

## OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 9/3/02

PRESENT: Bear Wilner, Marlene Monette, David Helton, Jack Makarchek, Lawrence Taylor (LT), Brad Lerch, Jim Newhall MD (Dr. Jim), Charlie Zennache, Charles Drew (arrived just after the start of Old Business) and Diane Albino & Jim Sahr (alternates)

NOT: David Liberty

SETTING: The campfire circle at Alice's! The smell of ripe apples is carried on the wind. Folks are munching on apples and grapes. (Thanks to Steve W for the electricity and light to scribe by!)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALENDAR

Brad is psyched to be sitting out on our land underneath these trees; "we are being true to our roots."

Meredith Snodgrass introduced herself as the new reporter for the Fair Family News. She welcomes suggestions for future articles. Steve W followed that lead to announce that the Second Annual OCF Invitational X-Country Track Meet will be held on Thursday, 9/26, at 4pm. Local high school and middle school athletes will compete together on site. The event was held on site last year when it was discovered that they could no longer use Fern Ridge. They liked it so much that they are coming back again.

Virgil Courtwright (Archeology Coord) delivered the sad news that Dr. Schlesinger from White Bird passed away of a heart attack yesterday morning.

Mon. 9/9 The Personnel Evaluation will be held at the John Serbu Youth Campus, 2727 Centennial Blvd., (across from Autzen Stadium) 7-9pm. Forms will be available on-line.

Thurs 9/12 Deadline to register as OCF member to vote at the 2002 Annual Meeting.

Fri 9/13 Deadline to request absentee ballot to vote for the Board of Directors.

Fri 9/13 Deadline to submit Personnel Evaluation forms. Evaluations must be received by 5pm at the OCF office. Evaluations may be mailed or faxed, but not submitted by e-mail.

Sat 9/21 8am Eugene Celebration Parade. Meet at 7:30am at Parade Central at the Selco building at 11<sup>th</sup> & Oak if you want to participate in the Fair's parade entry.

Sat 9/28 2pm Trail's End Chili Challenge. Come join the fun, eat chili, and vote for the Fair's entry! We intend to win with our newly created, delicious vegetarian chili made with peaches and secret herbs and spices!

Sat 10/12 6:30pm The Annual Meeting will be held at the Knights of Pythias Hall, 420 W 12th, Eugene.

### MINUTES APPROVAL

Dr. Jim moved, and Jim seconded, that the minutes of the 8/5/02 Board meeting be approved.

BoD: Diane noted that Jim is the other alternate, not Charles.

The motion to approve the minutes as corrected passed: 8 in favor and 2 abstentions (Charlie & Bear).

LT moved, and Brad seconded that the minutes of the precocious July Board meeting that was held on 6/30/02 be approved.

BoD: Brad noted that the document referred to as the "Personnel Committee Manual" should be called the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual. Thanks also to Jon Steinhart for bringing that to the Secretary's attention. David H stated that the text of David Liberty's friendly amendment to the Elders Policy is incorrect. He remembers that David L said, 'Elder Status confers the eligibility to participate in an

Elders pass program.' Charlie agreed with David. Thus ensued a round of dueling memories with other Board members saying they remember the discussion as written in the minutes. Jen-lin added, that in response to David H's expressed concern during the Board draft comment period, she waited to publish the final Board minutes until after confirming the minutes with David Liberty.

The motion to approve the minutes with the correction of "Personnel Policy & Procedures Manual" passed: 6 in favor, 3 opposed (David H, Charlie & Jim) and 1 abstention (Dr. Jim).

### MEMBER INPUT

Simba (crafter) passionately and vehemently expressed his concern that painted wood is burned at the Sauna. He said that when he confronted sauna staff, he was told that it was only whitewash on the boards. However, he said he paid for a chemical analysis of one of the boards and discovered in the report that the paint contained lead. He is concerned for the health and safety for himself and of all people, young and old, exposed to the smoke. Simba said that he was restrained by Fair security during pre-Fair as he tried to confront sauna staff and to take a piece of wood, by physical force, as evidence. He said that he did not believe proper action had been taken against the sauna since then. He demanded a \$31 payment for the chemical analysis and that the folks responsible for endangering the health of others by burning painted wood should be excluded from the Fair. Simba added that a new committee should be formed to review the chemical safety issues throughout the Fair site. Jack reimbursed Simba for the chemical analysis and told him that this is the first time that many of the Board and Officers have heard about this issue. Jack and LT tried to reassure Simba that they would pursue this concern further. Simba requested that Sauna Forfeiture be added as new business to next month's agenda.

Bear said that he experienced a wonderful reaffirmation of Fair spirit as he embarked on a desert adventure (other than Burning Man) with other Fair family.

Vince LaRochelle (crafter) requested that the sale of imported items at the Fair be addressed. He said that artisans are in the minority in this country. He is insulted by the presence of imports and that the sale of imports is contrary to the spirit of the Fair. He would like to seek solutions to this problem.

David H said that Liz Olhsson, a 16-year-old Fair member, who submitted a Board candidate statement would be told that she is ineligible to run for the Board. He said that he is disappointed and embarrassed that this decision was not made during open, public process with the ability to speak directly with Liz. He believes this decision violates the Code of Conduct and the Bylaws that state that all members are equal. He suggested that the Bylaws should be clarified during an open Board meeting and he encouraged Fair members to write in Liz' name on the ballot. Note: The decision to determine eligibility is the responsibility of the Officers, specifically the Membership Secretary. Based upon the advice of the Fair's attorney, the Membership Secretary has determined that a minor is not eligible to serve on the Board of Directors of the OCF, which is a non-profit corporation governed by Oregon law. Marlene disagreed with David's statement and expressed her anger at his comments. Jen-lin responded that she felt that the Officers' integrity was being questioned. As one of the Officers charged with the responsibility of running a clean and fair election, she fully intended to speak directly with Liz, but she was waiting to confirm the final decision first. Steve Gorham (Co-Treasurer) agreed with the Secretary's decision. Having minors serving on the board could open the OCF up to potential liability.

Virgil thanked and praised the Board and all the staff that made the Culture Jam possible. It was an amazing event!

## STAFF & OFFICER REPORTS

**General Manager** Leslie thanked Virgil for his appreciation. She said it has been a very full and amazing summer. Within less than six weeks, the Fair, a week-long Culture Jam, Teddy Bear Picnic, and Fair Evaluation meeting happened on site. She said that we are an amazing group of people who are real and deep, respectful and imbued with trust. We are trying to say Yes as much as we can. Even when we don't agree with a decision, we can all help to make it go forward. Especially after working with teens for a week she learned that we can face any challenge directly and have fun in the process.

Thanks to norma, Steve, and Andy for all of their help with the picnic. Thanks to Andy, Steve, Robin, Tommy, and Animal who were fantastic with their help to keep the Culture Jam together. Thanks to norma who kept all the other OCF balls juggling while she was focused on the youth camp, as well as her help with the Evaluation Meeting which was very successful – over 60 people participated.

Money is pouring out as she pays the hefty bills that keep coming in, i.e. Lane Transit District and Best Pots. Both are coming in over the budgeted amount and several crew budgets are over. She's working hard to get everything as up to date as possible for the Annual Meeting. The Incident Summaries and Back-Up Managers' reports will be presented to the Board members as soon as all reports are submitted.

**Administrative Assistant.** norma -- Leslie really did an incredible job with the Culture Jam. norma thanked everyone who helped make the picnic possible and specifically: Steve and Andy for prepping the site, Wally Slocum (Banners Coordinator) for organizing the potluck table, Daniel Dillon (Food vendor) for coordinating the barbecue, and Bob Fennessey (Community Village) for booking the entertainment. "You guys really rock!" And thanks to everyone who attended the Evaluation Meeting the next day. Most of the notes are compiled and will be available at the Annual Meeting. Copies will be mailed to each Evaluation Meeting participant. norma is beginning to train Robin to do some of her tasks in preparation for her sabbatical, which begins October 1. This will be norma's last official Board meeting for the next three months.

**Site Manager.** Steve said that he has attended many Board meetings, and other than the July meetings on site, this is the first Board meeting held on site, or specifically at Alice's Wonderland. He hopes we can try to make it possible more often! The feng shui at EWEB really isn't conducive to Fair reality.

This month, Steve remembered to thank Onkar Walen (Security) who came to the site of the tree fall on Wednesday pre-Fair with his cell phone and the connection to the truck crane and operator, Leif. It was a good boy toy and an essential part of the clean up operation, removing the heavy trunk sections and limbs. It is amazing that the Fair always has someone with the specific connection necessary be present at crisis moments. Remember last year's electrical transformer failure? Thanks again, Dave Crocker.

Steve thanked the regulars who work hard to pull the Picnic together: norma, Andy, Wally Slocum and the serving crew, and Daniel Dillon and the Bar-B-crew. In addition he thanked Don Doolin and Oso Harper (External and Internal Security Co-ordinators respectively) for organizing a bit of security presence on Aero Road for the Picnic. Thanks to Bear Wilner, Charles Drew and Virgil Courtwright who all took turns greeting Fair family. Virgil had just finished being part of the Culture Jam team!

Summer vacation is over and a lot of work (finish the walk-in cooler, roofing, de-con from the Culture Jam, and de-con in the floodplain) remains to be accomplished before the floods begin in November. We'd love to have help. Come on out and we'll make it fun!

**Treasurers.** Steve G, aka Grumpy, predicted that the Fair would have \$100,000 in excess revenue, half of which is attributable to Admissions. And yet he cautioned the Board to use restraint in spending money. The Fair should build up its cash reserves if it wants to follow through on any of the big visions, i.e., the lodge, future Culture Jams, or other events. Overall, the Fair is doing well financially.

Grumpy said that "Inattention to the books is not something that we do. We pay close attention to how money comes in and how it is spent. There is no creative accounting. The books are open to anyone who takes the time to look at them." One shouldn't throw aspersions at OCF funding and financial backing without reviewing the actual financial statements.

**President.** Jack said that nothing is going to get him down. For the first time he arrived an hour early for a Board meeting. He ate a bunch of grapes, two large tomatoes from the garden, two apples, a handful of basil and some chard that was too old. Yet, more apples and vegies are ripening. Whatever price was paid for this land was just validated by that experience. This is just right. He

encouraged people to come and glean the fruit. It should not go to waste. This place has been so personally tangible. As he becomes aware of each tree's presence at Alice's he believes that each tree knows exactly what the Fair did for them ... and us. He believes this was Alice Fuller's gift to them and us.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Election Jen-lin gave the report for Merrill Levine who was unable to attend the meeting. There will be six vacancies on the Board of Directors. Eight people are running, including all six incumbents: Bear, Brad, Diane, Jack, Dr. Jim, and Marlene, as well as two other members: Joseph Newton (Recycling) and Steffen Webb (Security). Steffen Webb's statement seems to imply that he and his 5-year-old daughter, Brynne, are running for the BoD. Since only one person may fill each director position and that Brynne is not a registered, active member of the OCF, the Secretaries listed Steffen's name only on the ballot. Additionally, Liz Olhsson, a 16-year-old member of Info Crew, also submitted a candidate statement. Although Jen-lin was impressed that a youth would demonstrate such leadership and interest, she was obligated to follow up on some members' expressed concerns whether a minor is eligible to serve on the Board. This is completely new territory for the Fair and is not addressed in the Bylaws. Thus, the Secretaries sought the counsel of the Fair's attorney. It is his opinion that no one under the age of 18 is eligible to be on the Board. Thus, the ballot does not include Liz Olhsson's name either. No initiatives were submitted to the Secretaries for the ballot. Neither did the Member Survey Committee receive any questions for the survey this year. The next member survey year will be in 2004. The Fair's attorney stated that he remembers being intrigued when Jen-lin first told him, after the picnic, that a 16-year-old expressed interest in the BoD. He was also disappointed when he found that the law would not allow her to be a Director.

Jill Heiman Vision Fund (JHVF) Leslie announced the JHVF would be giving away around \$17,000 this year – the best ever. The committee has the delightful dilemma of deciding how to divide the extra funds, so exact award amounts will be announced next month.

## OLD BUSINESS

### BUDGET ISSUES -- PURCHASE GREENHOUSE

Dr. Jim moved, and Brad seconded, that the OCF reimburse Tommy Ponce for \$1240.20 for the greenhouse at the Kitchen Garden. Peach Gallery: Grumpy -- this is a good idea, but it is a terrible process for financial planning. If this motion passes he will log it as a Capital Project. Steve W -- this was not intentional. Tommy planned to buy a greenhouse, set it up here for spring and summer and then move it to his property. However, it has become such an integral part of the Kitchen Garden that all involved decided that it should stay here. Andyman -- the greenhouse has already proved to be an asset. It is estimated that at least \$3,000 worth of fresh, organic vegies were harvested and used by Main Camp Kitchen, Hospitality and Post-Fair Kitchen.

BoD: Brad is glad that Tommy had the vision to set up the greenhouse. It's the right thing to do. Jack -- Thanks!  
The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

### BUDGET ISSUES -- MILLING WINDFALL TIMBER

Jack moved, and Bear seconded, that the OCF allocate \$4500 to mill the windfall timber from the February 7, storm.

Background: Steve W said that there is an estimated 12,000 - 15,000 board feet of fir logs ready to be milled. Several options are available: 1) Sell all of it; 2) Sell a load which will cover the costs to mill the rest, or 3) Mill and keep it all for our own use. Most feedback supports the last option.

Peach Gallery: Steve would contract with a sawyer with a portable band saw because that method loses less wood. He would like to choose the best logs to mill new beams for Jill's Crossing which must be rebuilt before next year. Then he would mill the rest into beam stock and retain all the waness for creative fencing. All the milled lumber would then have to be stacked, stickered, and sheltered out of the elements for future projects. He believes this must happen before the rains come. Hilary is concerned that once the wood is milled, it must be aged properly. Then the lumber should be used selectively. She is concerned about who will control access and use of this very special wood. Leslie totally supports milling our own timber, but she echoed Hilary's concerns more strongly. She noted that several thousand dollars worth of the Conde lumber is either missing, unaccounted for, or was used on non-budgeted or Fair sponsored projects. High-grade redwood should not have been used to build camp benches. Controls and storage are imperative. Randy Nowell (VegManECS) -- this is another piece of the perma-culture puzzle. He applauds each step that we take. Joseph Newton (Recycling) agreed that using our own wood is the right thing to do, but we need to plan for its use and maintain it well. Andy -- if we don't use this wood, then we will be purchasing wood from a clear cut. This is truly a windfall.

BoD: Bear -- this is the resolution he'd hoped for. LT agreed and paraphrased the Furry Freak Brothers, "Wood will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no wood." Charlie -- our experience with lumber is horrible; it either disappears or rots. He hopes that by voting in favor of this motion he is not tacitly approving a new construction of Jill's Crossing in the same format. Jim opposes this motion because, once again, more work is being piled upon the staff, even if they are requesting it. Jack apologized for the way the redwood was distributed.

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

### BUDGET ISSUES -- CLERICAL SUPPORT DURING AA SABBATICAL

Marlene moved, and Charles seconded, that the Board allocate an additional \$4,000 to the GM Budget for clerical support during norma's sabbatical.

Background: The Board approved \$6,000 to cover all part-time, temporary help that was anticipated for the whole year including (10-12 hours/week) of support during norma's sabbatical. \$1500 has been spent already to cover additional hours on site and in town that

was mostly for clean up after the windstorm or additional administrative assistance for the Culture Jam. Robin Bernardi is averaging 72 hours a month at present and will probably increase to 80-90 hours a month during norma's sabbatical.

Peach Gallery: Thumbs Up!

BoD: David is concerned not so much about the cost of labor, but rather, the timing of the additional labor as it relates to the event.

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 0 opposed. (Bear and Charlie had temporarily moved out of the circle.)

#### REGISTERING THE PEACH LOGO

Dr. Jim moved, and David seconded, that the Board allocate \$400 (added by David's friendly amendment) to register the Peach logo. Background. The trademark for the logo design, the words Oregon Country Fair printed in the Gorilla font encircling the peach, is registered. These funds will be used to file a section 15 declaration. Quoting Doug Hancock, (intellectual property attorney), "If an S 15 declaration is filed, then the registration becomes 'incontestable' by others. This eliminates the ability of third parties to challenge a registration on many (but not all) grounds."

Peach Gallery: Vince -- Yes! Leslie responded to another crafter's concern -- this will not affect their fees. Hilary also supports this motion. She encouraged the Board to follow up on registering the mark Oregon Country Fair, also.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

#### APPOINTMENTS -- ELECTION COMMITTEE

Bear moved, and Dr. Jim seconded, that the Board appoint Heidi Doscher (Membership Secretary), Jen-lin Hodgden (Recording Secretary), Hilary Anthony and Steve Gorham (Co-Treasurers), Merrill Levine (Wristbands Co-Coord), Cathy Coulson-Keegan (crafter), and Connie Freeman (Chela Mela) to the Election Committee.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, October 7, 2002, at EWEB, at 7pm. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following items that were tabled for tonight's meeting: Donation to Rosemary Brookshier (David H), Consider placing Endowment principal with the Oregon Community Foundation, Elders -- continued (Brad), Booth Waste Policy Enforcement (Brad) and Ken Kesey Memorial Sculpture (Jim). The agenda will also include the following new business items: Spoken word operations integration, Endowment principal contribution, Appoint Media Coordinator, Donation to Skipping Stones magazine, Reconsider Elders Decision (Jim), Burning painted wood, Registering OCF name, Personnel Committee Compliance with Policy Manual, Trail's End Chili Challenge Prize Donation.

Minutes by Jen-lin