

OCF Board of Director's Minutes
SEPTEMBER 2003 MEETING
September 2, 2003

PRESENT: Marlene Showker, Jim Newhall aka Dr Jim, Diane Albino, Charles Drew, Brad Lerch, Lawrence Taylor aka LT, David Helton, Jim Sahr, Jack Makarchek, Charlie Zennache (arrived during General Manager's report)

NOT: Bear Wilner and David Liberty

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting/Board of Directors Election

Fri. 9/11 Last day to register as an OCF member to vote in the 2003 Annual Meeting.

Fri. 9/11 Last day to request absentee ballot

Sat. 10/11 The Annual Meeting will be held at Knights of Pythias Hall, 420 W 12th, Eugene, OR, 6:30pm

Sat. 9/13 Chili Herders will prepare Dragon's Breath Chili at the 3rd Annual Trails End Chili Challenge in Veneta. Their new slogan is "Ain't No Use Braggin' Unless You're Breathin' Like A Dragon!"

Mon. 9/15 The September work session will be held at Alice's from 6:30-9:30pm. The first hour will be dedicated to Employee Evaluations and the remaining time will be spent discussing long term financial planning and budget issues. All are invited.

Sat. 9/20 Andy Strickland (Caretaker) invited Fair family to join the OCF entry in the Eugene Celebration parade. Starting time is 9am. We're #92; meet us on Pearl Street near 13th. Theme is Teddy Bears on Parade. Dress up accordingly or come in your pajamas, bathrobe, and slippers and bring your favorite teddy bear. Help is also needed decorating the entry on the day before, at the in-town office.

Sun. 9/28 The Long Tom Watershed Council will hold its Annual Celebration at the Fair site from 1-4pm. Two walking presentations will be offered, the Indian Creek Enhancement Project, and Riparian Zone Erosion Plantings. All are invited!

Andy put out a general plea for help with site clean up.

Leslie reported Fair family and friends donated \$5210.62, which will be matched by the OCF for a total of \$10,421.24. Actual grant awards will be listed next month.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Jim moved, and Dr Jim seconded, the August 4, 2003, Board minutes be approved.

Peach Gallery: Jen-Lin noted that Jim Guthrie is not a member of Tree Crew, but rather he is a booth person/artisan.

The motion passed: 8 in favor, 1 abstention (Marlene), and 0 opposed.

MEMBER INPUT

Dr Jim — Contributions to the Jill Heiman Vision Fund are down from previous years. This is one area where Fair members can directly affect the OCF's philanthropic program. To those that want the OCF to give away more money, it's time to put your food voucher where your mouth is.

Kay Kintzley (Artisan) thanked everyone involved with Culture Jam. This is the second year her daughter attended and had another fabulous experience!

STAFF & OFFICERS REPORTS

GENERAL MANAGER

It was another full month. Leslie echoed Kay's appreciations for Culture Jam. It was fantastic due to all of the beautiful beings participating: the Fair staff, the improvements to the site, the Culture Jam staff, and all the teens. Everyone had a life-changing experience. Special thanks go to norma, Steve, Andy, and Animal for all of their support on top of their huge workloads. Leslie wished that Robin Bernardi were present to be thanked publicly for all of her amazing work on the Culture Jam. Thank you to Jack who checked in during camp and to Diane, Charles, Dr Jim, and Marlene who attended the open mic performance.

Immediately following Culture Jam was the Teddy Bear Picnic. Leslie cannot thank norma enough for organizing the wonderful event which just happened to be scheduled for the same day as norma's birthday!

Thanks also to Steve, Andy, and Animal for all of their hard work prepping the site for the family picnic.

Thanks to the Election Committee. It is really exciting with 16 candidates running for the Board!

Thanks to Marlene, Howard Galvin, and the Personnel Committee for their work on Employee Evaluations.

Leslie will meet soon with Jan Wellman who is resigning soon as the City Manager of Veneta. He has been a great friend to the OCF and very supportive of facilitating access to the Larson property easement and other issues. She has been paying many bills, although she is researching why the LTD bill is \$3000 higher than budgeted. All of the financial data will be complete by the Annual Meeting.

Thanks also to Oso Harper and Beth Grafe for finishing work on the Cow Palace.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

norma thanked Steve Simmons (Site Crew) and Wally Slocum (Banners) for their fabulous work on the picnic. It wouldn't have happened without you! Thanks also to everyone who responded to her nagging plea for help; the response was great! Thank you to the Election Committee for their hard work organizing the Annual Meeting. The candidate statements, photos, and contact info are published on the web site. (Charlie & Marlene— "It looks great, norma!")

SITE MANAGER

Steve – Fire conditions on site are extreme. Main Stage has been irrigated regularly since the Fair to provide a green space for gatherings (3 weddings and a picnic), but the rest of the site is dry. We've had barely any rain. He and the other site inhabitants keep a vigilant eye for fire and keep the fire trucks ready to go at a moment's notice. It's very scary and he keeps hoping for rain. If this pattern continues over the next years, we'll all have to adopt a high fire consciousness.

We are all collectively responsible for clean up of the common areas! All the crews that use Main Camp ought to help clean it up! It is curious that various crews have heated arguments over their need to access the back of Main Camp and then leave a mess for others to clean. Steve hopes to have all crews that use Main Camp participate in either a pre- or post-Fair clean up next year. There is still deconstruction work to be done in the Kitchen before it is flood-ready. We should be embarrassed by the conditions left behind in Main Camp. One benefit of the new neighborhood camping program is that Steve can contact the camp host for help with specific issues. Steve thanked the Construction Coordinators for their post-Fair survey of booth deconstruction issues.

The Site Office and Steve are in need of a new, used computer, monitor, and printer, preferably a Mac or imac. Lastly, while stating his appreciations last month, Steve regretfully forgot one special thank you to Shane Harvey, (Site Crew Co-Coord) and the rest of Site Crew. These are the folks who put in really hard, physical labor before and after the Fair. Thank you!

TREASURERS — A more complete financial picture will be available after September 30. Hilary hopes the Board members and Fair family attend the financial planning work session on September 15. It's been a long time since the Fair has reviewed its financial policies and priorities and set long term goals. Grumpy projects an approximate excess revenue of \$26,000 based upon \$998,000 in expenses and \$1,040,602 in income. (Charlie – Even 'though attendance was down, it is spectacular that the Fair may yet have excess revenue. This is a testimony to everyone's hard work and stewardship.")

PRESIDENT — Jack – The desire to serve is the most humble form of appreciation. He wants to offer the highest thanks to the sixteen Fair members running for the Board and to those members currently serving on the Board. Some people may think that we tend to say thank you a lot. However, it is appreciation, humility, and sincerity that make most families successful, no matter how adverse the conditions are.

Jack still thinks the cost to put on this event — a million dollars — is too much. If we consider ourselves successful strictly based upon an economic model, then “we’re losing the show.” The Fair could expand its philanthropic gifts if expenses were reduced. This form of service is the highest thank you one can give to the community. He is convinced that attendance is not related to expenses. People come to the Fair because it is a visionary experience. How can we maintain a quality show and do it for \$100,000 less? The payback will be astronomical.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ELECTION COMMITTEE It will be an exciting election with 16 candidates, including two incumbents running for six seats. We know there will be at least four new people on the board. The candidates’ statements, photos, and contact information are included in this issue of the FFN and are also posted on the website at www.oregoncountryfair.org. See the calendar for important dates and deadlines. The Annual Meeting Notice has been mailed and the Election Committee is receiving requests for absentee ballots. The committee will continue to mail absentee ballots for requests received after the deadline, September 11. However, they cannot guarantee that the shortened time lapse will be sufficient. Also, remember, it is the member’s responsibility to notify the Membership Secretary of their name or address change. Members may contact the Election Committee via the Fair office at 541-343-4298 or office@oregoncountryfair.org. Ballots are only available from an Election Committee member.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE The committee is having some temporary difficulty producing material for the Employee Evaluation as some of the documents are stuck inside another members’ computer. They will have all forms available by the work session scheduled for September 15, also at Alice’s. Marlene warned her fellow Board members that it is their duty as the employer to evaluate the staff. No excuse will be accepted for shirking this responsibility. Brad echoed Marlene’s warnings, if only because he is tired of serving (vegan) cheese and crackers with this whine! Just kidding... Seriously, there is no good excuse not to be present at the evaluation.

OLD BUSINESS

BUDGET ISSUES – SAWMILL PROJECT

Charlie moved, and LT seconded that the Board transfer up to \$1000 remaining from the bridge to the sawmill project. This was later amended to the Board approve up to \$1000 for the sawmill project.

Peach Gallery: Steve W noted that there may not be \$1000 left in the bridge line item after the remaining bills are paid. Hilary wondered if Charlie wanted to authorize an additional \$1000 to the sawmill line item in the capital projects budget.

BoD: Jack supported the motion saying the lumber is a perishable commodity. Charlie amended the motion. He added that having the bridge built from our site’s trees is very magical. Don Doolin also appreciated that the metal brackets from the old bridge were re-used too. Dr Jim enjoyed watching everyone who worked so hard to build the new bridge. However, he cautioned that it is time to begin saving for a new bridge. This one will also rot even ‘though it may be covered during winters’ rains, because floods will damage it from below. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

DONATION TO KRVM

Jim moved, and Dr Jim seconded, that the Board donate \$300 to the Friends of KRVM. This was later amended to \$500 to KRVM for the Benefest.

BoD & Peach Gallery: Jim and Dr Jim accepted Marlene’s request that the motion be amended to \$500. This would include the Fair as a sponsor of the Benefest. He also accepted David’s request that the recipient be changed to KRVM’s Benefest rather than the Friends of KRVM that have yet to obtain 501(c)3 status. David also requested the amount be increased to the \$1000, Blues Sponsor. Jim declined. At this level, the Fair’s name would be included in advertising and an OCF banner would hang at the stage. He would like to have the Fair publicly support KRVM. He supports the high contribution level because “music saved his life.” KRVM provides vital opportunities for students to learn radio broadcasting. It is also one of the few stations where one can hear independent artists. The small, community institutions are eroding away for lack of funding. Tim

(Friend of KRVM and Fair member) said the station no longer receives funding from 4J School District or OPB. They have been cut from five employees to two and a half. The posters have already gone to the printer, but the Fair's name and logo could be published in subsequent ads. Leslie advised the Board to increase the donation level because they believe in the cause, not to buy publicity. She doesn't want the Fair to be another big corporate sponsor. She doesn't think that is a positive image. Hilary supported the motion in order to protect community stations and their ability to play independent artists. Anna Scott agreed with Leslie. She also advocated that the Fair underwrite KRVM and other stations. Brad supported the measure at the \$500 level. There are many community media organizations the Fair should support. All are in need. LT – People ought to be terrified at the consolidation of the control of electronic media. Marlene supports KRVM and this motion. Her son learned to DJ at KRVM while in middle school. It is a valuable community asset. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Note: Bear requested, via e-mail, that his item, "Appoint Kitchen Coordinator" be taken off the agenda and that his second item, "Alliance with Other Festivals, Events, and Venues Opposed to the Rave Act be tabled.

The next Board meeting will be held on October 6, 2003, at EWEB, at 7pm. The agenda, subject to change, may include the above-tabled item and the following new business: Appoint Craft Committee Member, Donations to Community Puppet Theater and the Holocaust Memorial Project, Site Manager Sabbatical Proposal.

Minutes by Jen-Lin