

## OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday January 24, 2005, 7pm, Central Presbyterian Church

**PRESENT:** Diane Albino, Katie Cousins, Lara Howe, Brad Lerch, Jack Makarchek, Marlene Monette, Deane Mc (alternate), Joseph Newton (alternate), Greg Rikhoff, Anna Scott, and Bear Wilner-Nugent.

**NOT:** Lawrence Taylor.

*Secretary's Note: This was a special board meeting called for the sole purpose of approving the 2005 budget. It did not follow the same format as a regular meeting with announcements, officer reports, and various proposals. So these minutes will not follow the regular format either. The meeting began with treasurer Hilary Anthony giving an overview of the 18-page budget proposal, briefly explaining how to read the charts, etc. The total revenue projection for the 2005 budget year is \$1,110,000. She said there are still some loose ends with parts of various crew budgets and that these will be discussed at the Budget Committee meetings in February and brought up at the March Board meeting. She also discussed changes that are likely to be brought up later, particularly with capital projects expenses. Co-treasurer Steve Gorham (aka Grumpy) was unable to attend the meeting because he is recuperating from surgery on an injured ankle. Brad announced that he is part-owner of Royal Blue Organics and Café Mam but felt that would not constitute a conflict of interest so he could still vote. The Board then made motions, discussed, and voted separately on each of the eight parts of the budget (see below). Deane voted in Lawrence's absence. The Peach Gallery was small tonight. Besides Hilary and employees Leslie, Norma, Steve W., and Robin, there were four others besides myself: Feedback Coordinator Jen-lin Hodgden, Beth Grafe of Construction Crew and co-chair of Vision Quest Steering Committee, Aaron from the Deep Sea Delights booth, and Traffic Crew Co-coordinator and member of Budget Committee Sheldon Doughty.*

### CREW BUDGET

**Bear moved and Jack seconded that the Board of Directors adopt the Crew Budget for the 2005 budget year as proposed by the Budget Committee in the amount of \$465,749.50**

Hilary said we're in the second year of a 2-year budget cycle. Each crew submitted a 2-year budget last year. The way the process works is if they don't submit a new budget for this year they get the same amount as for last year. The proposed budget starts with the crew coordinator then goes to the budget committee and finally to the board. Bear asked why the Main Stage budget was \$2,000 lower and Hilary said that was because last year's budget had an extra \$2,000 for the 35-year anniversary. Bear doesn't like to see entertainment budgets go down because he feels "big name" entertainment can help generate more ticket sales. Katie noticed that recycling crew went over their budget last year and wondered why they weren't given extra this year to accommodate their needs. Lara explained that they used their own budget last year for some capital improvements and wouldn't need that extra money this year.

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

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT BUDGET

**Bear moved and Greg seconded that the Board of Directors adopt the Administrative Assistant Budget for the 2005 budget year as proposed by the Budget Committee in the amount of \$31,350.**

Deane said the Elders Committee and others use paper and stamps and wondered if the money for those expenses comes from the AA budget. Jack said it comes from the "copies and postage" line item of the board budget. Katie wondered why the line item called "utilities" wasn't in the 2004 budget and Norma explained it used to be listed as "rental expenses."

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

### SITE BUDGET

**Bear moved and Lara seconded that the Board of Directors adopt the Site Budget for the 2005 budget year as proposed by the Budget Committee in the amount of \$54,100.**

Steve said expenses are going up, especially fuel which had about a 30% increase. There was also an increase in the dust control line item because he found a product that is better for the environment but more expensive. There was also a difference between the '04 and '05 budgets on temporary employees because some of his expenses for that came from the GM budget last year. Greg said the dump fees for the '04 budget are more than are allotted for in the '05 budget and Steve said they are hopeful they can hold costs down in that area. Deane said the utilities line item is the same and wondered if it should be more because of the addition of

the Swanson property. Steve said Leslie's budgeting authority is flexible enough to cope and they won't really know the cost of utilities for a full year. If they get the mobile home off the property that will reduce both utilities and property taxes too.

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

### **BOARD BUDGET**

**Jack moved and Greg seconded that the Board of Directors adopt the Board Budget for the 2005 budget year as proposed by the Budget Committee in the amount of \$57,450.**

Bear said the "change" line item amount of \$5,000 has historically been used for political activism activities that are permitted under our 501(c)3 status. This year the Board decided to take on an internal change expense in the form of the Vision Quest. Their expenses will be covered under this line item and the VQ Committee has projected an estimated cost of \$9,000. Bear felt that both internal change and external change activities are important and that the "change" line item should be increased to at least \$9,000. He asked Jack and Greg to approve this as a friendly amendment. There was a great deal of back and forth discussion on this with some people (Beth, Bear, Greg, Brad) saying that the amount should be increased right now, and other people (Jack, Sheldon, Katie) saying to keep the budget tight and amend it later if necessary. The common thread was that everyone agreed the VQ Committee should get the money it needs and that money for legislative change is also important. The difference of opinion came only from whether to budget larger amounts now or increase later if necessary. In the end, **Jack and Greg accepted the friendly amendment changing line item #13 from \$5,000 to \$9,000, increasing the Board Budget to a total of \$61,450.** Sheldon asked about part of the VQ Committee's projected expense, specifically paying \$100 per hour for facilitation and analysis. Beth said that is the "going rate" and that it is very important to have outside input. She said it is not unusual for an organization of our size to take on this type of project and that actually we are spending much less than would be expected for the scope of what we want to learn and accomplish. Joseph suggested there might be talent within our own Fair family that could handle the facilitation without spending that much money. He said he would not begrudge the expense if he felt it would advance our purpose in the Vision Quest, but that he has not observed outside facilitation to be effective. Leslie, Greg, Hilary, and Bear all spoke to the importance of the facilitation and analysis being handled by outside professionals with Greg saying "we want folks who don't have a vested interest and we want our Fair family to participate as family and not as feedback analyzers."

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

### **STEP TABLE OPTIONS**

**Brad moved and Marlene seconded that the Board of Directors adopt option A on the Step Increase Table retroactive to the beginning of the year.**

Brad said these changes are necessary in order to bring the lower steps in compliance with new minimum wage laws. The new table also adjusts the higher steps to keep them in accord with percentage increases over minimum wage. Marlene said the Personnel Committee supports this change. Deane and others had some questions that were answered about the meaning of various columns and percentages.

**The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.** *Secretary's Note: Joseph voted for Katie who had briefly stepped out of the room.*

### **CULTURE JAM BUDGET**

**Lara moved and Jack seconded that the Board of Directors adopt the Culture Jam Budget for the 2005 budget year as proposed by the Budget Committee in the amount of \$32,500.**

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

### **GENERAL MANAGER BUDGET**

**Bear moved and Jack seconded that the Board of Directors adopt the General Manager Budget for the 2005 budget year as proposed by the Budget Committee in the amount of \$450,230.**

Anna noticed that the projected LTD cost is the same for '05 and was surprised because she thought we were expecting a big increase from them this year. Leslie said we were able to contain costs last year and the price she is hoping to negotiate will be covered by the budgeted amount. She then added "but, having said that, LTD is about to go on strike so that could change things dramatically; possibly raising that line item by as much as \$5,000." She also talked about the significant increase in the insurance line item due in part to Gulf Insurance going out of business. There used to be three companies that provided event insurance, now there are only two. Brad thinks we should budget more for toilets and suggested that if we put on the poster "Now With 20% More

Toilets” this would generate more ticket sales. This was met with laughter but also discussion about other ways to decrease long lines for toilets including putting up signs to encourage people to knock on doors. Sometimes only a couple toilets are occupied in a six-pack, but folks will line up and keep waiting for someone to come out instead of taking the initiative and finding out that there are more empty stalls. Deane noticed that the amount budgeted for property tax is the same in '05 as in '04. He asked if it should be more since we bought the Swanson property. Leslie said that was an oversight and she will look up the amount and amend that at the February board meeting.

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

#### **MISCELLANEOUS PROPERTY EXPENDITURES BUDGET**

**Bear moved and Deane seconded that the Board of Directors adopt the Miscellaneous Property Expenditures Budget for the 2005 budget year as proposed by the Budget Committee in the amount of \$5,000.**

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

The meeting adjourned shortly after 9pm. The next Board meeting will be on Monday, February 7, 2005 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda for this meeting can be found at the end of the minutes of the Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Benjamin Zander for the following quote: “When told by a violinist that a difficult passage in the violin concerto was virtually unplayable, Stravinsky is supposed to have said: “I don’t want the sound of someone playing this passage, I want the sound of someone trying to play it!” ”