

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday August 2, 2004, 7pm, EWEB Community Room

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

NOT: Marlene Monette (alternate)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bear made two announcements. The date of the next board meeting is Monday September 13 at 7pm at Alice's Wonderland. Applications are still being accepted for Grievance Administrator. Folks interested in the position should send a letter to the Fair office by Friday September 3rd.

norma said the Teddy Bears Picnic is August 14 at 3pm.

Michael said he will not film tonight's meeting because he left his equipment in the other car so "if you want to say something that will close the Fair, tonight's the night to say it."

Jen-lin Hodgden (Feedback Coordinator) said candidate statements (300-word limit) and photos are due August 16, last day to register to vote in the OCF election is September 16, and the OCF Annual Meeting/General Election is October 16. If you want to add something to the agenda for the Annual Meeting, speak with Jack. The first Harvest Party will be held on Sunday, September 19, at Alice's Wonderland from 10am to 5pm. Come help make apple cider and grape juice (if the grapes are ready!) We'll save half for Main Camp and the rest will go home with those present. Bring clean, dry, quart to gallon size glass jars with the interrupted screw top (the thread on the neck is broken, not continuous) lids for canning or plastic jars for freezing at home. For more info, contact Jen-Lin or Anne Morris via e-mail at the Fair office.

Leslie encouraged attendance at the Path Planning meeting on August 15 at the Dragon Plaza and invited everyone to be part of the Fair's entry in the Eugene Celebration Parade on September 18. This year's theme is peace! See announcement on page 2 for more details.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jim moved and Lara seconded that the minutes of the June 27th board meeting be approved. The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 abstention (Michael).

MEMBER INPUT

Patty Lomont (Neighbor Liaison) is resigning and she has been training Michelle Miller and Galen Carpenter to continue working in conjunction with the Neighborhood Response Team to foster good relations with our Veneta neighbors.

John Stamp (Tree Crew) talked about what a busy year it was for them. He encouraged everyone to help with important work onsite at a Fall Work Party on September 25-26.

Joseph Newton (Recycling) said they had a big problem this year with a small minority of people who made a huge impact on the system. The problem is at the end of the Fair; it's Us, the Fair family, who is creating the problem. Everybody in the family should feel empowered to speak up and to educate others about how we recycle. "We need to show the world what we mean by respect for the land. Go for No Waste!"

Neil Friedman (Booth #207) said he saw a lot of rude behavior this year and wants to encourage family to read and follow our own Guidelines. He said when White Bird goes by with a cart they are polite and say "excuse me" but when crew members or food workers go by with a cart they scream "cart coming through - get out of my way!" The paying public are our guests and it is rude to treat them this way. He has even seen little children act "cute" by bullying their way through a crowd yelling "cart coming through". He said "It ain't cute!"

John Flanery (Community Village) talked about overpopulation of both campers and vehicles and offered suggestions for those problems including considering new categories and prices for SOP's and non-

essential vehicles.

Howard Galvin said he's heard a lot of great suggestions tonight but hasn't heard anyone say it was a great Fair! (Applause!)

Sara Rich (Back-Up Manager) offered her appreciation for all the hard work done by post-Fair crews. She encouraged folks to let the crews know how much we appreciate all their efforts.

Sherry Fisher (Café Lafayette) said she heard lots of stories this year about new rules. She heard that cars would no longer be allowed on the paths at all and expressed concern because they have heavy equipment like stoves, etc. She wanted to know if the story was true or just a crazy rumor. Leslie assured her the story is not true.

Lara said that at 3pm on Monday after the Fair the Recycling Crew stopped for lunch and when they returned they found a pile of garbage bags "like Mt. Vesuvius". She said it was almost as if someone had been waiting for them to leave so they could dump their stuff. "Hours and hours of work had been undone by a few lazy people." She won't have the final figures until next month but warned that "it's not looking good". She stressed that it will take the cooperation of the entire Family to help educate those of us who don't follow the rules. "If you see someone dumping a garbage bag, you tell them that's not how we do things. You tell them we recycle. You tell them this is who we are, this is what we stand for, this is how we live."

Greg said thanks to great cooperation from the Barter Fair folk the new rules there went very smoothly. He also referred to Brad's comment last month about liking the circular formation of that meeting. He wants to do that again.

STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager: Leslie said this is a poignant time, the Fair is over for another year. It's really important to take this time to thank everyone, to appreciate what it takes to pull this off, and to reflect on what we've accomplished. She said she worked harder than ever before and "just about everyone worked harder and longer than they ever have before, because that's what it took." Artists and construction people created a world-class venue with the astonishing Rabbit Hole; the Front Porch was dynamic and amazing; the public was very impressed and responsive. "This was the most beautiful content-rich Fair I've ever experienced." Tree Crew, Site Crew, and Veg-Man-Ecs were absolutely breathtaking regarding how much work they accomplished.

The new process for Barter Fair went very smoothly as did the first Sunday night with No-Cars-in-the-8. Great cooperation from everyone. We had positive and meaningful media coverage pre-Fair; some unhappy post-Fair commentary but "we're working on it." Attendance this year was 42,801 (that number includes 1,854 three-day tickets). That's up 1,515 from last year's attendance of 41,286.

If we had met our attendance goals, we wouldn't have had enough room to park all the public. We had too many cars of our own onsite. During the Fair, "there are now more of us than of the paying public". We can't accept any more public until we deal with our cars. Operations will be bringing growth issues to the Board all year. Yesterday was the annual Evaluation Meeting. We had six workshops and notes will be available later. One was called "the costs of growth" and that will be a primary focus for us this year. She said "it's huge, it's bulging at the seams, and we need to address the size of the now week-long 24/7 population. Neither more people to take care of too many people nor more money to throw at too much expense are the answer."

Thanks to Patty and Beth for all their work as Neighborhood Liaisons and for training Michelle and Galen. It's very important work that they do. Our relationship with our neighbors is "key not just to our success but to our survival."

The Eugene Celebration is coming up and she and Andy are figuring out how to include part of the mural by Francisco Letelier on this year's float.

Culture Jam starts this Friday. We have 46 young people attending, and 40 of them requested scholarships. Last year 50% of the participants requested scholarships. She invited donations to the scholarship fund and thanked the City of Eugene for providing ten scholarships. Someone passed a hat for the fund and Leslie announced later in the meeting that the hat-passing generated \$401.

Administrative Assistant: norma thanked everyone for a wonderful Fair. She invited folks to come to the Picnic on August 14 and to join the grill team. She thanked everyone who participated in the Evaluation Meeting and will compile a report as soon as she receives all the notes taken. She will be gone for two weeks

starting August 16 for a “vacation honeymoon birthday celebration”. The office will be staffed by Robin Bernardi and Office Crew volunteers

Site Manager: Steve W. echoed Leslie’s thanks to everyone and said it was a busy, good Fair. He voiced appreciation for the work of the neighborhood liaisons. He and Andy live there so they especially appreciate good relations with the Fair’s neighbors. The Fair has lots of friends in Veneta now. “I didn’t make it over to Ray’s during the Fair this year but I heard all the employees there were wearing tie-dyed shirts.” He thanked all of Tree Crew, Site Crew, and Veg-Man-Ecs but particularly AndyMan, Shane Harvey, and Jeff “Animal” Johnson who “go all the way and then some.”

Every year it gets more “heartbreaking to see our impact on the land”. There are still booths, crew, and camps who have left behind refrigerators, carpet, etc and we are past the clean-up date. Chickadee Gate is open 9am to 9pm every day and, other than Main Stage, all paths are vehicle accessible to facilitate clean-up. We need to find ways to reach those in our Family who do not show respect for the land. It’s dry and dusty, and fire danger is high. Please be careful if you’re on site.

Co-Treasurers: Hilary said receipts are still coming in and it takes a couple months before figures are final. She said income from admissions came close to projected revenue. Stay tuned for a complete report at the Annual Meeting in October.

President: Jack spoke on the topic of growth and said “We are 4 generations strong; we created an Elders Policy that is in its infancy and there will be no clichés or easy answers in this next year to lighten the burden.” There were 15,000 wristbands this year, that number includes the teen bands but not the kid bands. Anyone who feels they have the right to sneak someone in is “disrespecting the efforts of the people who are participating in the original vision of providing an alternative, an alternative for our children. The vision was to present an alternative to the mass culture and I think we’re doing that.” He said no one should feel entitled to take advantage and treat this like a party. It is “a good time, a celebration of life, but it’s so much more than that.” He asked if folks had been watching the convention coverage and said “in my mind the anti-war movement is dead.” We have to be careful with how we deal with this dynamic in front of us. With the Board that we have and the potential board we will have, with the staff that we have, the “vision is real, it’s as real in my eyes as it was in 1969.” He stressed the need for caution. Forty percent is being paid for by our multiple generations. We need to accomplish this in an “earth-friendly sustainable way”. If we can’t agree to make that happen amongst ourselves it’s “like listening to the Democratic Convention”. It slips that quickly, one minute you have your hands wrapped around something that is so real. “And now the only thing I can see when I’m walking down the paths is what I’m not seeing. And what I’m not seeing is Pepsi or Budweiser signs.” He said our growth means “options may be out of our reach.” The price of real estate around the site is not negotiable. He said “I’m going to while there’s still breath make people realize the enormity, how big the potential of this. We put a big burden on ourselves and we tend to focus most of that burden on a small group and that’s how I’ll end this is by thanking all who stand up and don’t just take the easy answer.”

COMMITTEE REPORTS GOTV PROJECT

Kate Newhall (GOTV Project) said they registered 881 new voters during the Fair and collected over 6,000 pledges to vote. They are now working on data entry and will be sending out friendly Fair reminders to vote. She said they had a lot of fun and they enjoyed good collaboration with other voting groups such as the Oregon Bus Project and the New Voters Project. They even got a thank you note from someone in the Kerry campaign who heard about their work registering new voters.

OLD BUSINESS

WOW HALL PROPOSAL

Lara moved and Lawrence seconded to allow our treasurers to lend up to \$30,000 to WOW Hall for the purchase of the parking lot behind it and take back the appropriate form of security interest in

return.

Background: David Helton (Registration) said he was appointed by Wow Hall to their “ad hoc back lot” committee. He spoke to the history of this proposal. WOW Hall has about \$50,000 in the bank toward the purchase price but may need to act quickly when the city sets a price which could be in the range of \$50,000 to \$80,000. Having the guarantee of the loan would give WOW Hall the assurance that they will not miss an opportunity to make the purchase because of too little time to complete their fund-raising.

Peach Gallery: General thumbs up. Hilary suggested that the motion be worded to approve the loan with the terms and conditions we’ve discussed with WOW Hall and set forth in their letter of May 19th. Bear offered that as a friendly amendment which was accepted by Lara and Lawrence. The terms include a 5-year payment plan with interest of 3%, WOW Hall pays for an appraisal and a clean title report, and no other liens on the lot will be allowed.

Vic Parkinson (Pre-Post Security) asked if it had been considered whether to just buy the parking lot ourselves and then sell it back or rent it to WOW Hall. Bear said “In a word, no.” Joseph thanked our treasurers for the care they take in protecting our resources and said this motion is about our community helping each other. Andy said WOW Hall was formed about the same time as the OCF and they are like a sister organization to us.

Board: All the board members spoke in favor of the motion with comments ranging from Katie saying “This is a wise and intelligent use of our funds and it strengthens our bond with WOW Hall” to Diane’s comment “My mom taught dancing there in the ‘50’s.” Everyone laughed when Brad pointed out the irony of passing a motion to help WOW Hall buy a parking lot after learning about our own problem this year with too many vehicles. Lara said Wow Hall is a magical place and she has full faith in our treasurers that they will look out for this money and put the appropriate measures in place. Michael said he supports the motion even though he feels WOW Hall has become more inaccessible to entertainers. Jack said “Woodsmen of the World.... it’s good.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

INTERNET COMMITTEE

Brad moved and Michael seconded that the Board create an OCF Internet Committee. The charge of the committee would be to research uses of the internet and appropriate technology to facilitate the exchange of information within the OCF membership, with the goal of increasing communication and ultimately OCF membership participation. The committee shall report back to the Board with options, costs, and risks.

Background: Brad introduced this motion at the May meeting and invited comments and letters of interest from Fair family. He has heard from six people who are interested in serving on such a committee. Letters of interest are still being accepted and committee members will be appointed at the September board meeting.

Peach Gallery: Andy said this is a complex issue and it’s high time to have a committee. He said we spend too much time at some meetings with no information and getting nowhere. David Helton (Registration) said it’s an issue whose time has come. John Stamp (Tree Crew) said it’s a “no lose proposition” to have a committee. Leslie said she would like to see the committee’s mission clarified, and also how the committee would interface with the office.

Board: Bear suggested we keep applications open for another month if the motion passes. Michael is in favor of the motion and would like to be on the committee. He is interested in the Fair becoming more accessible to its membership. He said if it ever gets to the point of having online meetings “the Fair would save \$175.50/month on my gas mileage.” Lara spoke against the motion saying she was enjoying feeling comfortable because the camera is off, but later said she would support the motion because she realized this was about gathering information, not about specific goals such as online meetings. Several other board members spoke supporting the research focus of the committee but also noting a dislike for the idea of online meetings. Lara said she didn’t even like the tables between the board and the membership and the thought of a camera between all of us would just distance us further. Jack said this is about the future, that we need to be up to date, that we have “an infinite amount of potential.” Brad said he chose open-ended wording in the motion because he wants the committee to be free to explore all kinds of internet-related questions. He did not propose the committee in order to get online meetings, he proposed the committee to research ways to increase

communication among our Family. He said “I don’t know the answers, I don’t even know the questions, that’s why I want a group of people to look at the situation.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

APPOINT ARCHAEOLOGY COORDINATOR

Bear moved and Lara seconded that DJ Rogers be appointed the new Archaeology Coordinator.

Background: Virgil Courtright resigned as the Archaeology Coordinator and recommended Donnell J. “DJ” Rogers as his replacement. DJ was invited to join Archaeology Crew 5 years ago, but participated there for several years prior to that as a working SO. He participated in Archaeology Park projects and demonstrations and assisted in the set up of the Archaeology Park Information Display.

Peach Gallery: Leslie thanked Virgil for all his work with Archaeology Crew and for bringing archaeology to Culture Jam.

Board: Lawrence, Jim, and Anna all voiced support for appointing DJ.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 9pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, September 13th 2004 at 7pm at Alice’s Wonderland. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Consider Appointments to Elders Committee, Discuss Formation of Health Insurance Committee, Appoint Grievance Administrator, as well as the following New Business: Consider Donation to Wayne Morse Historical Park, Revisit Caretaker II Position (Bear), Tree Crew, Charitable Start-Up Donations Guidelines (Michael), Continue GOTV Funding, Appoint External Security Co-coordinator, Land Conservation Easement, Appoint Internet Committee Members.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Lewis Carroll for the following quote: “Sometimes I have believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.”