

## OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday March 7, 2005, 7pm, EWEB Community Room

**PRESENT:** Diane Albino, Katie Cousins, Lara Howe, Brad Lerch, Jack Makarchek, Marlene Monette, Deane Morrow (alternate), Joseph Newton (alternate), Greg Rikhoff, Anna Scott, Lawrence Taylor, and Bear Wilner-Nugent. (*Secretary's Note: The meeting started at 7:10. Diane arrived during Member Input and Marlene arrived during the Site Manager's Report. Bear led the meeting until Marlene's arrival.*)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greg brought flyers announcing "HRSS Training for Advocates." Eugene's Human Rights Commission is providing free training to people who are interested in joining the Human Rights Support System, "a volunteer support system to assist community members who have experienced harassment or discrimination." Many people don't follow through with their complaints simply because they don't have the necessary support. Volunteers learn to provide "both technical and emotional support" and to "help humanize the process of seeking resolution." It will take place in Eugene on April 16 from 9am to 5pm. Enrollment is limited and advance registration is required. For more information or to register call 682-5177.

norma announced that the Spring Fling will be held on May 7 and encouraged people to contribute items or services to the raffle.

Steve W. said that Bob Nisbet will lead a Wildflower Walk onsite on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Meet at the Warehouse.

Jen-lin Hodgden (Feedback Coordinator) thanked the FFN for the ad about the Shy Person's Talent Show and said the show raised \$300 for Autism Rocks. She announced the Drunken Puppet Theatre will be at Sam Bond's Garage on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Tim Mueller (Community Village) said there will be a fundraiser for Community Village on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cozmic Pizza and will feature performances by Jules Grave, Jupiter Hollow, Higher Ground, and others. There will be a Village Open House with activists from Peace and Justice, Health and Healing, Green Earth, and others. \$9 advance, \$12 at the door. Family hour 7-8, music starts at 8. Tickets available at Stargate, Mother Kali's, Circle of Hands, Sweet Potato Pie, and Grower's Market.

Anna attended a workshop on Energy Efficiency and Renewables. She thanked the Fair for sending her and will write up her notes for a future article for FFN.

Steve G. (aka Grumpy) invited folks to help with his computerization project for the Fair and to contact him at [grumpy@teleport.com](mailto:grumpy@teleport.com).

Lara announced two resignations: Mary P. Barton from the Elders Committee and Mike Harris as Printing Crew Coordinator. She thanked them for their work.

Joseph said Saturday Market opens April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Bear, speaking as Camping Coordinator for Main Camp Crew, said any staff members who camp in Crafts Lot are encouraged to get in touch soon about voluntary relocation of crews in Crafts Lot to make more room for crafters and entertainers. For more information, please contact the camp host for the Fair's new property, Andy McLain, at [newcamping@comcast.net](mailto:newcamping@comcast.net), or Bear at [bear\\_wilner@alumni.reed.edu](mailto:bear_wilner@alumni.reed.edu).

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Anna moved and Lara seconded that the minutes of the January 24th Board meeting be approved. The motion passed: 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention (Lawrence).**

**Lawrence moved and Greg seconded that the minutes of the February 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting be approved. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.** (*Note: On both motions, Joseph and Deane voted for Marlene and Diane who had not yet arrived.*)

### MEMBER INPUT

David Hoffman (Community Village) said that he and many other people are upset that Jeff

Johnson (aka Animal) will be moving offsite before Main Camp opens. He felt that since Animal would be moving back onsite when Main Camp opens on June 1<sup>st</sup>, that he should be allowed to remain onsite during the interim. He talked about all the work that still needs to be done and said that Animal's help is really needed. He said that Steve W. and Andy have both been impressed with Animal's work. He said we need more onsite caretakers and instead we are losing one. He asked for a show of hands in the room from "everyone who wants Animal to remain onsite." (*Note: Some people raised their hands but a count was not taken.*) He asked if anyone on the Board would be willing to make a motion to allow Animal to remain onsite. Joseph said that he would do that.

Steve W. reminded the Board about a group he mentioned at the retreat last Fall who would like to have their 2005 gathering at the Fair site on Labor Day weekend. He said negotiations are going well and he is looking forward to having them onsite. They have a footbag tournament called the "Beaver Open." He introduced them and yielded time for them to speak. Dennis Ross from the Flying Clipper booth said he has been involved with the Fair for 23 years and looks forward to having the tournament at the Fair this year. He introduced Robert and Lori Conover. Lori said they are "absolutely delighted" about having the event at the Fair and said she and her husband have been coming to the Fair for over 20 years. The Beaver Open started 25 years ago as a small footbag tournament but has grown into a big family event with participation from notables such as Guinness World Record holders, footbag hall of fame members, and world footbag champions.

Auntie Em (External Security) spoke to the issue about Animal, saying part of our code is that "we're all equal" and she'd like to live onsite too. She said "volunteerism brings us here" and she recognizes that the Board must deal with the tenant policy. On the other hand, she supports Animal for all the work he has done and thinks that if it's a policy issue she hopes the Board will decide "policies be damned, and find a way to make it work."

Barbara Edmonds (strolling food vendor) appreciated the passion with which David spoke but didn't appreciate feeling like she was being asked to "take sides" when he asked for a show of hands. She said she didn't raise her hand not because she wanted Animal to leave but because this was the first time she heard that he was leaving and she didn't know the facts regarding his decision.

**Joseph moved and Deane seconded that Jeff Johnson be allowed to remain onsite through the Fair.** As a point of procedure, Bear noted that this should go under "New Business" at this meeting so the Fair family is notified that the topic will be discussed at the next meeting. To discuss it tonight would require a vote to move it from new business to old business. Jim Sahr (Crafter) said timeliness is important. Lawrence agreed with Jim. Bear said if this was to be discussed he felt the Family should be given notice. Katie said she thought this would be an operations issue unless the motion is to change the tenant policy. Bear said the "de facto effect would be changing the tenant policy." **Bear asked for a vote on whether this motion should be moved from new business to old business. The motion failed: 2 in favor, 7 opposed (Greg, Anna, Katie, Bear, Brad, Lara, and Jack), and 1 abstention (Diane).** (*Note: Joseph voted for Marlene who had not yet arrived.*)

## STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

**General Manager:** Leslie said "the office is humming with applications going out, art work for posters and passes and commemorative items being finalized, contracts being signed and lots of money being spent." She thanked Norma and Robin and all the Craft Inventory, Registration and Entertainment coordinators for a really smooth process so far, and Norma for all the work on the guidelines. She thanked Indigo Ronlov for all her work on the commemorative sales order and said "I know I thank her every month, but she has been doing an incredible amount of work." She's also been spending a lot of time on budgets and financial management, and thanked the Budget and Financial Planning Committees for all their work on capital projects. More than half of the Rainy Day Fund went for the purchase of Swanson's, and Financial Planning recommended spending no more than \$70,000 on capital projects this year. There was over \$128,000 in requests, therefore many items had to be cut. She may have to ask for more money for fire insurance later because we are in a high risk category and our rates are going up. LTD is on strike and she expects it will be resolved before the Fair but she is looking at other options and stressed "we absolutely will have bus shuttle service to the Fair this year." She plans to sign the contract

with the State Fair this week. She said Gary Nolan, the U.O. Green chemist and member of LUMP Committee, completed his ash testing on the fire pits at the sauna and entertainment camp. His report will be mailed to the Board. The sauna has improved again, but the fire pit in entertainment camp has again shown no improvement. She plans to discuss strategies with Steve W. and Andy for new ideas on managing that pit.

**Administrative Assistant:** norma thanked Brad and Indigo for hosting last month's Coordinators Potluck and thanked Rob Shirey who resigned from Office Crew for all his past work and for the many times he rescued her from computer problems. She has been busy working on the Guidelines that will soon go to press and will be available at the next meeting, and on updating the Operations Manual. She is continuing work on the Spring Fling and is inviting people to help. Craft and entertainment applications are due April 1<sup>st</sup>. She also had a big thank you to the Xerox Corporation for donating a new color printer for the office.

**Site Manager:** Steve W. said normal rainfall in Eugene for February is 6.35 inches and we had only 1.27 inches, the third driest on record, continuing a dry winter. He said to "get ready for fire season, leave your tiki torches and open candles at home, and bring your extra fire extinguishers." He talked about mosquitoes and the West Nile virus, saying that last year Oregon entered stage one, the first occurrence of infection in birds and humans, and the CDC expects the state to enter stage two this year, which likely means many more occurrences. States on the East Coast that went through stage two several years ago are now seeing fewer infections. He said the best thing to do is "to protect and inform yourself." Go to [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dybid/westnile](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dybid/westnile) for information. He has been unable to find a 501(c)3 organization that wants the Swanson's trailer and he asked the Board to amend last month's motion to allow him to give the trailer to anyone who is willing to haul it away. He thanked the VegManEcs for all their work at the first Sunday work party, removing the erosion control dams, planting trees and salvaging plant material. He thanked AndyMan, Beth, Animal, Tommy, and Mike for all their hard work as well, and thanked David Hoffman for being "a faithful site volunteer."

**Co-Treasurers:** Steve G. (Grumpy) said most of tonight's financial discussion will happen during the motion to approve the Capital Projects budget, but he passed out four pages of charts and talked briefly about what they meant. One was "2005 Proposed Budgets" which didn't list endowments or capital projects and had a projected revenue of \$1,110,000 and projected expenses of \$1,101,519. The "Quick Books Review" showed a "timeline" of where our money and assets are from 1993 to 2005. "Cash Positions" showed the deposit amounts in different accounts. The "2005 Revenue Projection" listed actual 2004 revenue and the expected 2005 revenue from different sources. He said that for the Capital Projects budget they listed durables as a separate line item because they expect to get that money back. The Fair is purchasing durables (washable food-service ware and utensils) in bulk and will be selling them or renting them to food booths because it will benefit the food booths to not have to purchase their own at higher prices. Hilary added, "in a nutshell, for about the past 10 years we've been funding capital projects out of current operating revenue. We've had big enough gaps between our revenue and our regular operating expenses that we could put \$25,000 in the endowment and pay for capital projects. But this year, we're budgeting revenue tighter and we're spending more money. We don't have that gap anymore so this year capital projects are coming out of money we have in the bank. So if we have a great year we'll be able to replenish those funds, but if our budget goes exactly as we have it on paper we'll end up with less money in the bank." Grumpy added "we're flaming liberals but we budget conservatively." There were two questions from the Board that Grumpy answered. Deane asked if Swanson's will be paid off in just a few years (it's already paid off). Katie said she thought there was \$100,000 in excess revenue from last year (that went toward Swanson's).

**President:** Jack thanked Hilary, Steve G, and the Budget and Financial Planning Committees for the incredible amount of work they do. He said our money issues are very important but he also wanted to thank David for reminding him that "the Fair is about people." He said there are "things which maybe everybody doesn't understand but that doesn't mean we don't feel. That is what this is all about, and I

don't want anybody to think it's just about how much money we have at the end of the year." He added, "this is about sharing our humanity. The Fair will be happening sooner than you think" and he encouraged everyone to "tell your friends, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles" to buy a ticket from TicketsWest and to "come out and see us."

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Brad said they placed ads for the Assistant Manager position and moved the deadline for application from March 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>. They are focusing on this position right now and are postponing their discussion of step table revisions and overall job descriptions until post-Fair and post-hiring. The Personnel Committee is still accepting letters of interest from people who would like to join the committee.

### VISION QUEST TASK FORCE

Beth Grafe (Construction Crew Co-Coordinator and VQ Task Force Co-Chair) said they have divided into subcommittees. She said Dedee Wilner-Nugent (Pre-Fair Kitchen and VQ Task Force Co-Chair) has been working on analyzing the mission statements and Joseph wrote "a great article for the March FFN." They will have a draft document for the April Board meeting and have scheduled the Vision Quest Summit for the same day as the Spring Fling, May 7<sup>th</sup>. They are working on hiring a facilitator for the summit and on putting together the agenda. There will be a form to register for the summit in the March FFN.

### LUMP COMMITTEE

Joseph said they have been working on updating the manual. He noted that the areas known as Zenn Acres, Dahinda Acres, and the land in between are now mapped differently. Instead of being three separate areas they will be two zones, "an upland forest zone and a lowland wetlands zone, now following natural boundaries instead of political ones." (*Note: LUMP stands for Land Use Management Planning.*)

### PEACH PAGES

Aleta Miller said this year's theme will be "expanding our connections in the sustainable community through commerce, culture, and creativity." She invited more people to contact her soon about ads and listings. She can be reached at [peachpages@att.net](mailto:peachpages@att.net).

### OLD BUSINESS

#### DONATION TO EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

**Lawrence moved and Jack seconded that the Board donate \$500 to the Earth Day Celebration.**

*Background:* Steve Remington of the Earth Day 2005 Steering Committee thanked the Board for past support and said this year's event will be held on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> in a new location, at the EWEB River Edge Plaza. They expect "over 50 groups and organizations to be exhibiting and demonstrating their efforts at Earth-friendly practices." There will be a Procession of All Species, an alternative transportation exhibit, as well as a main stage and educational children's activities.

*Peach Gallery:* Leslie urged support and said that people were arrested in the woods today for opposing old growth logging. She said it's important to keep what is happening to our Earth in front of people, and to teach people sustainable practices.

*Board:* Brad was curious why the event was moving from downtown to the EWEB location. Steve answered that city requirements such as road closures and barricades add extra cost to the event and that "the river location allowed them to acknowledge the role of water in this year's theme."

**The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.** (*Note: Joseph voted for Bear who had stepped out of the room.*)

### **APPOINT COMMEMORATIVE SALES CREW CO-COORDINATORS**

**Brad moved and Joseph seconded that Ruby Steinbrecher and Patti Romain-Moody be appointed as Co-Coordinator of the Commemorative Sales Crew.**

*Peach Gallery:* Leslie thanked past coordinators Iris Cole and Elora Cospers for their work and “for a smooth transition,” and said she appreciates Ruby and Patti stepping up to take leadership roles, and is looking forward to working with them.

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

### **APPOINT FAIR HISTORY CREW COORDINATOR**

**Lara moved and Jack seconded that Anna Wemple be appointed as Fair History Crew Coordinator.**

*Board:* Lawrence noted that Anna’s letter to the Board said she is 30 years old and has been involved with the Fair for 26 years. He joked, “I wonder what she did in her pre-Fair years.”

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

### **APPOINT OFFICE SITE CREW COORDINATOR**

**Greg moved and Lawrence seconded that Colleen Bell be appointed as Office Site Crew Coordinator.**

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

### **APPOINT PRINTING COORDINATOR**

**Brad moved and Lara seconded that Julie Hutchings be appointed as Printing Crew Coordinator.**

*Background:* Julie has worked on the Printing Crew since 1994 and retiring coordinator Mike Harris recommended her for the job. She has “15 years experience in design and production and currently works at a job creating nonprofit and progressive political advocacy websites.”

*Peach Gallery:* Leslie thanked Mike Harris for his past work. Aleta Miller (Peach Pages) said Julie is very talented.

*Board:* Bear asked what the Printing Crew does. Leslie answered that they don’t do the actual printing but get everything ready for printing (maps, brochures, stickers, passes, etc.)

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

### **ASSISTANT MANAGER HIRING COMMITTEE**

**Brad moved and Marlene seconded to appoint Sara Rich, Lara Howe, and Palmer Parker to the Assistant Manager Hiring Committee.**

*Background:* These three people submitted letters of interest and Brad said that several members of Personnel Committee would be on the hiring committee too, along with the General Manager and Site Manager.

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

### **CONSIDER MEMBERSHIP IN OREGON FESTIVALS AND EVENTS ASSOCIATION**

**Katie moved and Bear seconded that the Board spend \$100 for the Fair to join the Oregon Festivals and Events Association.**

*Peach Gallery:* Leslie will be attending their upcoming conference and said it is expensive to join as an organization but for \$100 the membership can be in her name and she can represent the Fair.

**The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.** (Note: Deane voted for Greg who had stepped out of the room.)

### **PEACH POWER FUND PROPOSAL**

**Anna moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board form an ad hoc renewable energy/conservation committee that will make recommendations to the Board.**

*Background:* Anna said the committee’s purpose would be to “explore sites and partnerships for

long-term renewable energy/conservation projects and to research ways to maintain and grow the Peach Power fund.” The committee would also make recommendations as to how to spend the money allocated for the Peach Power fund. The committee will be funded on a yearly basis and she hopes it will be funded for at least three years. She has letters of interest from two people who wish to be on the committee, and is welcoming more letters. The two who have expressed interest are Joe Savage, an OCF volunteer and employee in the Energy Management Dept. of EPUD, and Bob-O Schultze, an OCF volunteer with the Energy Park Electric Company and owner of the Electron Connection, a renewable energy business in California.

*Peach Gallery:* Palmer Parker (Fair Central) said there is incredible knowledge on these issues with some people in Main Camp and hopes the committee will draw on that. Randy Nowell (VegManEc) asked if the committee will be exploring grants as well (yes).

*Board:* Lawrence echoed Palmer’s suggestion and thanked Anna for her dedication to this project and for her persistence in urging us to “walk our talk.” Joseph supports the motion, and added this is an ad hoc committee with a three-year life expectancy; but said that in two years he’ll probably move to add another “P”, making it the “Perpetual” Peach Power Fund because “energy issues will not lessen.” Jack agreed, saying “the technology is always evolving and the Board will need to be kept informed.” He looks forward to conversations about appropriate energy and has concerns about biodiesel and wants to learn more.

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

### **DOUBLE-WIDE TRAILER**

**Jack moved and Anna seconded that the Board allow the Site Manager to give the double-wide trailer at Swanson’s to anyone who is willing to haul it away.**

*Background:* Steve W. has been unable to find a 501(c)3 organization that wants it and requested that the Board amend last month’s motion to allow him to give it to anyone who will haul it away. See the classified ad in Fair Family News for more information.

*Peach Gallery:* Tim Mueller jokingly suggested it be given away as a door prize at the fundraiser at Cozmic Pizza. Someone said “talk about a white elephant.”

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

### **CAPITAL PROJECTS BUDGET**

**Bear moved and Lara seconded that the Board accept the Capital Projects budget as proposed by the Budget and Financial Planning Committees in the amount of \$73,350 plus an additional expense of \$14,400 for durable food-service ware.**

*Background:* Grumpy said there were many projects they would like to fund but they had to make cuts from what was requested. They hope to fund more of these requests in future years. He went through the budget and briefly highlighted a few of the items, to illustrate why various items were fully funded, others partially funded, and others not funded at all.

*Peach Gallery:* Drake Eubank (Community Village) said the budget gave them \$3,000 for booth rebuilding but they expect it will cost at least \$5,000. He talked about the need to rebuild three booths (Peace and Justice, Green Earth, and Spirit) that are currently attached to each other. New codes require them to have separate supports for each booth. He would like more money, but if that is not possible he asked for help from Construction Crew and Wood World. (*Note: Wood World is the area at Alice’s Wonderland where the Fair stores and recycles lumber and operates the sawmill.*) He said that in Community Village they have no vendor income like food and craft booths do, and building materials are really expensive. There is a fourth booth that may also be condemned. They have many booths “which are too old, and failing.” Leslie said “we are in transition, both in energy use and in construction ideas. Part of the summit meeting and vision quest is for us to look at the big picture of where we are going in these and many other areas. We’re trying not to set too much in stone because we’re grabbing hold of a bigger picture.” Tim Mueller spoke about how much he likes the treehouses and said they can’t continue to keep it looking that great without additional cash or help. He asked for suggestions. Grumpy said both of Drake’s suggestions were good ones, adding that he felt the Fair would be willing to help them get materials from Wood World and probably assistance from Construction Crew as well. Treehouses are nice

but may not be feasible at this time because they do require so much more wood for support. David Tipton (Community Village) said Community Village already has lots of work to do and he is concerned that even more may be added at the last minute by inspectors. Last year they were given “about a year’s worth of work to do in a week before the Fair, and got it done, and even dealt with fallen trees.” His concerns focused on being able to help everyone who needs it. Leslie said that Kirk Shultz (Construction Crew Co-Coordinator) advocated for Community Village during the budget process and is committed to working on design plans with them so they will be able to fix what needs fixing with the money they have. She encouraged them to work with the process and after they learn their “absolute bottom line” to return to the Board if they really must. Beth Grafe said she thinks it’s important to respect the good work of the Budget Committee and not to “nit pick on line items.” She always asks for capital projects, and is granted some but not others.

*Board:* Jack has really mixed feelings about putting more power to Main Camp and as for Community Village he pointed out that more building means use of more trees. He advocates for lighter construction and said “we’re nomads who come together for a gathering.” Deane said the Internet Committee asked for money but got zero and “we’re gonna live with that.” Diane would like to see funding for more LED lights for illuminating the recycle kiosks. Joseph said this is his first opportunity to observe the process and thinks the committee did an incredible job. When it started he couldn’t imagine how \$128,000 was going to be reduced to around \$70,000. He said it happened through a process of funding only things that absolutely had to happen this year. Lawrence said the Budget Committee is in a tough position and he really appreciates their work. He is glad Peach Power got full funding because that has been long overdue. He agreed with Jack about lightening our load and likes the “villagey” feel of the Fair. He added that line 16 of the budget, “miniature giant puppets,” could be added to George Carlin’s list of oxymorons which includes “jumbo shrimp, guest host, and military intelligence.” Bear said he’s glad about the funding for Main Camp power and the Peach Power fund. He agreed with Jack’s notion of treading lightly and said he has friends at the McKenzie Map booth on Upper River Loop and their slogan is “practice zero trace bothing.” Their booth is built from scratch every year and taken down so the riverbank is left bare. Marlene thanked the Budget Committee for all their effort. Brad has faith that Community Village will get the help they need and likes the fact that their budget can be re-visited if absolutely necessary. He doesn’t want to address this idea at length tonight, but said that being non-profit should not mean that booths in Community Village and Energy Park should be unable to sell things. He agrees with Diane that more LED lights would be nice for the kiosks and hopes that money can be found. Katie is thrilled about the Swanson’s projects and was glad those were approved. Anna said most people have no idea how much work it takes to go through this process and added “what a peachy thing it is to be able to vote on it.” Greg said it is very clear that there are creative and thoughtful ideas from the Family. Speaking about Community Village, he said “they trade in ideas and thoughts and stimulating people’s thinking; if lofts and greater density are appropriate anyplace, it’s there.” He said “we will not leave you hanging; if you have to come back to the Board we’ll welcome that.” On grid power, he suggested to “proceed with caution.” Lara wants the LED lights too, but believes the budget should stand as presented by the committee; she said Recycling Crew will ask again next year.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 4, 2005 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; as well as the following old business: Logo Jurying; Approve Mission Statement (Bear); Consider Donation to Fern Ridge Middle School; Consider Donation to School Garden Project; Consider Donation to HIV Alliance River Walk (Bear); Budget for Communication Workshop (Katie); Appoint Members to Peach Power Ad Hoc Committee (Anna); Jeff Johnson (Joseph); Consider Other Options for Swanson’s Trailer if No One Wants It.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Deepak Chopra (Peace is the Way) for the following quote: “No one knows what the critical mass must be before peace becomes the foundation of a new order; your duty and mine is to bring about change by personal transformation....I think the impossibility of peace lies only in our heads, and once we begin to accept the impossible, a rapid shift will occur.”

