

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday November 1, 2004, 7pm, EWEB Community Room

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marlene reminded the Board that employee evaluations are due Nov. 5th at 5pm. Greg reminded those present to vote tomorrow and Brad said to “visualize a landslide.” Jack said “we got the Swanson property” and the Peach Gallery burst into applause. Lara said there was a good turn-out at the Biodegradable/Durables meeting on Oct. 26th and invited more participation at their next meeting at the Fair office on Nov. 16th at 6:30pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jim moved and Katie seconded that the minutes of the October 4th board meeting be approved. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

MEMBER INPUT

Jen-lin Hodgden (Feedback Coordinator) thanked Beth and Alegria for helping with her daughter’s wedding and said it’s “nice to know you’ve got back-up and extended community in our Family.” She thanked the onsite staff for helping with last month’s cider pressing party. Eight people got together and pressed 32 gallons of juice, some of which goes to Main Camp. She asked people to save gallon jars with lids for next year and said she would “get out the word earlier next year and we’ll press even more.”

Vicki Estrada (community member) requested a donation to the Save Madison Meadow fund. She asked that the donation request be added to next month’s agenda but that she be allowed to speak on its behalf tonight because she is unavailable next month. A group of neighbors in the Friendly area formed a 501(c)3 organization with the goal of raising money to purchase two acres of land at 22nd and Madison to preserve it as open space. They have an option to purchase and have until Dec. 31 to keep the land from being developed. Joseph Newton (Recycling) encouraged people to make donations and spread the word because it’s important to preserve open space.

Meredith Snodgrass (Fair Family News) asked for an explanation of the “secretive process” around the purchase of the Swanson property and wanted to know why it couldn’t be discussed at last month’s meeting. Jack said the Property Acquisition Team doesn’t want to be outbid and that it is normal business practice to not release details until a deal is settled. Lawrence said it’s “not in the Fair’s fiduciary interests for word to get out on details while negotiations are ongoing.”

Lara Howe (Recycling) is worried about the sale of imports at the Fair and said she is “really concerned that it is threatening our special marketplace. It is so clearly stated in our guidelines, section 67 paragraphs 3 and 5, that we don’t support imports. We’re not following our own policy.” She encouraged crafters and others to act individually and ask our Fair neighbors and friends who are violating this policy to please restrict their sales to the Barter Fair.

Jim Sahr (Crafter) asked the Secretary to include the language of the guidelines in the minutes.

(Secretary’s Note: From section 67, paragraph 3: “All crafts sold at the Fair must be hand-crafted, handmade, homegrown, hand-gathered, or significantly altered by the person(s) who had that craft approved by the OCF. The craft must be made, displayed and sold by the craftsperson who juried that craft. If the approved craftsperson cannot be present at the Fair, their crafts may not be displayed.” From paragraph 5: “Sale of unapproved crafts is not allowed. Imported or manufactured items are explicitly prohibited.”

STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager: Leslie said there are lots of people to thank, first to Heidi and the Election Committee for a process with “high integrity” and also to everyone who participated in the Board Retreat for their weekend of “input and focus.” She thanked members of Personnel Committee for their participation and Back-up Managers for their point of view on operations. Norma did a great job of organizing both venues, “one place to sleep and another place for us to meet and eat.” Thanks to Kay, Dick, Palmer, Candace and Kenny for all their work in the kitchen, allowing the rest of us to “really focus on the tasks at hand.”

Leslie was asked to join a county committee called the Lane Cultural Coalition. At first she “hesitated to join another committee” but she supports its connection to the Oregon Cultural Trust and feels it is beneficial for the Fair to be affiliated with the work they do. She has been in an e-mail conversation with the Executive Director of the Rex Foundation which was “first funded by the Grateful Dead and has now become a full-blown foundation.” Their last newsletter was called “Community Engagement: Radical Optimism and Intentional Community” and the OCF is on the cover of the current issue entitled “Perspectives on Positive Culture.” The newsletter is free. Contact them at www.rexfoundation.org.

She said they had a really good meeting on durables and compostables and she thanked Lara for her leadership on that and thanked all the food committee members and food booth reps who attended. She thanked Steve W. for his extra work onsite with meetings about the Swanson property and the work of assessing the land and the buildings, and Gary Nolan, Robert DeSpain, and Dennis Todd for their work in the environmental assessment of the Swanson land.

She thanked Andy for “the most fantastic and astonishing” sculpture at the Mt. Pisgah Mushroom Festival. He always “does the work on his own time and with his own money but he always enters in the name of the Fair.” Andy’s Snake Goddess creation won “Best of Show” and they had to stop the Fair from winning in every category!

She said there won’t be a poster contest this year, partly because of the resignation of Camille Cole who resigned as chair of the Poster Committee and who Leslie thanked for her “years and years of wonderful leadership in that role.”

Administrative Assistant: Norma thanked the Election Committee and also thanked Leslie, Steve, and Dennis for their slide show at the Annual Meeting. She thanked everyone who helped with the Board Retreat and appreciated the new members who “jumped right in.” She also thanked Baby Josie for “providing the weekend entertainment.” She has been working on the new contact sheets and committee lists and is now able to do them in pdf format so it will save on paper and postage. The endowment process has started and she’ll put guidelines for that on the website when she gets all the information.

Caretaker: Andy thanked Nicodemus, Heidi, Drea, Hilary, and Mark for their help creating the Snake Goddess sculpture, Animal for helping load it up on the site truck, and Tommy and Doc for piloting its delivery to the Mushroom Festival. He said it will live at Mt. Pisgah for about nine months and we’ll all see it at next year’s Fair.

Site Manager: Steve W. said the pilot cars surrounding the sculpture’s delivery truck should have had banners saying “Weird Load” instead of “Wide Load.” He thanked the Property Acquisition Team for “keeping their eyes on the prize” on the Swanson acquisition. He expressed gratitude for the hard work and persistence the Fair received from Tom Alexander, Russell Poppe, Dennis Todd, Charlie Zennache, Leslie, Jack, and Brad. Also a big thanks to Robert DeSpain, Gary Nolan, Jim Stephens, and Dennis Todd for helping with site assessment on the Swanson property. He said that so far they’ve found nothing obvious that would cause them to change their minds about buying the property, but soil and water testing will be completed. He thanked Howard McCartney and Randy Nowell for their work in planning a successful highway pick-up day, Jen-lin for her harvest work which “really helps to bring the garden full-circle,” and Andy and Animal for their hard work getting the site cleaned up and ready for winter floods. He said “the site is getting real wet and soft, there’s a bounty of mushrooms and critters, come on out and enjoy this beautiful season.”

Co-Treasurers: Steve G. (aka Grumpy) said the budget process has begun for the coming year and budget packets have been mailed out to Crew Coordinators. He invited participation at the Budget Committee meetings on Mondays November 8, 15, and 29 at 6pm at the Fair office. There will also be a full-day meeting at Leslie’s house on Dec. 5 but he regards that as a “clean-up day” and wants requests brought to one of the

Monday meetings rather than waiting until Dec. 5. He said there will be a coordinators potluck to discuss budget issues on Sat. Jan. 22, time and place TBA. He also said there will be two Board meetings in January, the regular one on the first Monday, Jan. 3 at the EWEB Community Room and a special budget one on Monday, Jan. 24 at Central Presbyterian Church. Capital projects requests are due by Jan. 31 at the latest but “please don’t wait until the last minute.” If you have a capital project request, say “how much you need and what the money is for, be as specific as you can. Don’t just tell us you want a bunch of money for some cool stuff.”

President: Jack thanked Jim for his “steady hand” and for getting behind Culture Jam. He said at the Board Retreat we created a steering committee to “put us on a vision quest” and that “we’re trying not to use the words strategic planning or mission statement.” There will be multiple ways to provide input including FFN and e-mail and he asks the Family for “broad participation.” The Fair has many issues which require creative planning, so “pull up all the positive thoughts you have inside yourself and participate in the process.”

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LAND CONSERVATION EASEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE

Anna said the consensus of the committee is to recommend that the Board have further research done on co-holding a land conservation easement for protection of riparian areas along the banks of the Long Tom River. They suggest the Board consider the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as a potential co-holder. She said that is the end of their report and announced the “sunset” of the ad hoc committee. She thanked Lawrence, Katie, Hilary, and Shaun McCrea for “digesting all the information and getting this recommendation to the Board.”

ELECTION COMMITTEE

Heidi Doscher submitted an election report but was unable to attend the meeting. She asked that the election results be read and the appropriate people thanked. Five candidates were elected to two-year terms: Diane Albino, Brad Lerch, Jack Makarchek, Marlene Monette, and Bear Wilner-Nugent. Joseph Newton was elected to a two-year alternate position and Deane Morrow was elected to a one-year alternate position. The Energy Conservation Proposal passed with 475 yes votes. A total of 539 votes were cast (451 absentee and 88 at the meeting). She thanked committee members Jen-lin Hodgden, Merrill Levine, Cathy Coulson-Keegan, and Barbara Edmonds for all their work in preparing for the election and also thanked the other ballot counters John Flanery, Randy Nowell, Andy Strickland, Vic Parkinson, David Hoffman, Robert Gillespie, Lacy Gloe, Dick Stewart, norma sax, Katie Cousins, Heidi Branchesi, Gretchen Dubie, Karen Hill, Elizabeth Rose, Ken Williams, Gregory Howard, and Jon Pincus who took their responsibility seriously and were happily kept awake with a variety of tempting munchies provided by Jen-lin.

VISION QUEST AD HOC STEERING COMMITTEE

Beth Grafe (Construction) said she wanted to just “make a quickie report because Jack already said some of what we wanted to say.” They just had their first meeting and it was basically organizational, focusing on how they will manage their internal process and how they will reach out to the whole Fair Family. Dedee Wilner-Nugent (Pre-Fair Kitchen) and Beth will co-chair and Greg will facilitate their meetings. Their first focus is to find out what questions need to be answered. She said “you’ll be hearing more from us and we’ll want to hear from you.” She asked Board members to do their homework and draft sample mission statements and get them to norma for publication in the November FFN. The statements will be used as a “jumping off point” for inviting comment and input. Leslie also spoke, saying the steering committee is not about formulating the vision quest; but rather it is an ad hoc committee appointed by the Board to develop the process for how to solicit broad input for the plan itself.

OLD BUSINESS

AFFIRM ELECTION RESULTS

Jim moved and Greg seconded that the Board affirm the results of the election held on October 16th.

Board: Bear bid a fond farewell to outgoing board member Jim Newhall and a hearty welcome to new board members Joseph Newton and Deane Morrow. Jim said it's "been a pleasure and a lot of fun" and he feels he's leaving the Board "in good shape."

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed. *Secretary's Note: Jim stepped down and Joseph and Deane took seats at the table.*

APPOINT OFFICERS

Lara moved and Lawrence seconded that the new Board appoint the following officers: Jack Makarchek as President, Hilary Anthony and Steve Gorham as Co-Treasurers, Heidi Doscher as Membership Secretary, and Barbara Edmonds as Recording Secretary.

Peach Gallery: Leslie said we should take the time to really thank our officers, and named them all and thanked them. She said she couldn't do her job without the treasurers and she appreciates them every day, and the high standards, values, and tone they bring to the job. Hilary said it is "a privilege and an honor." Grumpy admitted he thought about quitting for a while but he "got a second wind." Jim Sahr said he's glad Grumpy decided to stay and that he's proud to have Jack as our President. He also thanked Heidi for running a smooth election and for updating the membership files. Charles Drew (ex-Board member) thanked Barbara and said he always reads the minutes. He fondly remembers "minutes by sax" and "minutes by Jen-lin" and now enjoys the quotes at the end of the minutes.

Board: Lara said "bless everybody."

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

DONATION TO SKIPPING STONES

Bear moved and Lara seconded that the Board donate \$500 to Skipping Stones Magazine.

Background: Skipping Stones is an "award-winning multi-cultural magazine dedicated to peace, justice, stewardship of the planet, and creative expression through the arts." Editor Arun Toke said last year they used the Fair's donation to provide gift subscriptions to 27 schools. This year they request a donation to be used toward their newest project, preparing an Educator's Packet for promoting September 11th as an annual Day of Intercultural, Interfaith, and International Dialogue.

Peach Gallery: Thumbs up.

Board: Greg said "it's the work we do, it's tremendous that we can help." Lara and Marlene both commented that their children have been positively influenced by this publication. Deane said he is in favor of the motion and he appreciates hearing what the group did with the money they got from the Fair last year.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

DONATION TO LANE ESD MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Joseph moved and Katie seconded that the Board donate \$500 to the Lane ESD Migrant Education Program.

Background: Guadalupe Moreno spoke on behalf of the organization and requested a donation to help support their Sixth Annual Lane County Latino Family Conference which will be held on Sat. Nov. 13 at Springfield Middle School. About 300 families are expected to attend to learn more about important topics such as nutrition, child development, parent involvement in children's education, and bi-cultural issues.

Peach Gallery: Leslie said access to education is a basic human right and this is a "wonderful opportunity for the Fair to be able to contribute to a program which has proven to be very successful."

Board: Greg said this deals with core issues of communication and access which are "essential for kids to succeed and thrive." Joseph said this supports diversity and helps Latino families to grow and be part of our community. Jack said being able to give to organizations like this is "why I do what I do for the Fair."

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

DONATION TO WHITEAKER THANKSGIVING DINNER

Jack moved and Lara seconded that the Board donate \$1,000 to the Whiteaker Thanksgiving Dinner.

Peach Gallery: Grumpy said if we approve this, we'll still have \$2250 left in the 2004 donations budget. He said we "may not be able to afford \$1,000 every year but we can do it this year." He also said he thinks "we've supported this group longer than any other." Randy Nowell (VegManEc) said "go for it."

Board: Anna encouraged people to volunteer to help with the Dinner. She said money is great but they "also love our volunteers." Greg supports the motion but is wary of organizations that exist for holiday purposes only. He said to "remember there is hunger all year; let's volunteer and walk our talk, not just give money."

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

ACCEPT REVENUE PROJECTION

Bear moved and Katie seconded that the Board accept the Revenue Projection which the Financial Planning Committee and the Budget Committee have presented to the Board.

Peach Gallery: Grumpy said the projected revenue for the 2005 Fair is \$1,110,000. The projected revenue for this year's Fair was \$1,095,000 and we exceeded it by \$135,000. He and Leslie then talked for a while about just a few of many different problems, ideas, and suggestions which arose during group financial discussions. The 2005 projection includes revenue from expected sales of 13,000 tickets each on Friday and Sunday and 15,000 tickets on Saturday. There's a chance TicketsWest will raise their charge this year; Grumpy said they've "held the line with us for a long time." That cost would have to be passed on to our patrons. He said revenue came in this year from the new Ice Crew and thanked Louise Dillman for doing a great job on that. Another new source of revenue was from Barter Fair which also went smoothly. He said they "only had one negative person, pretty good for a new program involving fee collection." He also said our attendance didn't decline, but we "want it to increase so tell everyone you know to come." Leslie said we may not repeat the 3-day ticket sales, and that we only sold about 2,000 of them this year. She talked about a "real dilemma" we're in with LTD. Their prices are escalating and they suggested we just charge a "transportation tax" but Leslie said no matter what we call it "we can't charge for the bus or our ridership will really drop off." Paid parking helps subsidize the free bus but "our parking lot is already too full of our own cars." Ideas include the possibility of private buses, off-site parking for Family with shuttles from Elmira or Veneta, and impound lots to increase revenue and deal with problem parkers. Grumpy said booth fees are not increasing for 2005, but theoretically "looking to the future, that may happen again because the Fair is still relatively inexpensive compared to other venues." Hilary wanted to add a quick comment in regards to raising fees. She said they "take the philosophy of raising fees gradually to keep up with outside inflation and internal costs; and constantly consider what our needs are while trying to keep costs down." Beth Grafe thanked the committees for all their work. She said it's "a hard job, they do it very well and are remarkably accurate."

Board: Anna asked if the Fair had ever applied for a grant from the Oregon Dept. of Energy to help with bus costs. Leslie answered no but said it's a good idea and the Fair needs to think about what group of people has "the time and expertise to research and write these kinds of grants. Perhaps this should become part of what Financial Planning does in the future." Jack said he "just wanted to put it out there that he thinks it would be a mistake to not use LTD." Brad asked about ridership. Leslie said about one-third of our ticket-holders ride the bus. Some take the bus downtown and leave for the Fair from there, but those who drive to the bus tend to park their cars at Valley River Center and ride from there. Brad said "even though it's unpopular" he supports the idea of Family parking pass increases "because there are still way too many of our own cars." Joseph said "ditto on Family parking fees and impound fees" and said he thinks most people understand we have to deal with this issue. He also thanked the treasurers for taking "a conservative approach so our surprises are usually pleasant ones." Bear said it's "always a great experience to work with the Budget Committee." He said it's an "open process" and he encouraged people to "bring ideas to the process early and help collaborate." He said he agrees with Brad and Joseph about "the need for asking our Family to pay for parking the same as our patrons." He said we need to be environmentally responsible. He asked for any other comments and called on Al Joseph (Main Camp Security Coordinator) who said "we're volunteers and you're asking us to pay to be a volunteer. To me, that's just wrong." Leslie said we want to find alternatives and said we need a group to write grant proposals.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

APPOINT NEIGHBORHOOD RESPONSE TEAM CO-COORDINATOR

Greg moved and Marlene seconded that the Board appoint Michael Connelly as Co-coordinator of the Neighborhood Response Team.

Background: Martha Evans resigned with “mixed emotions” and said in her letter to the Board that since moving to Seattle she feels it’s too difficult to fulfill coordinator responsibilities. She has been co-coordinator with Shannon McCarthy for two years, and this year Michael Connelly trained to replace Martha. She said the crew discussed this at the 2004 Fair and that they support Shannon and Michael too.

Peach Gallery: Leslie said they’ve done wonderful work, but she is sad that Martha resigned and thanked her for her “extraordinary leadership of a crew that does a huge amount of work building community relations for the Fair. This is the only crew that works off-site all during the Fair.” norma will miss Martha and said that Michael has been with the Fair for many years in several capacities and is a “great asset to the Neighborhood Response Team.” Steve W. said because of this crew there are “benefits for year-round cooperation with our neighbors” and “it’s a great feeling out there now.”

Board: Joseph said Michael impressed him as wise. Jack expressed his gratitude to Martha.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

CONSOLIDATE SIGNS AND BANNERS CREW

Bear moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board consolidate two crews into the new Signs and Banners Crew.

Peach Gallery: Leslie said Signs was “imbedded in Main Camp for years” and that it is a huge job and “the demand has grown enormously.” With the need for “soft signage” another crew formed to make banners. For “functional reasons, we’re asking that the two groups become one crew.” Andy said it’s “high time they were recognized as a crew” and “they do world-class work.” Grumpy said even the required ODOT signs for the highway have a Fair flair to them.

Board: Brad loves our signs and hears lots of people saying cool things about them. They are “individual works of art.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

APPOINT SIGNS AND BANNERS CREW CO-COORDINATORS

Bear moved and Greg seconded that the Board appoint Rebecca Bradvica and Jud Landis as Co-coordinators of Signs and Banners Crew.

Peach Gallery: Leslie said our banners are “so wonderful and artful” and we could “probably make a lot of money selling our Yes Yes Yes banners.” She said Wally Slocum (Signs and Banners Crew) will still be on the crew but won’t be coordinating the work on banners any more. She thanked him for his years of total dedication and hard work. Grumpy said that Wally “always had a budget but never spent it; he contributed his own money as well as so much of his time.” He also said he saw a video of the 1980 Fair and “there was Wally working on banners.” Palmer Parker (Communication Crew) said he used to think Wally was crazy for spending his vacation working at the Fair, but now he’s just as crazy as Wally. Charles Drew led applause for the new coordinators.

Board: Greg said he’s glad Andy used the phrase “world-class” because it’s so true. He said for some people the signs and banners are the first thing they see and experience about the Fair and he appreciates that they are done with “such love and such magic”. Deane said they’re art and “maybe when they wear out instead of recycling them we could sell them as commemoratives”. Someone said we should sell them as “Fairlooms.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, December 6th 2004 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following New Business: Renew Membership in WOW Hall; Consider Donations to Madison Meadow and Nearby Nature; Planned Giving Policy (Bear); Appoint Internet Committee Member (Deane); Conservation Policy (Marlene); Employee Bonuses (Bear); Temporal Lodge Proposal (pending board sponsorship); Coordination of Donation Requests (Anna); Appoint Board Committee Liaisons (Marlene); Step Table Revisions (Brad); Offering Requested Guidance to Personnel Committee Regarding Staffing Needs (Katie). Leslie requested that Open New Bank Account be dropped from the agenda.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks James M. Barrie for the following quote: “When the first baby laughed for the first time, its laugh broke into a thousand pieces, and they all went skipping about, and that was the beginning of fairies.”

