

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 1-27-03

PRESENT: David Helton, Lawrence Taylor aka LT, Charlie Zennache, Jim Sahr (alternate), Brad Lerch, Jack Makarchek, Jim Newhall aka Dr. Jim, Bear Wilner, Marlene Monette (alternate), and Charles Drew (alternate).

NOT: David Liberty and Diane Albino

Candace Reed is substituting for Jen-Lin as Recording Secretary for this meeting (as Jen-lin is proudly attending her daughter Charis' triumphant graduation [and much-deserved celebration thereof] from the CIA [as in Culinary Institute of America---what did you think?]) in Hyde Park, NY.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS BUDGET

Dr Jim moved, and Charlie seconded, that the BOD approve the Board of Directors proposed budget of \$51,500.00.

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

GENERAL MANAGER BUDGET

Bear moved, and Dr. Jim seconded, that the BOD approve the General Manager (GM) budget of \$388,388.00.

David Helton had a comment: in looking at the individual budgets, it's easy to miss the big picture, what he's looking at namely is the extra \$10,000 in wages, which he supports and thinks should pass this year. But, it is a trade-off because it means that that's \$10,000 less to spend on art. We haven't come close to maximizing the potential of the event. With an eye on that kind of tradeoff, if we're spending that much more on labor, he would like to see more done to maximize the potential of volunteerism, particularly volunteers from crews that can help supplement or take some of the load off the employees. He doesn't really see that reflected in the crew budgets. He'd like to see an increase in the passes or the budgets of the crews that support the staff. Hilary suggested tabling the motion until Leslie arrived.

Jim S. moved, and Dr. Jim seconded, to table the motion until Leslie arrived. Bear suggested voluntarily tabling motion by temporarily withdrawing it.

SITE MANAGER BUDGET

Charlie Z. moved, LT seconded, that the BOD approve the Site Manager Budget of \$32,850.

David Helton asked what is being done about the trucks. He remembered that someone said that the trucks are not safe for Recycling Crew to use. Are we fixing the old ones or buying new ones? Steve W. said that we are not buying new ones, but the old ones have new problems. While the vehicle repair budget is being increased, Andy (Caretaker) is carefully going through the vehicles, truck by truck, to bring them up to snuff, by pre-Main Camp. It's what has been done through the years, bandaied them together. If an engine or a transmission needs replacing, we do have the contingency budget. Unless we have another honking big windstorm, the contingency budget should be available. Brad asked if the increase is enough because the request in maintenance is only \$65 over the actual amount spent last year. Jack asked the same question last week. SW: There was a big chunk of last year's vehicle maintenance budget that went into the site truck for an engine repair, over \$900, and last year we had the windstorm which took a fair amount of the contingency budget; he thinks we can get by. Little Hank, a concern, will not be the primary potable water delivery truck this year, it will be used infrequently. We'll be coming up with a second truck. Jack said that this BOD is willing to provide the budget to make sure that the trucks are maintained to standard. Next year the BOD's commitment will be the same. Any past problems with the budget to this point have been with the trucks and the BOD is committed to helping to end the problem by providing what is necessary.

Dr. Jim asked about mosquito control; we seem to be doubling the budget, is there anything else that we should be doing? Steve W. said that he has researched the internet about carbon monoxide traps, but he is still not sure of their effectiveness. He is going to submit a capital projects request for \$850; he has seen one trap that may be good for about \$800. It would live in Main Camp during Main Camp, at Alice's during the Culture Jam, at Main Stage during the picnic and available for other events. Prices on them seem to range from \$500 to over \$1,000. The claims of area control seem to vary, so he is making the request and then will look at which type to get. Dr. Jim said that the most effective means of control is to drain the water, which is not possible in a flood plain. There is also an obligation to the public as it is a public health hazard. Anything that we can do to show the public that we're concerned about this, we should do, even if it's expensive. Marlene commented that Costco had some carbon monoxide traps last year for \$169. Grumpy said we'll look at it for capital projects. Public relations should include that we have doubled the mosquito control budget. Dr. Jim says that the traps should be visible. Steve W. says there are two aspects of the mosquito control problem---first, the volunteers and Fair people and the second, the public perception which we really can't control. If people are going to avoid outdoor events due to a general panic, about all we can say is we're in a wetlands but we're dry in July. Discussion that it can be put in ads as well as stories and press releases, we have fewer mosquitoes than we did in 2002. LT said if the BOD is committed, that's the point. Grumpy asked if \$300 was enough for the BT; does that give us the maximum amount of BT that we should be using? SW: Yes, because we also have some on hand. He also said that he tries to spend frugally because he is aware that dollars spent on site are dollars that we can't give away.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT BUDGET

Charlie Z. moved, Bear seconded, that the BOD approve the Administrative Assistant Budget, in the amount of \$26,750.00. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

MISCELLANEOUS PROPERTY EXPENSES BUDGET

Jack moved, Dr. Jim seconded, that the BOD approve the Miscellaneous Property Expenses Budget in the amount of \$10,000.00. This includes property taxes and other expenses having to do with the properties themselves, all the rentals.
The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Charles D. moved that the BOD approve the Culture Jam Budget but it's suggested that we wait for Leslie who arrived shortly thereafter. She arrived late this evening because she attended a meeting of the Lane County Human Rights Commission, for which she has just been nominated to become a Chairperson (*YAYAY!!*)

CREW BUDGETS

Bear moved, David H. seconded, that the BOD approve the Crew Budget in the amount of \$407,790.00.

Brad commented that there was a budget workshop last week that was over two hours long with much discussion about the budget numbers and that the minutes for this meeting will not reflect how much discussion went into that meeting. This is more than just a rubber stamp. Hilary accordingly stated that there are three new crews being included in the Crew Budget this year, part of the reason for the increase over last year, as discussed at the Land Use workshop. Maybe minutes should be taken at the budget work session and then approved at the end of that meeting, although Brad thought having a week to reflect between the work session and the BOD meeting was good. David H. stated that he favors increasing crews in ways that help supplement the paid employees. People should know that the OCF has tried to make volunteer opportunities available. Thus, it is apparent that they didn't volunteer rather than that the opportunities weren't available. We should also try to solicit and look for volunteers to work outside of fair time so that people can get their passes for working offsite or outside of fair time. They won't get food vouchers, which makes the price almost nil but they will get their camping passes. If we can replace sneakers with someone working for a pass, not only does it cost less, it builds unity and YesYesYes. He is still looking to increase the budget, camping pass numbers, and some of the related expenses. norma wanted to commend everybody, especially crew coordinators, for staying within crew budgets. General acclaim. Charlie Z: If people are being denied passes, let's have the budget reflect that an effort was made to make volunteer positions available, that people didn't take the chance to work for passes. Grumpy is not opposed to designating someone to help organize this, but unless someone is willing to volunteer to be a Volunteer Coordinator (VVC?), it will mean another paid position, maybe just a temporary employee but still a paid employee. He's not prepared to just sell a pass to someone who is not willing to try to work on a crew. Look at people that just show up and volunteer to work in the kitchen every year, there is work to be done; it just takes initiative. Maybe we should have a Volunteer Coordinator, but it's a little late this year. Marlene: More round-the-year volunteers may mean more supervision by the employees, who are already overloaded. Brad: We *will* be cracking down on the paths situation this year; he agrees with David H. about feeling that there has been a wall to year-round volunteers and the credit they deserve. He loves the idea of a Volunteer Coordinator and may be willing to push for it a little more. Jack: The opportunity to walk on and work at the Fair has always been a relatively balanced debate, but it will be different this year because we will be controlling the gates before the Fair. The chance to walk on and work will be cut back. He wants to show that there are avenues (to get passes) but that they will be cut back this year. We don't have a solution yet but we're working on it. LT: Agrees with Grumpy about people taking initiative to find work for a pass. However, some people, especially Fair Family kids, that may live out of state and aren't able to show up much in advance of actual Fair time. Grumpy : It's good to find a way to compensate for year-round volunteer work, we can't do it with food vouchers but it is possible with passes. Dean Morrow: Maybe elders could work on old trucks or such if they knew that they could get a pass for something like that; the word needs to get out---we need computer experts, we need plumbers, we need mechanics; put the word out in the *FFN*. Hilary: People know that they can volunteer to work for passes, but there are some things that can't be done by volunteers. There are some things that it is appropriate to pay for where the same degree of accountability cannot be asked of a volunteer as can be asked of an employee or contracted worker. The right combination of paid people and volunteers would be great.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Bear wanted to point out that Leslie has noted that the revenue projection item as amended has not been approved, whenever it does get brought up. It was discussed last week at work session.

GENERAL MANAGER BUDGET

Bear brought back the GM Budget motion, and Dr. Jim seconded, that BOD approve GM budget of \$388,388.00.

There is some discussion of adding 38 cents to the budget just to make it symmetrical.
The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

CULTURE JAM BUDGET

LT moved, Dr. Jim seconded, that BOD approve Culture Jam (CJ) Budget in amount of \$28,500.

Hilary said we are budgeting for \$8000 worth of fees forgiven(?), which will bring CJ revenue to \$18,000, and expenses to what is reflected in the breakout budget. Leslie: Culture Jam has been awarded a \$7500 grant by the Lovell Foundation (*YAY!*), and that the

City of Eugene is going to give \$4,000 in scholarship money, with some outreach to youth they will scholarship. become the The Culture Jam Committee will have a retreat meeting to set their mission statement, etc. The OCF's commitment is really a rather small amount for a big payback. **The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.**

REVENUE PROJECTION

Bear moved, and Brad seconded, to increase the revenue projection that the BOD agreed with on December (September?) 2d by \$8,000, for a net revenue projection of \$1,014,500.

Hilary: Some of this increased projection is from interest. **Every car will be required to have an affixed (to the windshield) vehicle sticker.** Regarding concerns about the fees, each crew will individually determine the cost allocation of their vehicle stickers. This means that some crews pool their vehicle stickers, which may come from sources that bear different prices, and average out the cost, while some crews charge the original price for each. At bottom, this is an attempt to deal with the problem of too many Fair Family cars on site, that people should be encouraged to carpool and not bring extra cars on site just to have them there. If the cars are going to be brought on site just to be there, they will have to pay for the vehicle sticker. Traffic, Lot Crew and Security will be checking to make sure every car has a sticker. Maybe it isn't fair to charge volunteers, but a user fee is fair because it will help pay for the added expenses of checking for the vehicle stickers. Crews can divide up the number of free stickers (alloted) and charge a percentage for the rest. This really isn't that much of a change because crew coordinators have always had to figure out who got the "free" stickers. Part of this is also an effort to determine exactly who is on site for the event, in an attempt to deal with the overpopulation problem. The fee is actually a progressive way of dealing with the problem.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

All-around general thanks given to all crew coordinators, budget committee members, etc., for all their hard work.

Herein ends my Adventure as the Substitute Recording Secretary,
Candace Reed