

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday October 3, 2005, 7pm, EWEB Community Room

PRESENT: Diane Albino, Katie Cousins, Jack Makarchek, Marlene Monette, Deane Morrow (alternate), Joseph Newton (alternate), Greg Rikhoff, Anna Scott, Lawrence Taylor.

NOT: Lara Howe (not feeling well), Brad Lerch (honeymoon), Bear Wilner-Nugent (flat tire in Portland). *(Note: Normally it takes 7 votes to pass a motion but with three members absent it takes 6 votes for passage, that's two-thirds of the total of 9 votes. Joseph and Deane both voted on every motion. During agenda review, Joseph tabled his discussion of accommodating medical marijuana patients but requested a guest be allowed to speak on the subject early in the meeting. It was suggested he speak during member input.)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve W. reminded everyone in the room about this weekend's onsite work party and the annual meeting in town Saturday night. Jen-lin Hodgden (Feedback Coordinator) said she regretted there won't be a cider harvest party this year but she looks forward to another one next year. Greg apologized in advance for needing to leave at 9pm because of a parental responsibility.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Katie moved and Greg seconded to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2005 Board meeting. The motion passed: 9 in favor and 0 opposed.

MEMBER INPUT

Joseph introduced Reverend Will who spoke about his feelings of frustration and anger concerning medical marijuana and the Fair. He said, "If your biggest fear is losing the land, you shouldn't be afraid because you don't really own it. Love supersedes fear. The feds don't tell me what to do, I'd rather die." He spoke about frustrations with bureaucracy and "being a criminal in my own community." He mentioned last month's donation for hurricane relief efforts and said there are a lot of people including himself who need help right here. He continued, "You should step up and take care of all the people who helped you get this land and you've been shitting on us ever since."

STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager: Leslie announced the awards given through this year's Jill Heiman Vision Fund which had the highest ever total of over \$20,000. Florence Food Share received \$2,097.20, and a rural Head Start program received \$3,097.20 Three programs each received \$5,097.20: Huerta de la Familia which helps Spanish-speaking families grow food, St. Vincent de Paul's medical and dental program for homeless people, and Sponsors Inc which helps provide prescription drugs for their clientele. Leslie wrote a report to the Board on the State Fair project. The Fair has been informally invited to participate again in next year's State Fair. She reported that over \$10,000 is coming from the City of Eugene for Culture Jam scholarships. She said she had "a terrific time at the Eugene Celebration" and she thanked "Andyman, Charlie, norma and lots of volunteers for a beautiful entry in the parade and a great booth" and said it was "wonderful to have a Culture Jam presence in the parade." She has also been busy with both budget planning and vision quest work.

Administrative Assistant: norma had to miss the meeting but e-mailed her report that the office is preparing for the board retreat and working with the Vision Quest Task Force to plan the second summit, scheduled for October 30. Thanks to Andy for a great parade entry, to Leslie for organizing the booth at the Eugene Celebration, and to everyone who set up and staffed the booth.

Site Manager: Steve W. said, "The 12 months from 10-1-04 to 9-30-05 (the water year) were the fifth driest on record for Eugene." He said they are "busy getting things under cover and put away" and mentioned the upcoming work party on Oct 8/9 and the cross country invitational hosted by Elmira High

School on Oct. 19. He thanked Andy, Charlie, David Hoffman, Tommy Rhea, Jeff Johnson and Big Mike for their continued effort on site. He added it's "starting to feel like winter's on the way. The fall rains have started and all paths and meadows are closed to vehicles. Park on the gravel, please, then stroll and enjoy."

Assistant Manager: Charlie said the parade "was a blast and it was fun working in the booth and talking to people in the community." He talked about the coming months when he will transition to offsite projects like computerization. He is organizing information on "asset inventory" because "we got a lot of stuff". Things belonging to the Fair are used at many different events so it is important to know where things are stored and how to access them. This will help anyone who uses the Fair's property. He asked for input from coordinators and other folks. He wants to know "What do you store? What are your needs?" He thanked Andy and Tommy who built a screen house portable kitchen and said that's where the food will be prepared to "feed everyone who comes out to work this weekend."

Treasurers: Hilary said they are having a revenue projection meeting tomorrow. Grumpy said at last month's meeting it was stated the treasurers would decide what part of the budget would pay for the \$1,000 donation for hurricane relief. They decided the money should come "from the board budget because it was under-utilized this year." He said he hasn't gotten any feedback on last month's comment that crew budgets would be essentially frozen. Marlene asked how much is left in the donations budget and Grumpy answered \$550.

President: Jack thanked everyone who participated in the parade and said, "I had almost as much fun as when I used to shovel horse shit from behind the entry." He said the annual meeting is this Saturday and "there's a fine slate of people running to be on the Board. Vote, and tell your friends to vote."

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Feedback Committee: Jen-lin gave a synopsis of the committee's 12-page feedback report. Some comments that were seen frequently asked for no smoking on the paths and better designation of smoking areas as well as many positive comments on the womens' urinals and suggestions that they be called 'herinals' or 'urigals'. She said one woman wrote that her children and her friend's children loved it because "they are afraid of the dark and the big hole in the porta-potties but the uninals are light and open and they can see their mommies."

Vision Quest: Leslie said the surveys from the Fair have been tabulated and "we'll hear more about it at the next VQ Summit on Oct. 30." She invited representatives from all parts of the Fair as well as the community to participate as "we look at all that we want to be and become." The committee will be talking with the Board about this at the annual retreat.

LUMP Committee (Land Use Management Planning): Steve W. said they met in September and they will meet on some upcoming Tuesdays Oct. 11, Nov. 15, and Dec. 13 at 7pm at the town office. They will also have an onsite walkabout on Sat. Nov 12, meet at 10am at the Hub. He said their meetings are open to all and invited folks to join them.

Personnel Committee: Marlene thanked all who filled out employee evaluation forms and said they are meeting tomorrow to look at those.

OLD BUSINESS

INCREASE BOARD DONATION BUDGET

Joseph moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board increase its donation budget by \$2,000.

Peach Gallery: Jim Sahr (Crafter) said the donation budget "is getting out of hand. There are disasters happening somewhere all the time. We're doing a hell of a lot of charitable giving." Palmer Parker (Fair Central) countered by saying "we were created as a philanthropic enterprise." He encouraged a yes vote and said "let's keep it going." Vick Parkison (Pre-Post Security) suggested that Katrina survivors in our area might be allowed to use the Fair's house. Jen-lin suggested inviting groups who have received money from the Fair to march in the parade with the OCF entry next year. Michael James Long (Security Crew) said it's best to support groups that will become self-sustaining. Grumpy likes to stick to a budget but said "a \$2,000 increase doesn't bother me too much."

Board: Joseph said it's an honor for "us to be able to support all these groups with such an

incredible flowering of creative energy.” Deane supports the motion but said we should take care of local needs. Greg supports the motion but asked if the money could be allocated from another part of the budget instead of increasing the budget. **Grumpy suggested allowing the treasurers to reallocate and report next month, and that was accepted by Joseph and Lawrence as a friendly amendment.** Jack said it was important for him to be able to support Whiteaker Thanksgiving and Bioneers and he wanted next year’s budget to show that the Board had to increase the donation budget. Marlene agreed with Reverend Will that we “need to be responsible with who we send our money to.” Lawrence agrees the emphasis should be local and said mostly it is. He asked, “How do we expand beyond relying on our gate so we can do more good in the future?” Anna supports looking at donation reform in general and wants to hear from membership about how the Fair’s money should be spent.

The amended motion passed: 9 in favor and 0 opposed.

CONSIDER DONATION TO WHITEAKER THANKSGIVING

Jack moved and Marlene seconded that the Board donate \$600 to the Whiteaker Thanksgiving.

Background: Beverly Farfan presented a certificate of thanks to the Board for past support. Last year’s dinner fed almost 2500 people.

Peach Gallery: Thumbs up. Jim Sahr said Alice Strong started it and he has always supported it. He said, “I don’t want my earlier remarks to be misconstrued that I don’t support any donations. Perhaps the Board could also support Reverend Will’s causes.”

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 0 opposed.

CONSIDER DONATION TO OREGON YOUTH BIONEERS

Joseph moved and Deane seconded that the Board donate \$500 to the Oregon Youth Bioneers scholarship program.

Background: Miranda Soileau-Pratt spoke on behalf of the program, saying it is about “youth leadership and empowerment.”

Peach Gallery: Thumbs up. Leslie strongly supported this motion, saying the “Youth Bioneers meet our educational and environmental values and build community in the process.” *Board:* Joseph said this is “a natural next step for Culture Jam.”

The motion passed: 8 in favor and 1 opposed (Katie).

CONSIDER DONATION TO NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE OPTIONS

Deane moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board donate \$500 to the Network for Reproductive Options.

Background: Marti Black said the money would be used for “expanded educational outreach to women in poverty and to help stock the community resource library.”

Peach Gallery: Michael James Long asked how this organization differs from Planned Parenthood and she answered that they deal more with “marginalized populations.”

Board: Lawrence supports the motion and said one of the triggers for poverty is unplanned births.

The motion passed: 6 in favor and 3 opposed (Katie, Marlene, Diane).

CONSIDER DONATION TO BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE

Jack moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board donate \$500 to the Bicycle Transportation Alliance.

Background: Kat Smith spoke about the program of bicycle safety education that teaches grade school children “bike riding skills, self-confidence, and a sense of community.”

Peach Gallery: Palmer thought it was a great idea “even before I liked kids.” Grumpy said “lots of bike riders in Eugene should be supporting this, not the OCF.” Leslie disagreed, saying “this supports our goals of youth empowerment, energy conservation, and environmental sustainability.”

Board: Greg requested a report back from the group. Lawrence said “as a kid, a bike meant freedom. It’s not that way anymore. Look around the world. Bicycles are serious transportation.”

The motion passed: 8 in favor and 1 opposed (Katie).

TRANSFER EXISTING ENDOWMENT PRINCIPLE

Greg moved and Joseph seconded to transfer \$50,000 of the existing endowment from bank CD's as they mature to the Oregon Community Foundation.

Peach Gallery: Hilary supports this and said with CD interest so low it makes sense to put more money in the Foundation where it is "earning a good reliable 5% rate of return."

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 0 opposed.

ALLOW ZIMBABWEAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Marlene moved and Joseph seconded to allow the Zimbabwean Music Festival to take place at the OCF site in 2006.

Background: Andrea Olson said the OCF site is perfect for what they want to do. Last year's Zimfest was held in Bellingham, WA. They often hold their event on college campuses but they sometimes "lack the community feel which the Fair has." They want to pay to rent the site and to hire OCF folks to work at their event.

Peach Gallery: Grumpy said he "doesn't have a problem" but requested an amendment guaranteeing that the Fair won't lose money and the general manager will retain control. Leslie said she would like an amended motion giving her and a negotiating team the authority to go forward with talks and return with a proposal. Hilary agreed with Leslie and said the Fair, not the applicant, should decide such things as rental fees. Steve W. said "we've had a busy summer. Board, management, and staff need to talk about what it means to have events this size. It makes me nervous to think about new folks onsite during summer when fire danger is high." Ong Kar Walen (Co-Coordinator of External Security) said this proposal was his idea. He said they have money from this year's festival to pay next year's festival bills. He said they could rent main camp kitchen and that lots of Fair folks want to help. They have already had lumber donated to build a stage in the parking lot. Over 50 bands performed at this year's Zimfest. Jen-lin suggested it would be helpful to folks bringing proposals like this to the Fair if they had some sort of blueprint to follow that would help streamline their process.

Board: Lawrence said he would like to see this happen and that membership has wanted a second event for a long time. He also said "it's nice the folks who are coming to us about this are us, they already understand the Fair." Marlene said "this doesn't mean I don't support it but I wonder how it will impact our employees having another event at such a busy time." Joseph said it is "the most promising second event proposal I've seen, let's move forward to explore it." Diane asked about the size and time of the event. Ong Kar said 500 attended this year's event and they are hoping to hold Zimfest '06 just a couple weeks after the Fair so many structures will still be in place. Greg had to leave but first said he loves the idea but wants to make sure it doesn't interfere with Culture Jam. Anna said, "I love this but as an organization we're not ready for this. We're not ready to receive these types of proposals. This has to be part of the visioning process." She said she would like to move forward but has concerns about doing this in the busiest part of summertime. Katie hesitated to support it because "we are in the middle of the visioning process which is incomplete. I'm concerned about stress on the site itself and on our employees. It's a great idea but it's too easy to say it's a great idea and let the work fall to others." Jack suggested the motion be withdrawn and Leslie be asked to explore possibilities with Zimfest. **Instead, Marlene suggested a friendly amendment authorizing a negotiating team including Leslie and Jack to meet with Zimfest representatives. This was accepted by Joseph. The amended motion passed: 7 in favor and 1 opposed (Katie).** (Note: Greg was not present for this vote.)

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, November 7, 2005 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; Consider Donation to Catholic Community Services; Consider Donation to CALC New Theatre Project; Appoint Buses Co-Coordinator; Further Discussion of Hurricane Relief Efforts (Brad); Accommodate Medical Marijuana Patients (Joseph) as well as the following new business: Consider Donation to Skipping Stones (Marlene); Renew Membership in WOW Hall (Lawrence); and Revenue Projection. Renew Membership in Portland Visitors Association was dropped from the agenda.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Emma Goldman for the following quote:
“ ‘What I believe’ is a process rather than a finality.”