim seconded, the Board reaffirms the Property Acquisition Team's (PAT) authority to make an offer on property adjacent to the Oregon Country Fair site.

Background: The Fuller property is currently available. The land includes the band of trees from the corner of the north side of Chickadee and Aero roads all the way to the yurt. It also includes a house and two storage buildings on Suttle road.

Peach Gallery: David recommended having the property appraised. Anna DeLocis (Construction) and Howard Galvin (Security) spoke in support.

BoD: Michele is concerned about the Board's fiscal responsibility. She would like the motion to have a financial limit. Lawrence -- Timing is critical. Imagine that frontier logged. Imagine standing on Chickadee and seeing clear through to Suttle Road.

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Michele).

LAW REFORM KIOSK

Etienne moved, and Bear seconded, the Board allocate \$50 for re-infoing the kiosk in Chela Mela.

Peach Gallery: Hilary -- the funds could come from the Miscellaneous line item in the Board Budget. It does not need to be budgeted separately.

BoD: Etienne wants to update the information on the kiosk. They want to educate about the effects of Measure 3 and HR1384. Measure 3, which was passed

by the voters last November, states the government must have a criminal conviction before property may be forfeited. HR1384 is currently up for a vote in the state legislature would re-schedule marijuana from a Class1 to a Class2 drug with a stiffer penalty.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

SOP INCREASES

Jack moved, and Lawrence seconded, that the Board increase the number of SOPs allowed to 75% over the next three years. They would increase by 10% this year, 10% in 2002, and 5% in 2003.

Peach Gallery: 10% equals an additional 280 passes. Leslie said Jack has finally convinced her that this is possible without harming the land. It is easier to accommodate now with the development of Zenn Acres and the Far Side. Hilary would like to do a targeted increase to specific crews and do away with the double-class of workers before increasing the number of SOPs. David suggests a comprehensive approach that would consider the carrying capacity of the land and then figure out the best use of that number. This would include adequate crew size, population growth -- youth & elders, and equity for vendors. Andy advocated the Burning Man perspective, "no spectators, only participants." Steve W is "tired of being the no growth speed bump" in this discussion. The Board should charge LUMP (land use management planning) to develop a camping plan. They would freeze camping in some areas and develop orderly growth in others. We can also mitigate the effects of having more folks on site and improve the habitat. All Fair participants must be mindful of our collective impact on the land.

BoD: Several spoke in support of targeted staff increases to specific crews first. Jack rejected Bear's friendly amendment to limit the motion to a 10% increase this year only. Man agreed this approach would allow Ops to review the effect of the increase and consider other population issues. Diane -- the Elders Committee hopes to make a recommendation for all Fair family by next winter. Jack -- we need energy to attain motion to deal with the population issues. The first step is to say YES to something that is significant. After this he wants to champion the elders and teen issues.

The motion passed: 8 in favor and 2 opposed (Brad and Charlie).

The Blachly Community Fair Donation died for a lack of a motion. Cindy Walklett asked that the Lot Crew Co-Coordinator Appointment be taken off the agenda at this time.

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, June 4, 7pm at EWEB. The agenda, subject to change, will include those items tabled tonight: Equity Foundation Membership, Child Crafts Booth, and continued work on the Grievance Process proposal. New business includes: Name Main Camp Check Signers, Renew Memberships in Lane Arts Council and Convention & Visitors Association of Lane County (CVALCO), Review Report from Business Directory Committee, Review Report on Medical Marijuana Station, Teen Pass Conversion Policy, Cart proposal (Is this something different than what was discussed above?), August Culture Jam,

Annual Membership Survey (Etienne), Sexual Harassment Policy (Bear), Lodge Project Steering Committee (Bear), OCF On-line/Cliff's proposal (Brad), and Elders Committee Funding (Diane).

Minutes by Jen-lin

Is anything missing from the agenda?

Please send your feedback to me via the Fair office e-mail or call me at 541-485-3768 by Monday morning, May 14.