

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Sunday June 26, 2005, 4pm, onsite at The Hub

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 was originally scheduled for Alice's, but another meeting was happening there. During Agenda Review, Bear moved and Lara seconded to add "Approve Community Agreement" to the agenda and to move it to old business. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

norma said the Teddy Bears' Picnic is August 20.

Jon Pincus (Elder) sadly reported that Roxanne Ostroff passed away and said a memorial service is planned for Sat. July 2. Roxanne was the business manager and bookkeeper at WOW Hall and a participant in the Knish Bliss booth.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lara moved and Bear seconded that the minutes of the June 6 Board meeting be approved. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

MEMBER INPUT

Lawrence said it's great to be here, "especially on this spot." *(Note: The meeting was held on the former Swanson property.)*

Jim Newhall (White Bird, and former Board member) said he's also very glad we acquired this spot but he's concerned about development. He sees roads and trails being put in and improvements being done to an old building and wonders if the building will even remain. He said, "I see an Oklahoma land rush happening here. Where's the long-range plan for this area?"

Brad said he got a call from a woman who wanted to thank him for asking that the phone number of the Center for Community Counseling be included in the June 6, 2005 minutes, and also wanted to thank the Board for making that donation. She referred someone to the CCC after reading about the donation in FFN.

Charlie Zennache (BUM) talked about his joy in watching the Fair "come to life," thanked everyone who helps make it happen, and said it's all very "life-affirming."

STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager: Leslie said, "We had the first annual OCF Thanksgiving dinner last Friday night in Main Camp kitchen. It was a beautiful thing, with the tables all set up family-style and the Prez saying grace. It brought home to me what this is all about and why we're doing this. It's nourishing the spirit. It's the experience of coming home, coming to the hearth, being graced with one another in this place and this chance to do this incredible thing for the world. I know everybody there felt it in their own way." She thanked everyone for the "honor and privilege of continuing to be able to do this, and thank you to my amazing co-workers and crew, BUMs, to all the volunteers, vendors, and entertainers, and to the Board." She urged passage of the Rain Contingency Fund crafted by Steve W, Sallie Edmunds, Grumpy, and herself, that is being considered as a budget issue tonight. She said the weather lately has included "torrential downpours, flooded lots, thunderstorms and tornado warnings." The contingency plan was put together from "a worst case scenario and we need to consider this from a budgetary point of view and from an operational planning point of view. We looked at how to move our cars offsite to accommodate the public, extra crew and equipment and shuttles, stockpiling sand and rock, etc." There were several pages of projections with an estimated total of a maximum of \$10,000. She is going to Florida for two days next week. Normally she would not consider taking time off this soon before the Fair, but her father is having his 90th birthday party and wants her to be there. *(Applause and hurrahs!)* She asked the Board to approve giving Hilary and Steve W. spending authority over the Rain Contingency Fund while she is gone. She also said she spoke at the Food Vendors meeting last week and that people were very cooperative about freezing the sale of vehicle stickers. The other half of the Out of Site lot west of the Fair has been rented, "knowing that we're likely to need that" and a shuttle is lined up for that lot. She spent a lot of time the past week with others drafting the Community Agreement and asked everyone to pledge not to sneak people in. "We put so much time and effort into this event. For people to come who haven't contributed and who may not share our values around the land and how we treat each other, it's something that has gotten too lax." She said the

community needs to step up and say ‘we’re going to support you, we’re going to do this, we’re not going to sneak people in.’ She also asked everyone to “take care of your kids. We are so used to being an open, loving, relational group but unfortunately there are uncredentialed folks who come here who don’t share that. We have plans to do a more thorough sweep, including campgrounds, and are asking everyone to cooperate with the sweep, allowing them to check your tent or vehicle.” She wants everyone here at night to feel safe. She said, “This is hard stuff, but it’s real.”

Administrative Assistant: norma said it’s been “very busy here working with everybody. The Main Camp staff has been great. A big thanks to everybody.”

Site Manager: Steve W. thanked everybody too and said an amazing amount of work has been accomplished and there’s still “a hell of a lot left to go, but we will pull it together.” He added, “The good news about all the contingency planning is that we may not need all of it. We’ve been removing water from lots and things are looking okay for the barter fair and reefer truck locations. We’ve started haying. Traffic and lots of other crews will need to do much in a brief period, and they need our support. The details are staggering, the amount of work that’s happening is amazing and my appreciation goes out to everyone. I’m too frazzled to think of more than that right now.”

Assistant Manager: Charlie said, “Thanks to everybody and pray for sun.”

Co-Treasurers: Hilary thanked everyone for their hard work and for their patience in dealing with changes in financial processes. Steve G. (Grumpy) dittoed her remarks.

President: Jack said, “We each need to think about this community responsibility thing as a community rather than as individuals. The reality of it is that there have been incredible changes in our ability to deal with our liability. We have to look at our times for what they really are. We have an administration that is hell bent on taking rather than giving. We aren’t that, that is not our intention, not even close. There’s a certain amount of trust that we have in what we feel is necessary to keep us as the Oregon Country Fair. I have complete trust in what we’ve arrived at. We’re being courageous and saying we’re being responsible for what we’re trying to do. We’re saying we have a better way. We believe that we trust one another. It’s important when you sign the agreement that you think less about what that means for yourself and more about what it says about what we really stand for. We’re asking for courage. We’re asking you to say that you agree with the guidelines. The immediate political climate is not friendly to what we are. That’s the message. We’re finally saying what we are and we’re signing our names. I’m going to sign my name.”

OLD BUSINESS

BUDGET ISSUES / RAIN CONTINGENCY FUND

Bear moved and Joseph seconded that General Manager Leslie Scott, Co-Treasurer Hilary Anthony, and Site Manager Steve Wisnovsky be given joint spending authority for a \$10,000 rain contingency fund.

Background: (Note: see General Manager’s report.)

Board: Lara thanked them for putting together this detailed plan in such a short time, and especially when they are all so busy. She said it’s been a wet spring and “our rain prayers did their stuff, maybe too well!” Brad said there is “a slight amount of irony that we’re literally sitting on the rainy day fund.” (Note: The meeting was held at the former Swanson’s property which was purchased with the rainy day fund.) Brad also said dahinda asked him to remind everyone that booth people have responsibility for the path in front of their booth and wondered how others not at this meeting could be reminded before the Fair. In the event of rain, booth people should bale standing water out of the path. Marlene yielded time to Sallie Edmunds (BUM) who said a letter is going out to vendors on June 27 with that information. Deane said he remembered the rainy Fair of ’83 when he saw “those silly hippies out there catching rain in their coffee cups and thought ‘That won’t work’, but it did!” Marlene yielded time to Kay Kintzley (Booth L86) who suggested watering cans because when full they can control dust and when empty they can catch rain.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

DONATION TO MDA SUMMER DAY CAMP

Bear moved and Lara seconded that the Board donate \$300 to the Muscular Dystrophy Association Summer Day Camp.

Background: A letter from Cinde Dunham to the Board said, “It is at MDA Camp where children, typically left out by their limitations, are allowed to take part in activities they may otherwise be excluded from. MDA Camp is where limitations are not what make them different, but what make them just like everyone else.”

Peach Gallery: Thumbs up from Kay. Barbara said that Cinde planned to attend the meeting and hoped she hadn’t driven “all the way out here only to be unable to find us.” She planned to phone Cindy to apologize if

that had happened, and hoped the Board would pass the donation request “to make my phone call easier to make.”

Board: Lara said she has friends who participate in this camp and that it is life-altering for those kids.

The motion passed: 7 in favor and 3 opposed (Anna, Brad, and Katie).

(Note: Cinde had indeed driven all the way out to the Fair to attend the meeting, but was not allowed to enter the property. She was very gracious and said she enjoyed the drive anyway. She was very thankful for the donation.)

APPROVE COMMUNITY AGREEMENT STATEMENT

Jack moved and Greg seconded that the Board approve the Community Agreement Statement.

Background: Jack read the draft of the proposed agreement as follows: “Welcome to the 2005 Oregon Country Fair! The OCF wants you to have a safe and wonderful experience at the Fair. As a community we prioritize the health and safety of every participant. Unfortunately, as the Fair has grown significantly, we no longer all know each other, and there are people who come to the Fair to take advantage of our open and loving community or who simply do not share our values. Even though the Fair tries very hard to prevent problems, crime (including theft and physical and sexual assault) as well as other inappropriate behaviors sometimes happen. The OCF Guidelines exist to help us protect the health and safety of all. By signing for your wristband below, you acknowledge that you have read and understood this notice and that you agree to abide by the OCF Guidelines, Code of Conduct, and the following statements: 1) Our community values the health and safety of all. To that end I agree to take full responsibility for myself, my children or anyone else in my care while at the Fair. I will supervise all minors and others in my care, and not leave children unattended at any time while at the Fair. If I have minors for whom I am responsible at the Fair, I will talk with them about how to respond to various types of situations they may encounter. 2) Our community believes in reverence for the land, responsible stewardship of Fair resources and respect for everyone’s well being. I agree not to sneak people into the Fair or allow people who do not have wristbands to stay after public hours, as doing so strains our capacity to take care of our land and one another. 3) Our community depends on everyone cooperating to create our essential event. I agree that I will cooperate fully with the sweep volunteers (including permitting my tent, vehicle or other camping facility to be swept). 4) I understand that I can be held accountable for failing to abide by this agreement. Thank you very much for your cooperation, and for all you contribute to the Fair.”

Peach Gallery: Dr. Jim said the word ‘prioritize’ should be replaced with ‘place a high priority on’ because ‘prioritize’ means ‘to place in order of importance.’ Paxton Hoag (Photo ID) liked Jack’s explanation earlier and said that the “background the agreement came from was a statement of community,” but he doesn’t see this agreement as a statement of community and thinks others will have a negative first reaction. He thinks it will contribute to the “climate of fear we find in the world today.” He said, “You say you have to do this and that, and then there’s kind of a veiled threat at the end that you will be held accountable. I don’t like it the way it’s written.” Michael James Long (External Security) agreed with Paxton and said the agreement is much too long and suggested it just say that the person signing agrees to abide by the Fair guidelines. He said, “This action works only for wristbanded persons and doesn’t address the perceived threat of all the unwristbanded persons. There’s no probable cause to require some signed document like this. This is way overkill. We may as well tattoo people while we’re at it. This is reminiscent of the Vietnam war when our government was telling us we had to destroy the village in order to save it.” norma had a “logistics issue” and wondered about asking people to sign something saying they agree with the Guidelines when “probably a tiny minority even read the Guidelines or know they exist.” Hilary said, “We need a reality check for our children,” and talked about helping two little girls, one of them injured and bleeding, who were left alone “to hang out and play in Chela Mela Meadow while their parents were working a shift.” She thinks the agreement makes explicit what is implicit in our past system that says we use our wristbands to permit people to be here overnight. This is saying it explicitly. Doing it this year won’t be smooth. People talk about sneaking others in and it’s very different from what we formally agree to in our system.” She’d like to “see us come together on this.” She was offended when Michael talked about tattooing people because “I don’t think you’re talking about tattooing a peach. I think you’re referring to tattooing numbers and I think you’re going way out of scale.” David Liberty (Cartography) is in favor of the agreement and said we should have been doing it long ago but added, “It’s not the most pleasant thing to read.” He said that we need to pay “real attention to who is coming to the Fair and insure they are making a contribution to the Fair. A wristband says that they are.” He said, “Children, except infants, need to be wristbanded. What if one is injured and unconscious? We have no way of knowing who the parent is, but with a wristband we can look at the registration number and find out.” He said “we need to cooperate with the sweep and have our tent flaps open; they won’t rummage through your stuff, it’s just to see if there are warm bodies in there.” Charlie Zennache (BUM) said, “Like it or not, as we’ve gotten bigger we have more and more people come to party who may not

share our values and who are not interested in contributing to our organization. They use the toilets and White Bird and things that the volunteers and the paying public help support. The issue of nighttime population is not a new issue. You're not supposed to sneak people in. We all work real hard because we want a wristband. To allow people to come in without the knowledge and commitment that the wristband represents causes problems for us. In the Guidelines it says if you accept a wristband you are agreeing to abide by the rules. It's implicit, but we need to make it explicit. Security crews have asked for something like this. Your volunteer crews have asked for this support. They're not going to rummage through your tent. We're not trying to be police. We're not trying to be anything other than peacekeepers for the whole Family. There have been incidents of assaults. People need to take responsibility for their kids." Grumpy agrees with Charlie but also understands Michael's and Paxton's reactions and said, "We need to remind people there is a code of conduct and we need to abide by it. This is not about the Fair trying to be, as Michael alluded to, a gestapo. That rhetoric hurts us all. I don't have kids, but this is about protecting the helpless among us. What could destroy the village is people taking advantage of our laxness. Society allows anybody to sue anybody. It would take one successful lawsuit to take this away from us. The person who tells you that they would never sue the Fair is the person who will sue the Fair, and who has in the past sued the Fair." DJ Rogers said the agreement only covers the Fair event, but not pre-Fair. Jon Pincus agrees with "everything in the document and was glad to hear Charlie's clarification about sweeping of tents." He doesn't find "anything onerous in the agreement" but he is afraid others may react negatively. He suggested using this year to tell people what is expected of them and that next year they will be asked to sign something. Zak Schwartz (BUM) said, "The magic we do here can't be operationalized by management or the Board or security, it's got to be the whole tribe. We've grappled with problems of nighttime population and child safety for years. The extra sweep we're doing this year involves a small number of security in certain areas, and we're doing some special training with them to make sure it's done in a fair and humane way. It will be a sweep and not a search. We are growing, there are big issues to handle, and we won't get there without everybody getting behind it and getting involved." Russell Poppe (Fair lawyer) said, "There are problems with sexual predators at any kind of event like this. We know it, we've dealt with them, we've arrested them. If we didn't tell the Family that, and we let the Family continue to believe that this is the one place on the planet where it's safe to let their children run, we'd be irresponsible. It's disenchanting to have to tell them it's not safe. People may let their kids run unsupervised here who wouldn't consider it anywhere else. We have to tell people. We'd be irresponsible to not tell people that nowhere is safe." He also said "a large majority of the time" when security has problems with violence in the middle of the night, "it's the sneakers who are causing it. Who let them in? The Family did. We want to operate on trust as much as we can, but not to the point of it just being a joke." Floyd Prozanski (BUM) said, "We need to make people understand the risks, we could lose everything. This acknowledges the responsibility we all share. We have limited resources and have to deal with the impact on the land of the people who are not Family. This may seem like going to the extreme but it's not. There is a potential risk to children. We are the second guard. The first guard must be the parent or guardian." He said he's never been to Burning Man, but he heard at that event "you have to sign a statement that says something like 'Entering this event could mean your death.' That's a pretty extreme statement. We as a Family are united in making sure that we do everything we can to take care of each other. I heard someone say this agreement perpetuates fear. I don't know that it perpetuates fear so much as reality. If you don't believe it, walk the paths with us at night." Sara Rich (BUM) said this process began "out of love and respect for the Fair and for the people we call our community. It's not about instilling fear, it's about being realistic and raising awareness. We need to be more responsible for our children. I was a Fair child. My parents let me do things that I would never let my children do. People brag about sneaking in, and it's always in a tent. I tell them about the impact that has on our property and our resources. I'm not into invading people's privacy or instilling fear. It's about raising awareness and accountability, with love." Doug said, "Asking hasn't worked. This is the next step. Unwanted sexual activity is a very real threat. Please support this motion." Leslie said, "We started the Vision Quest summit with an agreement. We didn't sign our names but we wrote down the agreements and all agreed this is how we're going to be with each other. Culture Jam starts with an agreement for both youth and staff. It's about how we take responsibility for each other. This is so some outside authority doesn't come in and tell us. Most events are not allowed and able to do their own security. We are asking each other to go out and do this job. We all need to take responsibility. This is about putting your community equal with you as an individual. The people who do the sweep are not the enemy. They are part of us. We should be asking how we can help them instead of saying we want to resist them. If you're worried about it, come help us do it right. See for yourself. We have to have the courage to say that we can make agreements, and we can live by them." Beth Grafe (Co-Coordinator Construction Crew) acknowledged the seriousness of these issues, thanked the management team for trying to grapple with them, and said she knows it's coming from "a loving place. But one of the key ingredients for an agreement is that all parties worked on it together. The people

who are being asked to sign it are getting no notice that it's coming. We're coercing them. I'd like to see a full cycle of discussion around it." Dena Neeman (Pony Rides) said there's a "double standard if the sneaker is a friend of staff. Nothing happens to them, but someone else would get thrown out. Some people might resent that, but I don't feel any resentment. But what's the penalty? Is there any penalty? A craft person might lose their booth. Will staff just get a little talk? You should say what the ramifications will be." Jim Sahr (Crafter) said this will be "burdensome for the people who are handing out wristbands. Some people may want to argue. Just reading it will hold up the line. Logistically, it seems hard for this year. I like Jon's suggestion of handing it out this year and requiring a signature next year." Paxton said his neighborhood has not had a sneaker because of their neighborhood policies. He said, "The development of neighborhoods and campgrounds is going to be far more valuable in dealing with sneakers. Accountability has to come on an individual level rather than on a blanket level." He likes the concept of a community agreement but just doesn't like this document and "it needs to be explained ahead of time because we are an intentional community and we will agree if people understand in advance." Deane Middleton (Neighborhood Response Team) said the statements at the board meeting "reaffirms my heart and caring for the Family and this organization, everything sounds so loving. That's why I keep coming back." He thinks most people read the Guidelines and he supports the agreement, saying "We should honor it, but the only thing that bothers me is that I would have liked to know ahead of time. Use this year to bring about awareness for next year. Instead of passing out papers, which just wastes paper, maybe make some big signs and have discussion groups out where people pick up their wristbands." Charlie said there is no penalty spelled out because they wanted it to be "specific to situations. Some situations may require a warning, a probation, or a suspension. The code of conduct already provides the authority to expel. We didn't want a 'one size fits all' penalty because one size doesn't fit all." Barbara supports the agreement but suggested re-writing the sentence about taking responsibility for your children, saying some parents may not understand exactly what is expected of them, especially with older children. Robin Smith (BUM) said she was part of the group who worked on the writing and added, "We want to treat everybody fairly. We used to all know each other. You could leave stuff in your tent. You could let your kids run free. We can't do that anymore. Crises happen. This statement says we're a community and we care about each other. We need your cooperation to be safe. Let's have a safe, happy, and fun Fair."

Board: Joseph said, "Being here is a privilege, not a right. This agreement is too narrowly focused on whether you have a camping pass. People need to abide by the entire Guidelines. It suggests that respecting the land consists of not sneaking anybody in. It consists of a whole lot more. Even if you've been here for 20 years, you shouldn't be cutting the native plants. Maybe we'll need to pass this for this year but rework it for next year." Katie said people will feel "like something is being sprung on them. If there is no imminent threat, I like Jon's idea of informing the membership and giving them a year's notice. But if this is necessary due to insurance liability, we owe our membership that information." Bear said this is a "useful tool we should adopt, but with caveats. We need to remember that this is coming on fast, and change is scary for some people. It won't do us any good to get impatient with them. There are at least six lawyers here and we see how police act and how law enforcement abuses people. The Oregon Country Fair is not like that. If you're upset about the abuse that's happening because of our government's actions, that's a feeling you can project on the Fair thinking 'I don't want the Fair to become like that'. I urge you to reconsider and direct that energy to changing conditions outside the Fair because that's where things are bad. We are a democratically governed organization so our processes need to be transparent. There's a shortage of guideline books. Next budget cycle we need to remedy that and we need to put them on the website. If you don't like what the Board is doing, then vote to change Board members. We are accountable, hold us accountable. As to sneakers, we need to be talking up how fun the Fair is during the daytime and we need to wear our kids out during the day so they're not running around at night. A sunset clause is a good idea. We need to constantly reapprove and reexamine." Anna said in Energy Park she signs something every year saying she "will be part of the sweep. We physically sign our names. But when a new topic is brought up, we discuss it at the next meeting. Getting membership to agree is crucial to any change that's going to happen." Jack asked, "Have you ever sat before a deposition? There is no stone unturned. You can't lie, you can't allude to. We just crossed a threshold whether we like it or not. I used to be an extreme skier. They tell you if you ski out of bounds they're not liable if you kill yourself, and they don't put up a snow fence. We just asked to put up a snow fence. This agreement says our community depends on everyone cooperating. Nobody is signing anything away. The barn door has been open for years. All of us who are democratically elected, we're liable. I'm a responsible person, that's why I asked you to elect me. This is responsible. If we choose not to inform people, we choose not to put the snow fence up. We're not talking about putting this on a ticket for the public. We're talking about volunteers. We're talking about putting on an event and asking people to come here, and we have to provide that safety for them. To get people to buy into it is going to be tough. I'm going to stand at the head of the line and tell

them 'you have to buy into this'. We're growing. I can't even guess where we'll be ten years from now. We've got to do this." Greg said his 13-year-old daughter will be joining him at the Fair soon and he's approaching that with "both joy and fear, because I know the realities of some of the people who come on to this property. It's time for us to do this. Board members will be present at the Fair and make themselves available. We need to make decisions and stand by them. We're blessed with this opportunity to be available and to help folks to understand." He said he personally doesn't like all the language and would love to wordsmith it, "but I won't go there. We can tinker later but we need to pass it now." He worried about the wristband staff and suggested they have a written explanation and a way to call staff or a Board member. He referred to Michael's earlier comment and said, "I have friends who are survivors of the Holocaust and had no choice about having numbers tattooed on them. I challenge you to compare this with that. It breaks my heart to see this event compared with something of such devastating magnitude." Deane said, "We need to make sure people read the Guidelines and more copies would be a step in the right direction. What happens if someone won't sign the agreement? We shouldn't operate from fear. We used to have a great Fair before we had the land. If we lost the land, the Fair would continue." Diane would like to see word get out to the Family so they aren't surprised and suggested including information about it in the letter that Sally's sending out tomorrow. Brad said this is a "tough discussion. Since being elected to the Board and reading incident reports and seeing the Fair's underbelly, it has slowly been killing the magic for me. I apologize for my emotional reaction, it's surprising me. It's not always the peace and love Fair we want it to be. It hurts me to say that. I support this. Yes, there are imminent threats. I see us make changes and adapt. I see what an amazing group we are. We don't have a year to debate it. It's bullshit that sneaking in one or two people doesn't matter. That mentality has to change. It's hard. I'm conflicted. But ultimately I support this policy and I support people signing and taking accountability for their actions onsite." Marlene said she never snuck in and was always grateful for the opportunity to volunteer. She said, "I want BUMs and management to know that I hate how this process happened, that we are doing this at such late notice. I understand Jack's statement about why this is necessary, but it doesn't make me happy about it. I wish we had opportunity for more discussion and do this as a cooperating Family. This is probably the most angry I've ever sounded at a Board meeting." Lawrence said, "There are two issues before us and there would be less discomfort if we addressed them separately. There is almost universal agreement with the content of this statement. We agree that we shouldn't sneak people in and we should take care of our children. There is agreement that we stand by these principles, that we want the Board to make an affirmative statement that we all stand by these principles, and we want to insure that every wristbanded person understands and is aware of this and committed to it. The second issue is for them to sign their name to it. We ought to consider that as a separate motion. That's where we run into questions of process. Accountability is a friendly way of saying penalty, that's where we run into discomfort with the statement. I propose that we adopt the statement and see that everybody who gets a wristband reads the statement, and take the time to respect our process about asking people to put their signatures on it." Katie offered a friendly amendment and asked for additional language telling people "Due to imminent legal threat, we really need you to sign this." She said, "We owe our membership that respect and dignity. We've always risen to the occasion in an emergency and we will again." The amendment was not accepted. **Bear moved to call the question. The motion failed: 2 in favor and 8 opposed (Lawrence, Anna, Greg, Brad, Diane, Marlene, Katie, and Deane. (Note: Deane voted for Lara who briefly left the meeting.)** Brad asked to hear from the management team. Leslie responded "You need to hear from our lawyer. This comes down to what will legally protect the Fair and that's what's at stake here. This came from something that's very real, that the Board knows about. After much discussion with our lawyer we know we need to put out a statement like this. What's under debate is whether we're still legally protected if it's not signed." Russell said, "Major dangers are created by sneakers. There are a couple of different issues but they're connected, they're not independent. That's why they got lumped together. The important thing is that people get the warning, understand the expectations and the dangers, and acknowledge that they received that so that they can't later say they never got the warning. It's impossible for the Board to craft a document here in a group meeting. You could pass a resolution directing the management team to recraft this as a statement of expectations. People could acknowledge that they received it, not necessarily that they agree with it." Marlene offered a friendly amendment to change the wording to say they acknowledge receiving the statement. Jack felt very strongly that the motion and signatures are necessary. He said, "I'm really not afraid of much, but on some things you just gotta listen to the sound, man. I don't know what else to tell you guys. People are crying. I'm perturbed. We can dance all we want. I'm not gonna change anything. If it fails, it fails." Lara said she was a child who wasn't watched, adding "we need to protect the children. If we don't, who will? This statement comes from love. We shouldn't be having to have people sign saying they will be responsible for their children, but we do, that's the shit of it. Pay attention to the children." Katie said she still wants a friendly amendment, explaining "The entire membership isn't here to understand all this. They will agree if we make them understand. Empathize

with our membership and understand how they are going to react to this when they come to get their wristbands. I have tremendous respect for our membership. Tell them it is unfortunate and regrettable that the following statement is necessary for you to sign in order to get your wristband. Tell them we apologize and we're really fucking sorry we have to ask you to do this." Jack said, "Why don't we just tell them if they come here and die and their kid gets molested, it's not our problem! I don't see how this agreement is disrespectful. I don't think any of us are not smart enough to not read between the lines, I really don't. We all understand entendre, it's in here! Do you really think we'd be asking people to sign a 'loyalty oath' if we weren't serious? Do you think all those people will think we're trying to pull something over on them? We don't have to start off with anything other than being polite. I'm trying to be proactive. I'm trying to put this information out there. I want to cooperate. How do you soft step this other than tell people you have to behave yourself. Make people think, think! That's all we're asking. This year will be a nightmare, out there on Wednesday and Thursday getting all those people to understand. I don't want to put up a big sign saying we're unsafe. I want them to read that into that. The nightmare has happened. We skirted it. Signing something saying we agree to be responsible and take care of our children and take care of each other...what is it going to take? Do I have to make this motion again?" Marlene asked if Jack was refusing the friendly amendment. Jack said, "Yes. For this year, this is what we need." Bear said, "Why should we have to apologize? I'm not sorry we're asking people to sign saying they agree that kids should be safe and they agree not to sneak people in." Joseph said he hears concerns about asking people to sign and liked what Russell mentioned about just having people acknowledge they received the statement. He asked for a friendly amendment asking management for a "memorandum of understanding." Jack said no. Greg read a statement he would like to add. He read, "Dear Fair Family, We the Board of Directors, need your support. We are asking you to sign the following statement that confirms our commitment to the values and principles of love for each other and care for the land. We wish we had more time to process this and include the full Fair Family's ideas. Unfortunately, we don't have the time and ability to do that this year. As Board members, we are available throughout the Fair to help process this. Please find us at the Vision Quest table." Jack accepted the first paragraph. Lawrence quoted Lao Tsu who said, "Where trust fails, law arises." He is troubled by asking for a signature on this kind of emergency procedure but "our counsel has suggested this is necessary so I support it."

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed. *(Note: The discussion of the Community Agreement was perhaps one of the most difficult discussions I've written up. This is just a taste of what each person said, but it isn't anywhere close to the whole thing. Even when people are quoted quite extensively, that is still a small part of what they said. The discussion lasted more than 90 minutes and was very emotional. Several participants were moved to tears; a few people were very upset; some words were passionately delivered. Some people, for legal reasons, had to be very careful what they said and how they said it. Sometimes you really have to read between the lines. This is one of those times.)*

DISCUSSION OF PONY RIDES

Marlene said there is no motion at this point, just further discussion, then called on Dena Neeman who asked if she could run her rides where she used to, behind the current Rabbit Hole. She said she is "lost about the process, I don't even know if this is an option." Jon Pincus repeated the proposal he made at last month's meeting that she be allowed to operate her rides at her old location for this year only, allowing time for relocation discussion for next year's Fair. He detailed preliminary work he had done measuring spaces, checking on paths, and planning what work would need to be done. He said the Fair would not have to provide any crew or money, only approval of the finished work by Construction Crew. He had support and approval from Tom Noddy (Entertainer, Bubble Magic) who is the primary occupant of the Rabbit Hole and who also sent a letter of support for the Pony Rides to the Board. He said that he, like Dena, also does not understand the process. Marlene said that no motion has been made tonight. Dena said she would not be coming to the Fair this year because she "can't keep being strung out. I'm not saying I won't ever come back. I've been here 23 years and I love this place. My process hasn't been handled well. There was a lot of discussion tonight about the values of the Fair. The straight story of what happened to my booth is continually not the truth. I've seen this underbelly of the Fair that people talk about." Grumpy said, "A lot of the truth hasn't come out here, and I think a lot of it hasn't come out here because of our process. A lot of what I heard at the last meeting may or may not have been accurate; I think a lot of it was very inaccurate. The Fair operations has bent over backwards to have the Pony Rides here." He said, "The bottom line is that you don't want change, you don't want to move, and if you had attempted to cooperate with management, with operations, and with the process things probably could have been done." Diane said she was speaking as a grandmother rather than as a Board member, and that she was very sorry "a bunch of adults weren't able to work this out." She said her grandson would be very disappointed. Deane offered his help in doing whatever he could to insure that the Pony Rides would be back next year. Brad said he was uncomfortable

with the process of how this has been handled. He said for the Board to make a motion tonight, “we would be sticking our noses into something that is clearly operational. We have a committee that deals with this.” He agreed with Diane that he was sorry a resolution was not reached and was uncomfortable that the Board was asked to address this at the last minute, concluding with “All in all, it really sucks.”

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, August 1, 2005 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; Consider Donation to Lane Longhouse; Consider Donation Moratorium for May, June, and July Board meetings beginning in 2006 (Brad); Discussion of Elder SOP’s (Jack); Discussion of Craft Inventory Notification Process (Deane); as well as the following new business: Consider Donation to McKenzie Willamette Festival of Trees; Set Date for Employee Evaluations (Marlene). The following items were dropped from the agenda: Consider Donation to Educational Environments School; and Consider Appointments to Elders Committee.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Mitch Albom (“The Five People You Meet in Heaven”) for the following quote: “There are no random acts. We are all connected. You can no more separate one life from another than you can separate a breeze from the wind.”

After the meeting, the proposed draft of the agreement was re-written to include the discussed amendments and corrections. Following is the final draft of the agreement:

2005 OCF Community Agreement

Dear Fair Family,

Welcome to the 2005 Oregon Country Fair! We, the Board of Directors, need your agreement and support. We are asking you to sign the following agreement that confirms our commitment to the values and principles of love for each other and care for the land.

The OCF wants you to have a safe and wonderful experience at the Fair. As a community we put a high priority on the health and safety of every participant. Unfortunately, as the Fair has grown significantly, we no longer all know each other, and there are people who come to the Fair to take advantage of our open and loving community or who simply do not share our values. Even though the Fair tries very hard to prevent problems, crime (including theft and physical and sexual assault) as well as other inappropriate behaviors sometimes happen. The OCF Guidelines exist to help us protect the health and safety of all. By signing for your wristband, you acknowledge that you have read and understood this statement and that you agree to abide by the OCF Guidelines, Code of Conduct, and the following agreement:

1. Our community values the health and safety of all. To that end I agree to take full responsibility for myself, my children or anyone else in my care while at the Fair. I will supervise all minors and others in my care. I will not leave children unattended at any time while at the Fair. If I have minors for whom I am responsible at the Fair, I will talk with them about how to respond to various types of situations they may encounter.

2. Our community believes in reverence for the land, responsible stewardship of Fair resources and respect for everyone’s well-being. I agree not to sneak people into the Fair or allow people who do not have wristbands to stay after public hours, as doing so strains our capacity to take care of our land and one another.

3. Our community depends on everyone cooperating to create our essential event. I agree that I will cooperate fully with the sweep volunteers (including permitting my tent, vehicle or other camping facility to be swept).

4. I understand that I can be held accountable for failing to abide by this agreement.

Thank you very much for your cooperation, and for all you contribute to the Fair.