

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday September 12, 2005, 7pm, onsite at Alice's Wonderland

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.

NOT: Bear Wilner-Nugent. (*Note: Joseph voted in Bear's absence.*)

(Note: During agenda review, Lawrence moved and Brad seconded to move Hurricane Relief from new to old business. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

norma invited everyone at the meeting to enjoy a piece of Dana's cheesecake. Leslie and others sold Mardi Gras beads at the State Fair as a fundraiser for hurricane relief. They donated the \$65 they collected to Conscious Alliance, and Dana and Colleen Baumann contributed the cheesecake as a thank you.

Brad will miss next month's Board meeting because he will be on his honeymoon.

Lara announced her resignation from the Personnel Committee because of time conflicts. She said the OCF site is "cleaner than it's been in 10 years" and also that she enjoyed having a booth at the OCF section of the State Fair.

Steve W. said he's glad it looks clean but "there is still lots of work to do" so there will be a final site clean-up work party on the weekend of the annual meeting, Oct 8-9.

Greg said Tracy Berry resigned as Co-Coordinator of Admissions/Paid Parking.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Greg moved and Katie seconded to approve the minutes of the "July" Board meeting held on June 26, 2005. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed. Joseph moved and Lara seconded to approve the minutes of the August Board meeting. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

MEMBER INPUT

Ong Kar Walen (Co-Coordinator of External Security) and Andrea Olson want to bring a Zimbabwean Music Festival to the OCF site next summer. They presented the Board with a detailed proposal that will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Jon Pincus (Elder) said when he expressed a concern about a procedural matter at the August meeting that he forgot to mention that this year's Fair was "one of the best ever, everyone did a fabulous job," then added, "but that doesn't mean I won't be bugging you later about the issues I addressed previously!"

Deane read part of a letter to the Board from Linda Mooney (Traffic Crew) who said the Fair needs better and cleaner toilets. Her camp area, which she calls PU Camp, is near the toilets between Shady Grove and Community Village.

Kay Kintzley (Booth L86) said her daughter had a wonderful time at Culture Jam. She also said she rode Kevin's shuttle bus to the State Fair with her son and daughter and they had a great time, commenting that "It was hot and dusty and then you get to the OCF section which was lovely and calming with shade and trees."

Steve G. (aka Grumpy) thanked the OCF for coming to his hometown of Salem and said the Salem newspaper had a couple of positive articles about the OCF's participation.

Bob Hutchins said having the OCF at the State Fair was "the best thing to happen to Salem in a long time."

Brad attended Open Mic Night at Culture Jam and said, "To see those kids up on stage gave me hope."

STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager: Leslie said it was "an astonishing, rich, full month." She thanked Robin for all her work on Culture Jam which she said was "amazing, with a fabulous group of young people. It gets

more beautiful and more powerful every year.” She has been meeting with the city of Eugene concerning sponsorship for year-round Culture Jam activities. She said it was “a huge and valuable learning experience for the OCF to go to Salem.” She thanked Lin Wolfe and everyone at the State Fair who supported LiveArt!, all the vendors “who participated with us on our inaugural voyage,” and thanked Andyman, Charlie R., Francisco and Kelly, Dan and Mae Hitchcock, Beth, Kirk, Tia, and David Paul for all their creative, hard work, and Jeya, Hilary, Candace, Trevor, Taylor, Megan and her partner Charlie for all their volunteer time, and Candace and Grumpy for their hospitality in Salem. Also in August, she prepared the incident summary for the Board and participated in budget and financial planning meetings. She said the next Vision Quest summit will be on Oct. 30 and she’s “very excited about looking at results from the public survey questionnaires collected during the Fair as well as the input from the Board’s retreat.” She also said she is “very sorry to lose Tracy Berry as Admissions Co-Coordinator” and thanked her for “the incredible work she has done designing and implementing all the operational changes in Admissions in recent years.”

Administrative Assistant: norma thanked Wally Slocum and Nicodemus and many volunteers for making the picnic a success. She also mentioned her appreciation for Bob Fennessey who booked “three wonderful musical groups for the event.” She said someone left a very nice quilt at the picnic and she hopes someone will contact the office to claim it. She put the candidates’ statements on the website. She asked if coordinators would like thank you cards for their crew and said she has lots of them at the office. She said Charlie Murphy will again be the facilitator for the next Vision Quest summit because “he did a great job at the first one.” She took a week off last month and thanked Robin for “holding down the office.”

Site Manager: Steve W. thanked Andy, Charlie, Tommy, Big Mike, Jeff (Animal), and David Hoffman for all their help onsite. In August, the site hosted Culture Jam as well as weddings and other gatherings. A footbag tournament called “The Beaver Open” was held onsite over Labor Day weekend. It was the group’s 25th annual gathering. He said Jeff Johnson, who has been part of the group for many years, was an excellent site liaison. He also thanked Shane Harvey for helping with the picnic set-up and clean-up. He said, “The folks who did the State Fair were great. Sometimes we just preach to the converted so it’s important to reach the other end of the political and philosophical spectrum and find common ground.” He said anyone looking for garden mulch or compost should come out to the site and “help yourself to the free bales of straw and hay out in the parking lots. Come and get it!” He encouraged everyone to participate in the work party planned for Oct. 8 and 9. He said, “Come on out here to help with deconstruction and cleanup either Saturday or Sunday, and attend the meeting Saturday night to vote.”

Assistant Manager: Charlie said it was “a heck of an August and the entire crew is amazing, from the top down.” He encouraged people to write to him about ideas and concerns they have regarding how computers can help streamline the Fair’s work. He can be reached at am@oregoncountryfair.org.

Treasurers: Grumpy said attendance this year was very slightly down, and income from passes was up so basically that means “there’s fewer public and more of us.” He said we may be “moving in the direction of becoming a camping event, but if we do this it should be a conscious choice, not by default. The Vision Quest should be our guide on this.” He encouraged the Fair to find other sources of revenue besides the three-day event, such as grants and hosting other events. He said small events like the Beaver Open and large events like the possible Zimbabwean Music Festival must be self-supporting. Grants are possible under many categories such as youth, archaeology, education, environment and many more. Some Fair family members are grant writers and there are also people who write grants for a percentage if it is accepted. The committees are “recommending we press pause with minor exceptions on crew budgets this year” because of costs associated with the computerization project, and the priority of integrating all the new systems developed this year with the computerization project. Similarly, the committees don’t want to recommend raising fees this year for the public or for the Family “with the possible exception of a small increase for vehicles.” Hilary added that the budget in the board packet doesn’t include food voucher expenses but that will be corrected by the annual meeting. She said it’s good “to look at our financial structure and not have a reliance on the three-day event for revenue.” Leslie added the comment that another source the Fair should consider is donor and planned giving campaigns. She also said such matters as compensation for staff time will need to be discussed when planning future partnerships,

explaining that this year the OSF covered the Fair's expenses other than her time which was donated to the OSF project. She said future collaborations should definitely include partial compensation for the Fair's staff costs.

President: Jack said, "The good that we're doing is very important." He said projects such as Culture Jam, the partnership with OSF, and "our small contributions to community groups are all part of our good karma. Me saying thanks just isn't enough. What we focus on we need to continue to do with honesty and integrity. Thank you all for that."

COMMITTEE REPORTS ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Head of the committee, Heidi Doscher, couldn't attend the meeting but asked Barbara to report that over 980 absentee ballots have been mailed. If a member still needs to request an absentee ballot, please do so by Sept. 23 if possible to insure adequate time for postal service. There are eight candidates running for six positions. The annual meeting and election will be held on Saturday Oct. 8 at 6:30 pm at Knights of Pythias Hall in Eugene. Heidi and Barbara thank Jen-lin Hodgden, Cathy Coulson-Wright, Arna Shaw, Danya Ariel, and Ashlee Dyer for spending a Saturday afternoon stuffing, sealing, and stamping envelopes. As they appear on the ballot, the eight candidates in alphabetical order by first name are: Anna Scott, Deane Morrow, Greg Rikhoff, Katie Cousins, Lara Howe, Lawrence Taylor, Mathew Brink, and Paxton Hoag. Barbara said that about a year ago Deane Morrow asked if teens could vote and three different answers were given at the meeting. The definitive answer from Heidi is that any legitimate member of the Fair, regardless of age, is eligible to vote. She said current by-laws place no age requirement on a voting member; however, by advice of legal counsel, candidates running for the Board must be adults.

AD HOC WASTE REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Lara reported that they are planning a meeting soon to debrief about the new durable cutlery project as well as to plan for next year's event. She encouraged those interested in participating to contact her at ocfrecycler@comcast.net or 541-747-2068.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Brad invited everyone to participate in the employee evaluation process by filling out forms available at the office or on the Fair's website. Forms are due Sept. 23.

LUMP COMMITTEE

Steve W. said that after a summer break the Land Use Management Planning committee will return to regular meetings, the first being Tuesday, Sept 20 at 7pm at the town office. The committee will begin work on the Board's directive to develop an ecosystem restoration and recovery plan.

OLD BUSINESS

CONSIDER DONATION TO LANE LONGHOUSE

Joseph moved and Greg seconded that the Board donate \$1,000 to the Lane Longhouse.

Background: Deane Middleton, Marcie Middleton, and Barbara Delansky from LCC's Longhouse Fund presented a written proposal to the Board describing the project. Lane Community College has about 400 Native American students, the largest Native American enrollment of any college in Oregon. The proposal states, "A longhouse at Lane will provide a place of welcome, acceptance, and support." In the Native American tradition, a longhouse "provides a holistic atmosphere for focusing on obtaining and maintaining balance in mind, body, and spirit." Individuals or groups donating \$1,000 or more "will be recognized as a Friend of the Lane Longhouse when the building is completed." More information can be found at www.lanecollege.edu/nasa/longhouse.

Peach Gallery: Grumpy asked if the organization is a 501(c)3 (yes) and suggested splitting the donation, half this year and half next year. Leslie hopes the project is realized but is struggling with the fact that the six totems are dedicated to the military. She said she may be "culturally ignorant" and asked for an explanation of this. She clarified that she was asking the question "as Leslie and not as the general manager." Marcie responded that she understands Leslie's concern but said it is "a Native American tradition to honor the warrior." She said many Native Americans serve in the military and that the totems can honor those who serve "even if you don't agree with the policies made by military leaders."

Board: Lawrence, Anna, Greg and Joseph all spoke in favor of the motion. Joseph said, “The building will be known nationally as a place to honor Native Americans and I want the Fair to be a part of that.” Greg added, “This is a way to support both education and the arts, and also a rare opportunity to show support for Native American communities.” Marlene supports the project but would prefer a \$500 amount. Jack said he doesn’t “like this warrior thing but I want the project built.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

CONSIDER DONATION TO SATURDAY MARKET RECYCLING PROGRAM

Lara moved and Deane seconded that the Board donate \$1,000 to the Saturday Market Recycling Program.

Background: Jarrett Arnold, the Recycling and Compost Coordinator for Saturday Market, spoke about their relatively new program which has already diverted 42 cubic yards of plastic and glass and over 17,000 pounds of food, paper, and wood from the landfill.

Peach Gallery: Grumpy thought \$1,000 was too high and recommended \$500. Jon Pincus said it was a great project but “other needs like Whiteaker Thanksgiving should be assessed before the Board votes.” Leslie said she absolutely supports people being paid for their work, but she believes this should be “at least the equal responsibility of Saturday Market rather than the Fair.”

Board: Lawrence agreed with Leslie, saying “We don’t pay our own volunteers to sort trash.” Lara is a long-time market vendor and said that Saturday Market has tried twice to promote this program and “it didn’t fly. Then Jarrett came along and kicked ass reducing the market waste in half in less than a year.” She said although the market is a self sufficient organization that can and will support itself, she would like to look at this donation as a gift to “give their recycling program a good kick-start this time around.” **Lara amended the request to \$500 and Deane accepted the amendment.** Anna asked if they had applied for a grant from the city of Eugene and Jarrett said their supplies are donated by the city. Anna said her heart was with them but “it’s time for Saturday Market to step up and pay.” Brad said there is only \$1800 left in this year’s donation budget and he also wants to support other programs such as Whiteaker Thanksgiving, the Bioneers, and hurricane relief. Joseph said, “We’re strong enough this year and maybe we should go over budget.” Jack doesn’t want to go over budget tonight and suggested \$250 each to Bioneers and Recycling and \$1,000 to Whiteaker, with the Katrina donation coming out of another part of the budget.

The motion failed: 3 in favor and 7 opposed (Marlene, Anna, Lawrence, Katie, Diane, Jack, and Brad).

Lara moved and Deane seconded to donate \$250 to the Saturday Market Recycling Program and the motion passed: 8 in favor and 2 opposed (Katie and Anna).

CONSIDER DONATION TO HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

Lawrence moved and Deane seconded that the Board donate \$1,000 from general funds to the NAACP’s hurricane relief efforts. (*Note: norma wasn’t sure what part of the budget to charge if this motion passed. Lawrence suggested letting the treasurers make that decision, and there was agreement all around.*)

Background: Hurricane Katrina and subsequent flooding devastated parts of Louisiana and Mississippi in late August.

Peach Gallery: Grumpy asked why this group instead of the Red Cross or Salvation Army. Lawrence answered that many are donating to the Red Cross now, the Salvation Army has a religious connection, and felt the NAACP project “may be more in line with us.” Grumpy thinks Fair members should donate individually but doesn’t support this motion because “this catastrophe was foreseeable and preventable.” Leslie said a group called Conscious Alliance, a non-profit that String Cheese helped found, donates every cent to victims, nothing for overhead. Hilary said, “The NAACP will look out for African Americans and that’s an important issue. I don’t care if it was preventable, we should still help.” Jon Pincus said a club in New Orleans called Tipitina’s has an auxiliary 501(c)3 which is organizing shelter and many other services for musicians affected by the hurricane. Information can be found at www.tipitinas.com.

Board: Katie would prefer to see the money donated to the organization Leslie mentioned.

Lawrence said he would accept a friendly amendment to split the donation between the two groups, and Deane accepted the amendment. Diane said \$1,000 seems like a small amount and suggested contributing \$20,000 to the endowment fund this year instead of the usual \$25,000 so that we could send \$5,000 for relief efforts. She also said we should think about sending a construction crew. Brad suggested looking into the possibility of sponsoring a family. Greg said, "This is our first opportunity to give to this effort, not our last." Anna said this donation is "part of a stream of heartfelt money; it is a start." Marlene said some Fair family members are from the affected areas. Deane encouraged everyone to think about more ways the Fair could help, perhaps by providing sponsorship or housing. Brad said even if this motion passes to keep hurricane relief on the agenda because "we want to keep looking at ways to help."

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

ENDOWMENT PRINCIPLE CONTRIBUTION

Greg moved and Joseph seconded to allocate \$25,000 to the endowment fund managed by the Oregon Community Foundation.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; Appoint Buses Co-Coordinator; Further Discussion of Hurricane Relief Efforts; as well as the following new business: Renew Membership in Portland Oregon Visitors Association; Accommodate Medical Marijuana Patients (Joseph); Zimbabwean Music Festival; Increase Board Donation Budget (Brad); Transfer Some Existing Endowment Principle to the other OCF (Greg); Consider Donations to the following six organizations: Catholic Community Services for computer system, Network for Reproductive Options, Oregon Youth Bioneers, CALC New Theatre Project, Bicycle Transportation Alliance, and Whiteaker Thanksgiving.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Thich Nhat Hanh for the following quote: "The next Buddha will not reincarnate as an individual. The next Buddha will reincarnate as a community." *(Note: I should perhaps say 'paraphrase' instead of 'quote' because I am not positive these are the exact words. Is there someone out there reading this who knows the precise wording? If so, please e-mail me at bedmonds@efn.org.)*