

**OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 12/2/02**

**PRESENT:** Charles Drew (arrived during Revenue Projection discussion), David Helton, David Liberty, Lawrence Taylor, Charlie Zennache, Jim Sahr (alternate), Brad Lerch, Jack Makarchek, Jim Newhall -- aka Dr Jim, Bear Wilner, Diane Albino, and Malene Monette (alternate)

**CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sundays, 2-4pm, Jim Guthrie (Tree crew) invited families to join the drum circle at the Federal building at 7th & Pearl, in Eugene.

Mon. 11/16 Work session on Nighttime Population, Growers Market, 7pm

Fri/Sat 1/24-25 Express Yourself Training, Using the Arts to Work With Teens, 9am-5pm, will be held at Laurelwood Golf Course in Eugene. Cost: \$75 to Fair family. Contact Robin at the office if you want to participate in this fun & dynamic workshop.

Mon 1/ 27 Second January Board meeting to approve the 2003 Operating Budget, Growers Market, 7pm.

There is an opening on the Endowment Committee. Please submit your letters of interest to serve on this committee to the Fair office by the end of January.

Jen-Lin requests that you save your glass gallon jars and lids for next fall's Fresh & Raw Harvest party. Make sure the tops of the jars have a broken or interrupted thread with a matching lid for a tight seal when they are used again for canning. Tops with a continuous thread cannot be re-sealed. Thus ends this installment of reduce/reuse/recycle!

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

**Bear moved, and David H seconded, that the Board approves the minutes of the November 4, 2002 BoD meeting.**

**The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 abstention (David L).**

**MEMBER INPUT**

Jen-Lin responded to Vip Short, DC's letter to the editor in last month's issue of the *Fair Family News*, regarding the use of initials or titles after members' names. It is not intended as social elitism or lack of respect for other health care practitioners, but rather, a reflection of the secretarial rules that I was taught thirty years ago. So Fair family, please, let me know if you want the initials after your name when you give input. I will acknowledge you as you wish to be known.

Jim Sahr added that technically he has a doctorate in metaphysics and should have the initials DM after his name. He joked that he doesn't want to lend to anyone's confusion and be mistaken for Dr Jim!

Leslie reported that Wally Slocom is out of the hospital and recuperating at the Eugene Hotel. He needs his rest so please call ahead and make an appointment if you want to visit. Many folks, (Palmer, Oso, HomeChicken, Rebecca Bradvicca) are helping Wally adjust and caring for his house and belongings. There will be a small work party to put the fence back up in Wally's yard this weekend. He is very appreciative of all the love and support Fair family has been sending to him. You can still send cards to him at his home address where folks will pick up his mail.

**STAFF & OFFICER REPORTS**

**General Manager** Budgets, budgets, budgets... It has been a very busy month full of meetings planning the 2003 Fair. The 990 form, the financial statement, was filed on time, 11/15, and we received a clean opinion. Thanks to the Treasurers and the Budget Committee (BC) for all of their hard work over the past month.

Sadly, Tina Edwards (Main Camp Security Co-Coord) and Beth Little (Endowment Committee) have resigned their positions. Tina did a fantastic job and no one has been proposed to replace her yet. Thank you for your tremendous service. Beth's terrific, hard-working, imaginative energy will be missed also. Thank you for your service.

The opening of the new Youth Park in Veneta and the celebration of the final installation of artwork supported by grants from the Endowment were well-attended even in the pouring rain! It was very moving to see all of the wonderful work and hear the appreciation of what it means to the community.

Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry for the 2003 Poster Contest. The committee is meeting this weekend!

Thanks to the Back-Up Managers (the BUMs) for all of their work preparing information for the work session on nighttime population. They have been identifying the issues and possible solutions. Leslie appreciates their hard work all year round. The office

will be open limited hours during the holidays. Please call Robin to make an appointment between December 23 — January 2.

**Site Manager** Steve Wisnovsky also attended the Skate Park and Library dedications. It is amazing how differently the Veneta/Elmira community feels about the Oregon Country Fair now than in years past. Although activity on site is fairly quiet, it has been a busy month full of meetings. We've had another month of below-average precipitation and it is unclear when the rains will begin. Thanks to Nils Christian (Construction) for being the guest Caretaker during Andy's trip to Ecuador. Thanks to David Hoffman (Community Village) who shows up, faithful as ever, to work on site. Lately, he's been strapping on the backpack leaf blower to move the leaves off of the new grass. Steve appreciates sharing this duty with David! The land is beautiful and still has its own late-fall/early-winter surprises to offer. Come out and visit!

**Burnt Wood Report** Samples from five firepits were collected and tested. They include three from the sauna: the boiler, the sauna fire box, and the sauna firepit as well as the Main Camp firepit and the Entertainment Camp firepit which are heavily used. We received the final report today. The sauna fire pit, Main Camp and Entertainment Camp were all within the acceptable reference levels for lead as well as cadmium and chromium. The boiler and the sauna fire box exceeded the acceptable reference levels. The testing agent's report suggested that perhaps this could just as well be the result of metal alloys from the metal boxes as it is from painted wood. It is a reasonable hypothesis as the non-metal contained ash was acceptable. No toxicologist has yet been able to extrapolate the specific hazard of inhaling an undetermined amount of lead residue for an undetermined amount of time. The next big question was whether the lead ash is mobile and leaches into the environment. Leslie requested a second test for this determination. It states that the leachate level is well under the designated safe level. There is no hazardous waste issue at the Fair site. The ash was also tested for cadmium, chromium, and arsenic. High levels of arsenic were found at the Entertainment Camp fire pit as well as the Ritz boiler. However, the interpretation of this is also unclear as arsenic naturally occurs in the soil of Lane County at high levels. Next Steps: the Fair will work with the sauna to clear out all ash from both containers and test a fresh sample from each one after next year's Fair. We will work with the sauna and fair staff to insure a tight protocol for burning well-seasoned, unpainted, untreated wood at all sites.

**Treasurers** Steve Gorham, aka Grumpy, reported that they are working hard with the Budget Committee and Financial Planning.

**President** Jack wished everyone a Happy Solstice, Happy Holidays, and hopes that all are well. Jack continued this month to promote consciousness about the nighttime population issue. He hopes that the work session is so crowded that the Board feels the impact and that a true, heated discussion is had. Even though we may not agree on the solutions, there should be no surprises when folks step on site next Fair.

It is budget time again, and we are facing a million-dollar budget. Jack does not feel proud or glad about this because it just represents more, more, more consumption. We have to begin to learn to do more with less. Consider if we continue the same growth rate for the next ten years. We need to have a deep discussion among all Fair members and Coordinators to understand what we're really all about.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Craft Committee** David H announced that Craft Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6pm at the Fair office. They are currently dealing with the weighty issues of jury placement of esoteric arts, nighttime sales, and camping in the so-called Crafts Lot. The meetings are open.

## OLD BUSINESS

### REVENUE PROJECTION

**Bear moved, and Dr Jim seconded, that the Board accept the Revenue Projection as submitted by the Budget Committee**

*Background:* This is still a conservative projection based upon the following assumptions: Admissions is increased by \$10,000 based upon past attendance records and the estimation that there will be 13/15/13-thousand patrons on Fri/Sat/Sun. Commemorative Sales should increase to \$30,000 this year and strive for \$50,000 over the next several years. Offsite vehicle stickers will be sold for \$10 and the required age to purchase a Teen Pass (\$25) will be lowered to eleven. Wristbanding all youth, age eleven and older will be mandatory.

*Peach Gallery:* Palmer suggested renaming the Teen Pass, the Youth Pass, so there won't be any confusion regarding the minimum age requirement. Grumpy -- at this point, the only way the Fair will have a net profit is if more patrons attend than what was budgeted.

*BoD:* Bear -- to put this in context, the bottom line is \$93,000 which is less than last year's net revenue.

**The motion passed: 8 in favor, 1 opposed (Brad), and 1 abstention (Charles).**

## FIRST NIGHT

**Charlie moved, and David L seconded, that the Board donates \$500 to Eugene's First Night.**

*Peach Gallery:* Steve Remington (Downtown Events Management, Inc.) appreciated the Fair's support of this alternative family celebration for New Year's Eve since its beginning. Leslie noted that this is a sister event to the Fair in many ways and appreciated the community partnership with other non-profits that support First Night. Grumpy -- the Board has spent \$5780 of the \$6000 budgeted for donations. Any donation over \$220 approved tonight will go over budget. Leslie also clarified that the Board donated to HIV Alliance in the beginning of the year. The HIV Alliance item belongs on January's agenda for the 2003 budget.

*BoD:* Bear felt conflicted over the donation items on the agenda tonight. These are worthy causes, the Fair has the money, but there is a systemic problem in the donation process. Many Board members spoke in support of this event and the donation. Bear agreed that Donations would be a good place to over-budget. However, he does not support the prevalent messages in the larger society that demonize the use of inebriating substances.

**The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.**

#### **DONATION – ROSEMARY BROOKSHIER**

**David H moved, and Jim seconded, that the OCF reimburse Rosemary Brookshier up to \$500 for future expenses related to her hazardous products lawsuit upon receipt of a cost estimate or paid receipts.**

*Background:* David said that he raised this item again as other Board members approached him after last month's meeting and said they should have seconded it then. Rosemary Brookshier has been part of the Fair family for many years. She worked as a stained glass artist for over ten years until the powdered compound that she used chemically poisoned her. It contained no statement on the label warning about its toxic properties. Her attorney has agreed to work for a contingency fee, but they do not have the funds to pay for the associated costs and tests. David H said that according to Hilary, it is legal for a non-profit to donate to an "indigent" individual.

*Peach Gallery:* Anna Scott (Energy Park) wondered if Rosemary Brookshier qualifies as an indigent person. Joseph Newton (Recycling) supported the motion as well as increasing the Donation budget to \$10,000. It is a worthy cause. Palmer Parker (Fair Central) considers the Board members to be the caretakers of the event and that one of their important tasks is to give away money. However, although he is sympathetic to Rosemary's situation, he cautioned the Board against donating to individuals. Several others agreed with Palmer.

*BoD:* David L suggested a friendly amendment of purchasing \$500 of Rosemary's artwork in lieu of a donation. It was rejected. There ensued a discussion whether it was right to give to one individual over another and how does one choose which is worthier. Jack -- this feels as if it would affect our mojo; we have come a long way doing what we do without giving one person money to sue another one. LT said he did not have a problem saying there are certain exceptional situations. However, there is no indication that this donation will meet the legal parameters or that it is necessary. He encouraged Rosemary to seek other funding resources. David H responded: He told Rosemary that the Board would be disinclined to donate to an individual, but he raised the issue because she asked him. He helped her switch her Fair craft from stained glass to food as she now has Rosie's Just Desserts. She has been an active booth person for the past 28 years. He encouraged the Board to stop preventing themselves from doing the right thing in the moment because it may set a precedent. Many people in the Fair gain notoriety among the family because they are fabulous, have stage access, or they are the squeaky wheels. But, much of the Fair is built upon the many folk that are unknown to the whole group who quietly give their craft or service.

**The motion failed: 2 in favor (David H & Diane) and 8 opposed (Charles, David L, LT, Charlie, Brad, Jack, Dr Jim, and Bear).**

#### **DONATION – COMMUNITY PUPPET THEATER**

**Jack moved, and Charles seconded, that the Board donates \$500 to Community Puppet Theater.**

*Background:* Norma directs the Community Puppet Theater whose goals are to facilitate the understanding of each other's cultures through the power of puppets. It is a lot of fun and a lot of work. She receives a grant from the Lane Arts Council to work with at risk youth. They are currently working on several plays about Kwaanza, the Posada, and Homeless for the Holidays. The donation would be used to buy material and other necessary items. Norma maintains cultural sensitivity by working closely with representatives from each culture to insure authenticity. Norma displayed several puppets.

*Peach Gallery:* Thumbs up! -- Grumpy is opposed to going over budget.

*BoD:* LT wondered if this could fit into the Culture Jam. Jack appreciated the Mexican pilgrim. We need to be reminded that pilgrims aren't only those that arrived on the Mayflower. Bear said that he could not go home to his girlfriend, a puppeteer, in good conscience if he didn't support the motion!

**The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.**

## EMPLOYEES BONUSES

**Jack moved, and LT seconded, that the Board give a net bonus of \$500 to Leslie Scott (General Manager), \$400 to Steve Wisnovsky (Site Manager), \$300 each to Norma Sax (Administrative Assistant) and Andy Strickland (Caretaker), and \$100 each to Robin Bernardi (temporary Office Assistant) and Jeff Johnson (temporary Caretaker).**

*Peach Gallery:* Thumbs Up!

**The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.**

## SECOND CARETAKER POSITION

Charlie announced that the Board has charged the Personnel Committee to consider the possibilities and implications of creating a second caretaker and/or office assistant position. They are to determine the needs and appropriate action for the Fair.

## VEHICLES OUT OF THE EIGHT

**LT moved, and Charles seconded, that beginning with the 2004 Fair, vehicles will not be allowed in the path and meadow areas during the Fair from 6am Friday until 6am the following Monday.**

*Peach Gallery:* Steve W was glad the implementation date is 2004. He also wondered if this motion also applies to Recycling, Site Trucks, forklifts, and other operational vehicles. Will we identify and develop plans for the exceptions? He cited Nearly Normal as an example of a booth that must leave early in order to reopen their business in Corvallis on Monday morning. LT jumped in -- This motion follows all the current exceptions for Vehicles in the 8 as stated in the Guidelines. Anna applauded the motion and then echoed her support to facilitate those that need facilitation. The car lights and horns blow away the magic too early on Sunday. Jim Ince (Path Rove Security) identified three issues in support of the motion. 1) Safety -- most folks are still in a Fair mind and may not be alert enough to watch out for cars; we're playing roulette. 2) Fair family convenience -- many postpone their Fair shopping until Sunday evening when they know whether they've earned money to spend. 3) A Fair quality experience -- this is his crew's time to finally relax and experience the magic. Operations should keep exceptions to a minimum. Joseph -- We need to change our approach to vehicles in the paths at all times. Vehicles should move through with guides. Palmer opposed the motion. The motion adds more sweat and time to the volunteers and has budget implications. He requested that each one who votes in favor of this motion, volunteer Sunday night and Monday morning to help staff with this issue. The Fair is over; it's time to move on. Joe Newhall (Construction) -- Glow Man (one of his evening identities) needs lights like a fish needs a bicycle! However, there are many different points of view. He supports a compromise. Dennis Todd said that he originally started on the garbage crew years ago. He hated saying the magic's over, go home on Sunday nights. Leslie appreciated that the Board has listened to Operations, which tried to give a realistic picture of the consequences of the motion. They will need until 2004 to implement the motion to work out the intricacies of a pushed back Monday morning departure and Barter Fair simultaneously. The motion has a budgetary impact on crews and resources. She's not opposing the motion, but rather asking folks to be aware of the results. This won't be magic for the many people who will have to work longer when they are already tired. It also pushes back the start of closing down the Fair; it will change the Kitchen, Recycling and DeCon patterns. Randy Nowell (VegManECs) supports developing the human-powered cart trains that can handle the big, heavy objects and thus keeps the combustion engines out all together.

*BoD:* LT said he felt very fortunate to make this motion and he thanked his fellow Board members for allowing him to be the one to do so. We have two precious resources during the event: time and space. He quoted a line from one of PK Dwyer's songs, "Not a moment to lose, not a moment to spare." During the Fair we create our own magical paradigm where we banish the elements that we don't want and welcome those elements that we do want. To a great degree we've banished the auto energy. Recycling crew creates a large enough magical bubble that they seem to surround the big, noisy trucks within and thus, the trucks aren't offensive. He said that nothing is more "genuinely psychically wounding than the first pair of headlights. Charlie acknowledged the budget impact, burn out of hardworking volunteers, impact on the Kitchen, Recycling, and DeCon, and the booths that must leave Sunday night or early Monday morning. He would willingly trade Sunday night for the Barter Fair. Operations allowed only 41 cars in last year on Sunday night. Few of them left Sunday; most were parked overnight. Bear confirmed that the motion extends to combustion engine vehicles as used in Section 31 of the Guidelines. He supports creating more volunteer staff passes to channel people into working positions. The Barter Fair seems to suck away the energy from the Fair experience. Bear volunteered to help implement the motion on Sunday night. He offered a friendly amendment that a written request for an exception (such as moving heavy equipment) would have to be approved by Operations before Sunday night. This would create a real hoop. LT did not accept the friendly amendment. He trusts Operations judgment. Jack -- It's funny how we use the word magic. Magic is harmless, a pleasant illusion. If there were no exceptions, we would not have magic. Jack thinks it is magical that Operations cut the number of vehicles in the eight on Sunday night down to 41 -- and they didn't leave. He thinks Operations has identified the exceptions already. He is not comfortable that this motion is magic. David H is surprised that no booth folks are present to give feedback on this issue. Many events set standards to which all vendors must comply. Maintaining the dark on Sunday night is part of what makes the Fair special. He suggested tabling the motion so that others could add their comments. Charlie thanked Operations for their work to make this possible. Jim also appreciated Operations efforts to reduce the Sunday night impact. He also agreed with Jack with concern about the law of unintended

consequences. Brad is amazed that we're finally at this point to consider the motion. It seemed impossible two years ago. He thanked Operations for their willingness to work out the complex details. He also thanked LT for bringing the motion forward. Jim moved to table the motion, but there was no second.

**The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed.**

The Register OCF Name item was dismissed from the agenda. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 6, 2003, at EWEB, 7pm. The agenda, subject to change, will include the Ken Kesey Memorial Sculpture (Jim) and Graduating Teens (Jack) which were tabled at tonight's meeting. New Business includes: OCF Partnership with New Zone Gallery, Guidelines Changes, Garden Crew, and Endowment Committee Appointment.

A second Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 27, 2003, at Growers Market, 7pm, to approve the 2003 Operating Budget.

Minutes by Jen-Lin