

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday September 13, 2004, 7pm, Cow Palace at Alice's Wonderland

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

NOT: Jim Newhall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lara made two announcements, one about Recycling and one about Craft Committee. Brent Reindel is resigning as Recycling Co-coordinator due to family responsibilities, and she thanked him for all his wonderful hard work. This year's Fair generated an increase of 4.33 tons of garbage more than the '03 Fair. Most of the increase was due to Fair Family who produced more waste in the two days post-Fair than all the waste that was produced in the three days of the event itself. Black plastic bags filled with unsorted contaminated recyclables were the biggest problem. The Craft Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm at the Fair office. The topics of discussion at the last meeting were: the sale of imported/factory made crafts, retiring and ailing crafters, and a report from the Craft Inventory Coordinators outlining their concerns and their request for Board direction.

John Burgess aka Chewie (VegManEc Co-coordinator) suggested training camp hosts in recycling procedure; Bear said this is already being done.

Lawrence said the last day to register to vote in the November federal election is Oct. 12th.

Steve G. aka Grumpy announced his plans for a 1-2 year project to "computerize the Fair". He'll be talking with coordinators and others to get ideas and suggestions about how computers can help with different aspects of Fair responsibilities.

Michael announced plans for a "Big Show" in Seattle on Oct. 30th that will include movies, a circus tent, big tricks. Cost is \$15, but free for any Fair Family who make the drive from Eugene for the event. Details at www.chumleigh.com.

Greg said the old Criterion Gallery at 35 W. 8th will become a shared storefront called "The Human Rights Center" during the Eugene Celebration. Four groups will share the space: Eugene Human Rights Commission, CALC, the Lane County Human Rights Advisory Committee, and the Eugene Police Commission. He invited everyone to visit and view the exhibit which will be open through the First Friday Art Walk on October 1st. Hours will be irregular; you can check by calling the Eugene HRC at 682-5177.

Andy and norma said volunteers are needed to help with this weekend's Eugene Celebration plans. norma passed around a sign-up sheet for folks who want to work in the OCF booth, and Andy invited participation in the Fair's parade entry.

Barbara Edmonds (Recording Secretary) completed her report that the Board requested on donations to start-up organizations. Since May '03 the Board made one donation to a start-up organization and that was \$500 to the Holocaust Memorial Project which had financial trouble, re-grouped itself and became a 501(c)3 organization called "Visions for the 21st Century" or "Visions 21" for short. Upon recent completion of their new brochures, the group mailed enough copies so norma could include one in each board member's packet and several more copies which Barbara made available to the Peach Gallery. The group sponsored their first events over the Sept. 11-12 weekend at Cosmic Pizza and at the Campbell Senior Center. If the Board requires further information about the organization's business dealings, Barbara requested that someone else do the research.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Barbara said she omitted an announcement from the June 7th meeting that Colleen Bell resigned as Co-coordinator of Wristband Crew. She will be working instead at Main Camp but wanted to thank the Fair for trusting her and for making things fun. Leslie thanked the fabulous Colleen for all the work she did and continues to do.

Lara wanted to clarify her remark from the June 27th minutes about Dena Neman and the Pony Rides. Lara wanted it understood that the reason Dena's business was not at the Fair this year was due to many variables, mostly having to do with Mother Nature and a need on the Fair's part to make the new area work, not on Dena's

Greg moved and Bear seconded that the minutes of the August 2nd board meeting be approved.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

MEMBER INPUT

Kay Kintzley (Booth L86) said the site looks beautiful, including the "clean and organized" house at Alice's. She also said they had room for two new crafters at their booth this year but that she had a hard time reaching many of the crafters on the Wait/Share list because of old or disconnected phone numbers.

Chewie brought a complaint to the Board about a specific individual who allegedly did a horrendous job of over-cutting, and of overstepping his bounds and ignoring Steve W's direction. Chewie said this resulted in damage that will be visible for years.

Joseph Newton (Recycling) reminded the Board about the Fair's commitment to renewable energy and urged they deal with that issue during the coming year.

Jen-lin said her son "came home light and fluid" from Culture Jam and thanked everyone for his experience.

Bear said there will be a joint meeting of the Financial Planning and the Budget committees on Wed. Oct. 6th, time and place still to be determined. The meeting is open to all interested Fair Family. The agenda is to set the revenue projection for the 2005 Fair and to begin the second year of our two-year budget cycle. Contact anyone on either committee for details.

Brad wants the Financial Planning Committee and the Budget Committee as well as all Fair family to keep in mind that making the revenue projection (which is the first step of the budget cycle) is often where fee increases get proposed. He wanted to give everyone a "general heads-up to watch the revenue projection and the whole budget cycle" because we don't want to repeat the problem of "having people feeling left out of the decision-making process."

Grumpy said the time to start thinking about budget requests is now.

STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager: Leslie thanked everyone involved with Culture Jam for again making it an incredible event which enacted "meaningful change in the lives of 45 teens and 23 staff". She thanked Diane for coming to Open Mic night and hoped that more of the Board would be able to attend next year. She thanked Andyman, Jeff, and Steve for all their extra work in making sure Culture Jam happens. And a big thank you to Beth for the incredibly beautiful side panels she made for the Cow Palace. A huge thanks to norma for all her work on the picnic, as well as the many wonderful volunteers and Steve and Andy again. She thanked everyone who has been coming to Path Planning meetings and encouraged more people to attend. The more people get involved "the more people understand the big picture of all that is involved with the Fair." Path Planning will continue work on designing a new kid's area, finding a new home for the pony rides, and keeping a commitment to the relocated Strawberry Lane folks to enhance foot traffic in their area. She hoped to have the incident summary completed but she is still waiting for some BUM reports and feedback from White Bird; it will be completed before the October meeting. The Fair received 100% of the insured value of the storage building from the insurance company for the fire, which was \$30,000, and this should cover all of the contents losses we've replaced. Both the kitchen and fire crews ended up with much improved equipment. Childcare and Culture Jam also received many donations to replace what was lost. The apartment above the town office was rented to a nice new couple. She and Steve are continuing the process of securing a long-term easement across what is now City of Veneta land from Territorial Highway to the Ballfield on the Far Side. She's also spent a lot of time this month reconciling budgets and bank accounts in preparation for the Annual Meeting, and organizing the booth for the Eugene Celebration. The Jill Heiman Vision Fund count is not quite complete, but to date has received

over \$7,000 in donations, so with the Fair's matching grant we will be giving away at minimum more than \$14,000 this year.

Administrative Assistant: norma thanked Leslie and Robin for all their work on Culture Jam and thanked Robin again as well as Office Crew members Chad, Miho, and Janie for keeping the office together "while I sunned myself in Hawaii." Thank you to Picnic helpers, especially Wally who is "so amazing" and his helpers Rebecca Harris and Anita Sweeten, and to Steve Simmons for organizing the BBQ which "gets better every year" and Bob Fenessey for booking the music. The Picnic came in under budget, and a big thank you is due to everyone who donated picnic items to replace those lost in the fire. Thank you to the Elections Committee who have been working on the Annual Meeting. Election information is now on the OCF website.

Site Manager: Steve W. said every weekend starting Sept. 25th until flood time they will be having work parties out on site to finish the clean-up process. He invited everyone to come on out and help. There are piles of wood debris and construction leftovers everywhere, and site staff try to have all the "floaters" picked up by November 1st. They've started spreading soil and grass seed in areas needing rehabilitation and "hopefully Front Porch and Rabbit Hole will be green grass next Spring." Site staff are also preparing for a Fall construction project adding a shed roof to the east side of the Cow Palace for more storage space. If the Board approves the budget in October, "we'll have a barn-raising work party onsite the weekend of the Annual Meeting (Oct. 16-17). Come on out, we'll need volunteers." He also said the Elmira Cross-Country team is once again practicing on site and "it's great to see local folk experiencing and enjoying the site."

Co-Treasurers: Hilary said a complete report will be made at the Annual Meeting on Oct. 16th and said that if someone wants specific information about an issue to be available at that time they should make a request to either her or Steve soon. Grumpy passed out spread sheets with information which compares actual revenues from previous years to the 2004 revenue projections and proposed budgets. He talked about what the different columns indicated and explained how to "read" the information, why proposed and actual figures differed in some cases, and why he thinks the Fair "did pretty good over all. The bottom line is we're gonna make money this year, and it comes from everybody doing such a good job of saving money."

President: Jack thanked everyone involved with Culture Jam and talked about the "real lasting impact" it has on the lives of the participants. He said our "quality of content" really comes together here. He also said we need to focus this year on an objective discussion of growth. He hopes everyone will "embrace this discussion because we have big issues of population in front of us...elders...young people...fresh blood...it's a big issue. It's nice to be looking at these issues after a financially successful Fair, even with the fire. But everyone needs to be looking at what the population numbers are that we can successfully support. The Board will need to look at the situation as a 5-year projection. I'll be eligible to be an Elder in five years. I'm not even sure what that means to me, but I know we need to be very careful here." He thanked everyone for the Picnic and for the Get Out the Vote campaign. He said we have a difficult federal election ahead of us and we need to get out the word to everyone to vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LAND CONSERVATION EASEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE

Anna said the committee met and drafted questions which Leslie then gave to the Fair's land use attorney. After hearing from the attorney, the committee will have a motion for the board at a later time. She also announced that there will be a LUMP meeting (Land Use Management Planning) at the OCF office on Tuesday September 21st at 7pm and invited everyone to attend and get involved.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Jen-lin announced there are seven candidates for six board positions: alphabetically by first name they are Bear Wilner-Nugent, Brad Lerch, Deane Morrow, Diane Albino, Jack Makarchek, Joseph Newton, and Marlene Monette. The election and Annual Meeting will be held on October 16th at 6:30 pm at Knights of Pythius Hall. The last day to register to vote in the OCF election is Sept. 16th, absentee ballots will be mailed on

Sept. 16th, and the last day to request an absentee ballot is October 2nd. The election will also include a vote on a proposal to fund alternative energy sources as well as voting on a category for next year's Jill Heiman Vision Fund recipients. Deane Morrow asked if teens are eligible to vote in the election for OCF Board of Directors. Three people gave varying answers to his question. (*Secretary's Note: We are past the deadline for anyone, teen or otherwise, to register to vote in this year's Board election. In the coming year, opinions and advice will be collected from the Elections Committee, the By-laws Committee, the Fair's lawyer, and the Board to determine how to answer this question.*)

OLD BUSINESS

DONATION TO OREGON BIONEERS YOUTH PROGRAM

Brad moved and Michael seconded that the Fair donate \$500 to the Oregon Bioneers Youth Program.

Background: It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved during the Agenda Review to move this proposal from New Business to Old Business so it could be decided tonight because we had two people, Jenny Boyce and Sherisa Aguirre, from the Bioneers Program in attendance at the meeting. Part of the organization's mission statement is "to include the caring hearts and creative minds of youth in the dynamic work of healing the environmental, political and cultural concerns of our time." The money will go to Bridging Worlds Northwest for expenses related to youth participation in the Oregon Bioneers Conference to be held October 15-17 at Lane Community College. More information can be obtained from websites at www.bioneers.org and www.bridgingworldsnw.org.

Peach Gallery: Leslie spoke to the effectiveness of this organization and urged support. Grumpy asked if it is a 501(c)3 organization, and yes it is.

Board: Michael, Greg, and Brad all spoke in favor of the proposal, with Brad highlighting local ties and benefits to Northwest youth as an important factor in his support.

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Katie).

APPOINTMENT TO ELDERS COMMITTEE

Diane moved and Katie seconded that the Board appoint Roger Lesiak as a member of the Elders Committee.

Peach Gallery: Deane Morrow (Crafter) said he is a friend of Roger's and that Roger has been coming to the meetings and would like to be a member.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

APPOINT GRIEVANCE ADMINISTRATOR

Bear moved and Lawrence seconded that Cynthia Fraser be appointed the new Grievance Administrator, replacing Howard Galvin.

Peach Gallery: Howard said this position should come with a camping pass. He never needed one because he got his through Security. Beth Grafe (Construction) said Cynthia has done a great job on Construction Crew for many years and they will be happy to continue giving her a pass.

Board: Katie said Cynthia is an amazing person "professional, intelligent, and level-headed" and the Fair is really lucky to have her step forward to this position. Jack said Cynthia is a dear friend of his and "we're damn lucky." Howard was thanked by many for his contributions and got a standing ovation and rousing applause.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

APPOINT EXTERNAL SECURITY CO-COORDINATORS

Marlene moved and Bear seconded that Howard Galvin and Ong Kar Walen be appointed as External Security Co-coordinators, replacing Michael James Long and Don Doolin.

Background: Don encouraged people to retire when appropriate. Michael said there should be no problem with transition and he's not going anywhere. He said after more than 20 years of service to the Fair it is gratifying to feel that you're still needed. He said there's a lot of fear out there, that everybody is afraid of getting older and losing power. "What's been easy for Don and me is that we've never really been concerned

with power. We've just tried to facilitate things." They both spoke to the excellent qualifications of their replacements.

Peach Gallery: Leslie welcomed Howard and Ong Kar but got very emotional talking about how long she's been working with Don and Mike and how much she appreciates and loves them for all their dedication to the Fair and their support. Chewie said all four of those guys are incredible and that Don is responsible for him being part of the Fair.

Board: Greg said it's a rare individual who can make it all the way out to Maple Gate and that every year Don was out there. Brad and Marlene both thanked the outgoing and welcomed the incoming. Lawrence said the more he knows Don the more he appreciates him and that Michael is "thoughtful, respectful, and reasoned." Jack has a long professional relationship with all of them. "I remember when you didn't have to give a list to get t-shirts to get your crew on security. That's how far back it goes with Michael. And Don, as the years went on, it was a mutual trust that grew. So thank you."

Another standing ovation and rousing applause, this time for Don and Michael.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

APPOINT INTERNET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Brad moved and Greg seconded that the following eight people be appointed to the Internet Committee: Christopher Cohn, Alan Cohn, Paxton Hoag, Michael Mielnik, Deane Morrow, Joseph Newton, Peggy Sue Robart, and Jon Steinhart.

Background: Brad said these eight people have expressed interest in serving on the committee since he introduced the idea several months ago.

Peach Gallery: norma inquired about the charge of the committee and Brad read the original motion that was passed at last month's meeting: "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." Deane said they've been using Paxton's computer but it's seen better days. He wanted to know if this is a good time to ask the Board for a new computer. Brad said "I wouldn't". (Laughter). Grumpy said it is a good time to be thinking about requests though.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

CONTINUE GOTV FUNDING

Marlene moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board provide \$3,214 to continue funding the GOTV Project.

Background: Project Coordinator Kate Newhall spoke to the importance of the upcoming federal election and stressed that "we should make sure our own Family is participating." She passed out a form with information on the GOTV post-Fair budget projection showing how postage and printing costs compose the budget request.

Peach Gallery: Grumpy asked Kate if she had any idea how many people will vote because of the Fair's campaign and was wondering how much it costs per vote. Kate said the "industry standard is \$1.50 per vote." She said their follow-up research will give them a better gauge of success and she will report back to the Board later. Leslie said Kate is doing a great job on this project and suggested allocating the funds from the unspent portion of the '04 GOTV budget. Joseph said "Go for it, there's no time more critical for people to vote."

Board: Lawrence said he is proud of the Fair and of Kate and the committee for what they are doing, that it is definitely crucial work.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

INCREASE SITE MANAGER'S BUDGET

Bear moved and Lawrence seconded that the board allocate an additional \$2,000 to the site manager's budget to hire temporary help with the clean-up process including putting the site to bed for the year.

Peach Gallery: Steve said even if lots of volunteers come every weekend, that he and Andy still need much more help. Joseph said he thinks there is more work left this year than ever before. Deane said some booths still have refrigerators left behind.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, October 4th 2004 at 7pm at EWEB. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Discuss Formation of Health Insurance Committee, Conservation Easement Proposal (Anna), Charitable Start-Up Donations Guidelines (Michael) as well as the following New Business: Budget Issues, Revenue Projection, Endowment Contribution (Bear), EEP Donation Request (Anna), and Recycling Co-coordinator (Lara). The Donation to Wayne Morse Historical Park was withdrawn for lack of a sponsor. Lara withdrew her motion on Tree Crew and Bear withdrew his motion to Revisit the Caretaker II Position.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks William Blake for the following quote: "If the doors of perception were cleansed, everything would appear as it is - infinite."