

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday June 27, 2004, 5pm, outdoors on site at Alice's Wonderland

PRESENT: Diane Albino, Katie Cousins, Lara Howe, Brad Lerch, Jack Makarchek, Marlene Monette (alternate), Jim Newhall, Greg Rikhoff, Anna Scott, Lawrence Taylor (alternate), Bear Wilner.

NOT: Michael Mielnik

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joshua Binas from the Oregon Historical Society thanked the Fair for allowing him a pass and access to Fair family. He is organizing a collection of sound recordings and oral histories for the Society and has been pleasantly overwhelmed by the generous response of participants willing to share their spoken history of Fair stories. He has been working with Susie Prozanski of the History Booth where people can go to learn more about the program and to sign a release if they want their stories to be part of the museum collection. He had some procedural questions and was referred to Leslie to work out the operation details.

Jen-lin Hodgden (Feedback Coordinator) said candidate statements for the OCF board election are due August 16 and that the Fair is a good time to talk about the election and encourage people to run and to vote. If you're not yet a voting member, you can sign up online or by filling out the form in the Fair Family News.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bear moved and Katie seconded that the minutes of the June 4th board meeting be approved.

Barbara said there was one correction to make, that the projected expense total for Ice Crew should read \$40 higher, from \$14,795 as reported to \$14,835. Bear accepted the correction as a friendly amendment.

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

MEMBER INPUT

Bear Wilner (Main Camp) said he was speaking as one of the camping coordinators and talked about how we've been changing the way we track and affect our camping impact on the land. He has noticed fewer tents in crucial areas and believes we're on the right track.

Barbara Edmonds (Recording Secretary) gave the board a follow-up on her e-mail report to them about donations to start-up organizations. Her report had stated that there was only one donation to a start-up organization in the past year and that was to the Holocaust Memorial Project which had financial trouble and folded. Two of its original three founding members joined with others and formed another 501c3 organization called Visions for the 21st Century, or "Visions 21" for short. She expected to receive a brochure from the new organization in early or mid-June but as of this meeting she had not received the brochure and was still waiting for a response to her recent phone and e-mail messages to the organization.

Anna Scott (Energy Park) urged everyone at the meeting to be at the Kesey Stage in Energy Park for the Friday noon "Walking Our Talk" panel discussion on Renewable Power Production at OCF.

Steve Gorham aka "Grumpy" (Co-Treasurer), sitting under the trees with his laptop, said he liked being outdoors on the Internet thanks to Clif Cox.

Steve Wisnovsky (Site Manager) wanted to mention that since April all power onsite has been 100% green option from EPUD. He also encouraged people to attend the talk Anna mentioned and said we should still conserve and learn more and invest in our future.

Brad Lerch (Fair Family News) likes meeting in a circle and said we should do it more often.

Jamie O'Brien (Pre-Fair Kitchen Co-coordinator) thanked everyone who helped the kitchen get running so quickly after the fire. He said the equipment is a joy and the entire kitchen crew is appreciative of all the hard work that so many people did for them.

Lara Howe (Recycling Crew Co-coordinator) said her favorite thing is the difference we all make, that even standing in a coffee line talking to a stranger can make a difference, that we've all felt it in a hundred different ways. She said we should all continue to do the thing we do, create the magic, and make the difference. She loves us all. She also reported that she got a phone call from Dena Neman (Pony Rides) who wanted to report to the Board that the Pony Rides would not be at this year's Fair. She felt she did not have enough time to make the change in location work for her this year and was disappointed because she feels there are not enough activities geared for young children. The Pony Rides will be back at the Fair next year.

Etienne Smith aka "Auntie Em" (Pre-Post Security) says we need to put the "country" back in the Country Fair. She wants more activities for the kids and says we need to show these city kids how to play.

Joseph Newton (Recycling Crew) said that sometimes change happens that we don't like, for instance when we lose trees in a wind storm. But he said fewer trees mean more sunshine and that's good for the undergrowth. It's all perspective, it's part of our evolution.

Jen-lin Hodgden (Feedback Coordinator) said there are a lot more people on site now that she doesn't know and she has noticed people averting their eyes from one another. She said even if we're busy and can't stop to talk, that we at least need to smile or have a twinkle in our eyes. She reminded us that if we lose that eye to eye or eye to heart contact that we've lost everything.

Diane Albino (Community Village) said that as a mother and grandmother she will miss the Pony Rides and feels we need more for the 3 and 4-year-olds.

Greg Rikhoff (Admissions Coordinator) thanked the Fair family for all the love and support he and his wife received through their daughter Taylor's recent heart surgery. Taylor is doing great.

STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager: Leslie said she's not going to list everyone who has been working so hard because she would have to list so many people. This is a time for us to all love each other, thank each other, and be real with each other. She said it's been a difficult year for many reasons, sometimes she wonders if we're channeling Washington DC. For every hard story like the Pony Rides, there are a whole set of great stories. Changes in the Fair are a complicated process. She thanked the Board for their faith in operations and for being so great to work with, and said that Jack has been a guiding light. She gave special thanks to her co-workers, her crew, the BUMs and swimmer, for all their excellent work. She said so many people work so hard and don't get recognized. There's a lot of behind-the-scenes facilitation with so many people giving a helping hand. She said the Kitchen Crew has been great and she thanked Hilary for all her research ("Who knew there was so much to learn about Hobart mixers?"). The harder it gets the more she appreciates all everyone does. The true "coin of our realm" is not food vouchers but social capital. The budget is under control, there are no cash flow problems.

She set up a capital account for fire related expenses. A little over \$5,000 has been spent, of which a little more than half was on the rental chairs and the rest on kitchen stoves. The good news is that 2 out of 4 of the big ticket items for the kitchen (the "bacon shack" stove and the pizza oven) were basically free except for minor repair, and lots of great work from welders and Tommy. QM Carl negotiated for the free pizza oven, and the other stove was salvaged from the fire.

Crisis Intervention trainings and Emergency and Incident Response trainings have been going great and have been pretty well-attended. She and Steve W. worked out a one-year easement arrangement with the city of Veneta. The Peach Pit looks great. She said that Strawberry Lane will turn into a People's Park with internationally known painter Francisco Letelier doing a mural on "cultural memory".

There have been lots of capital improvement projects on new places and structures. The new Rabbit Hole spoken word venue is a one-of-a-kind creation. She added that Phoenix Rising, a non-profit booth, gave a gift of \$1,000 to the Fair specifying that it be used for The Rabbit Hole. She encouraged everyone present to stop and thank them for their generosity.

She liked Jen-lin's comment about encouraging twinkles in our eyes. She said there is beauty everywhere and mentioned a glorious game of black light croquet at Alice's one night. "It's great to be out here."

Administrative Assistant: norma said she didn't have much to add, that the office is busy seven days a week. She thanked everybody and said everybody is great, the Office Crew, Main Camp, Construction, QM, Kitchen Crew, absolutely everybody. She loves being here. She also mentioned it was a privilege for her to attend a ceremony honoring Marshall Landman and she wanted everyone to know that Marshall's headstone has a peach on it.

Site Manager: Steve W. says ditto to norma and ditto to Jen-lin. He said the days are busy but that whatever we do we are building community. He said twinkles are great and hugs are great too. He also wanted to thank all the folks Leslie thanked. He said everyone is doing lots of difficult work and that it will continue all week. He said we have a huge impact on the land and that we should tread lightly, that it is our responsibility to mitigate our impact on the land as much as possible. He said it's an honor and privilege to be here.

Co-Treasurers: Steve G. (aka Grumpy) said that this year from both a financial and material standpoint has been "the year of accountability". He said the Fair is all of us and we should all be accountable. He said if he or Hilary ask for a receipt, that it's not about a lack of trust, that it's about making sure the systems are in place to be responsible. Save your receipts, get them in. He also said part of accountability is using our day passes wisely. If we have friends who otherwise couldn't afford to come to the Fair, it's great to share our passes with them; but if we have friends who can afford the Fair, let them pay full ticket price. Talk up the Fair, talk to your co-workers, all kinds of people have a great time at the Fair. Let's get attendance up, that's part of accountability too.

Hilary added that part of accountability is system integrity so we can communicate well with each other. She urged everyone with spending authority to be very conscious of their spending and said it's not until about a month after the Fair that we really know where we stand.

President: Jack said he was very angry last night, that we have to be smart, when it comes to "policy violations" that we need to be diligent and we need to understand the liabilities that are out there, and they are out there. And as for the "good stuff" he said he got to fly in an ultra-light yesterday over the Fair site, that it was magnificent. He thought about notions of perspective and felt great emotion and gratitude about what our collective spirit has accomplished. "The Poplar seedlings, planted as part of the land swap with Veneta for their sewage system, are becoming a young forest, a green oasis and the stand of firs at Alice's are safe. I am happy. This is the here and now. What we do is extremely important and courageous. At the same time, as I looked out into the horizon, it seemed insular and much still needs to be done not only for our event, but for our vision of the future, and how important what, and how we do it, is. It seems no less of a struggle now than 35 years ago. We are growing and it is very humbling." He thanked Leslie and the entire management team and all the coordinators who do so much. He thanked the treasurers for their honesty and foresight and said that kind of integrity is so significant. He said our young are taking over and it's an interesting dynamic. They are picking up our less insightful ways as well as our knowledge and our wisdom, and that it's an amazing thing to see them coming full circle. It's very healthy, our touch should be light, even whimsical, they are our future. He mentioned that Artis stopped by earlier tonight and that our thoughts go to him. He also hopes that every year at the meeting right before the Fair we take time to remember those who have passed before us and to hold them in our hearts. He said "I love you guys."

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee reports this month.

OLD BUSINESS

KRVM FAIR BROADCASTS

Greg moved and Lawrence seconded that KRVM be allowed to broadcast from OCF stages where permissible.

Background: Grumpy introduced Chris Calise from KRVM who has been working with the Fair to make this possible. They will broadcast from some of the Fair's smaller stages. The arrangement has been approved by KLCC who does the Main Stage broadcast. Grumpy thinks that KRVM will enhance the Fair's experience and the community's experience. He said the "t's" are crossed and the "i's" are dotted and he recommends approving the motion.

Peach Gallery: Joseph Newton said "welcome to the Family".

Board: Bear recommends a yes vote and said we can feel proud to partner with KRVM. Lawrence said KRVM is a valuable educational and cultural resource. Lara has a KRVM bumper sticker on her car. Brad said that for a community our size Eugene is blessed to have both KLCC and KRVM. He also said KRVM works with high school students to train them for radio work.

The motion passed: 10 in favor, 0 opposed.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Lara moved and Bear seconded that Cathy Coulson-Keegan be appointed to the Elections Committee.

There was no discussion.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

CHANGE BYLAWS TO INCLUDE ELDERS

Lawrence moved and Brad seconded that we amend Article V Section 2 of the Bylaws in the section titled “Eligibility and Admission” to read as follows: “Any individual who subscribes to the purposes and basic policies of the Fair, who is registered with the Fair and who has participated in one of the two previous years as a recognized and verified volunteer, worker, performer, booth participant, or elder may be deemed a member provided that they abide by the terms and conditions of these Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation and any amendments thereto, and act in accordance with the decisions made by the Board of Directors.”

Peach Gallery: thumbs up.

Board: Lawrence said the addition of the two underlined phrases are the changes that were made. Bear encouraged a yes vote and said people shouldn't lose membership by becoming an elder. Jim said it's great to have an Elders Crew now. He's been working on this as long as he has been on the board and it's one of his proudest accomplishments. This last detail was just an oversight in wording. Anna said she has been asked if Elders are required to do anything after they become Elders and she doesn't have an answer to that question. Membership is not a “one size fits all” kind of thing and she would like to see the Board discuss this question at a work session. Brad said it's been a long process and what a long strange trip it's been. He's not on the Elders Committee anymore but said it was awesome to see how it's grown and how it works. It's Fair process and it's happening.

The motion passed: 10 in favor, 0 opposed.

TEMPORAL LODGE PROPOSAL

Lara moved that the Board accept Ray Hessel's proposal for a Temporal Lodge during Main Camp. No one seconded the motion.

Marlene suggested we allow Ray to speak on the background of his idea and perhaps someone would then second the motion. Ray Hessel (Main Camp Kitchen) said he has been with the Fair since 1991 and he would like to see a “temporal lodge” somewhere on site during Pre-Fair time. It could be a mosquito-free place to look at the stars, relax, have meetings, yoga classes, discussions, etc. He had a two-page written proposal but not all the members had seen a copy. He will make more copies and distribute them to the Board later.

Bear said he's not really sure this is a Board issue; it doesn't deal with policy or budget matters but also doesn't fall neatly into any category. It may become too much of an operational issue at a time when, in the weeks before the Fair, this is really a work site. He also said he thinks we do a pretty good job of making our own fun and is not sure we need a more formal availability of structured community activities. He thinks it's a beautiful idea, he's just sharing his personal reaction at this time.

The motion died for lack of a second but Marlene said Lara can bring it up again in August or later after the Board has time to read and think about Ray's written proposal.

SET DATE FOR SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

It was decided that since the first Monday in September falls on Labor Day, that the board meeting will be held on Monday, September 13th at 7pm on site at Alice's Wonderland.

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday August 2nd 2004 at 7pm at EWEB. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Consider Appointments to Elders Committee, Wow Hall

Proposal, Internet Committee, Discuss Formation of Health Insurance Committee, Appoint Archaeology Coordinator, Appoint Grievance Administrator.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks William Shakespeare for the following quote: “How shall we beguile the lazy time if not with some delight?”.