

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday December 5, 2005, 7pm, EWEB Community Room

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

norma said the Board meetings on both January 9 and 30 will be at the Central Presbyterian Church on the corner of 15th and Ferry in Eugene.

Kay Kintzley (Booth L86) said the wreath-making party on Dec. 3 was lots of fun and she thanked everyone who attended, Andy and Steve for helping with set-up, and Charlie for making delicious hot cider. She said there are still supplies left and invited people to come on out and make a beautiful wreath. Hilary thanked Kay for planning this event. (*Kay got a round of applause.*)

Joseph announced a yearly styrofoam pick-up at the Glenwood Transfer Site on January 7 and encouraged everyone who has styrofoam sitting around to recycle it instead of throwing it away. Residents can take styrofoam there from 9am-3pm and businesses should call 682-4339 for an appointment. More info can be found at www.bringrecycling.org.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jack moved and Deane seconded to approve the minutes of the November 2005 Board meeting.

The motion passed: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions (Lawrence and Brad).

MEMBER INPUT

(During agenda review there were a few comments about the process of scheduling donation requests and whether those items should be added to the agenda before they have a Board sponsor. There was a desire to avoid repeating last month's incident of inviting a representative to attend the meeting and that person not being allowed to speak when no one on the Board made a motion. Deane and Joseph both wanted to invite that person back because there will be more money in the donation budget next month.)

Paxton referred to these comments and said, "Maybe there's a problem with our Board process but if a proposal doesn't find Board support that's too bad." He suggested that to "invite someone back a second time and have the proposal fail would add insult to injury."

Jim Sahr (Crafter) said natural disasters happen all over the world all the time and, though he supports the idea of individuals making contributions, he said it's a waste of the Fair's resources to send money for disaster relief. "It will drag us down and drown us so I urge you to think about that."

Brad said the Board received an anonymous letter with a complaint about an incident at the 2005 Fair. The person said he (she?) was afraid to state their name for fear of repercussions. Brad is troubled by the anonymity factor and said problems need to be shared openly amongst the Family. He invited people to contact him with thoughts and suggestions on this matter and said he may at a future time add an agenda item called something like The Country Fair Whistleblower Protection Act.

STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager: There is no report from Leslie this month because she's in Italy.

Administrative Assistant: norma said she misses Leslie a lot and that it's been a long month without her. She said the endowment guidelines went out to past recipients and can be accessed on the web or from the office. Suggested changes for the OCF Guidelines book are due by January 2. She updated links to crafters and food booth websites, so "take a look at it and tell me what you think." When

Leslie returns next week, norma will start her vacation.

Site Manager: Steve W. said it's starting to feel like winter and "it's good to finally feel ready for it. The last bale has been placed, the last sandbag has been filled, the last floatable has been tied up." Thanks go to the VegeManEcs and site staff for all the hard work. He said they will try to do a recorded daily update on site conditions (call 541-935-7846 when snow or heavy rain are in the forecast) for people interested in canoeing or skiing on the property. He said an arborist identified some hybrid pine trees on the former Swanson property as having pine oak gall rust. These trees are non-native and will be taken down for firewood so the area can be re-planted with native trees in the spring. He reported that Andy will be starting an extended vacation next week and Charlie will be spending more time onsite.

Treasurers: Hilary said there are only about half a dozen crew budgets that still need work and they are preparing materials to send to all coordinators. They are making some headway on computerization. Grumpy added that the GM and Board budgets will be done soon and that everything should be ready by the January 30 special Board meeting on budget issues.

President: Jack said, "Winter Solstice is coming so it will be getting lighter and the sun will come creeping back into our lives. It's important to realize that the ground we have out there is sacred and realize our connection to the rhythm of time. Be mindful. Respect each other. Respect and protect our young and our elders. Think about how fortunate we are that we have had this bestowed upon us. Hopefully in the future we will make that final connection that was taken from the people who lived there before us, and when we finally do completely make that connection a lot of what we think is important will probably be less important than we thought. Happy Solstice and have a good year."

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISION QUEST

Greg reported that the committee is processing the information that has been gathered and is matching suggestions to the capacity of the organization. The next step will be "meeting with staff and a handful of committees to look at our dreams, aspirations, and visions and our capacity to achieve those. Stay tuned for more in January or February."

LUMP COMMITTEE

Steve W. said, "When the Fair acquired areas like Alice's, Zenn Acres, and finally The Hub the committee realized we now have a fair amount of upland acreage and our previous planning efforts were focused mainly on floodplain issues. Two winters ago we started formulating an Upland Forest Management Plan that is almost done. It will be in the next edition of the LUMP manual and will probably get posted on the web this winter." They are moving ahead on the ecosystem restoration and recovery plan. The committee meets once a month on Tuesday, the week after the Board meeting. He invited Fair family with suggestions and ideas about the Eco R&R plan to attend the meetings or e-mail him at ocfsite@efn.org and the input will be passed on to the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

FURTHER DISCUSSION OF HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

Background: Brad said this item has been postponed for a couple months because he had to miss the last two Board meetings (*first his honeymoon, then a snowstorm*). His original intention in putting this item on the agenda was to discuss the possibility of hosting a family on our property, but he has since decided this idea may not be feasible so he will not make any motion at this time.

EMPLOYEE BONUSES

Brad moved and Jack seconded that the Board give holiday bonuses of \$400 net to the permanent full-time employees; and for the permanent part-time employees a bonus of \$400 net prorated in proportion to their full-time equivalency.

Peach Gallery: Many thumbs up. Lara Howe (Recycling Crew Co-Coordinator) said we're "incredibly lucky to have this staff with their dedication and their heart and spirit." Hilary likes both the fact that this item is optional every year, and also that the Board always seems to approve it.

Board: Brad said our employees are incredible and Katie said she's glad the organization can afford to do this. Jack mentioned a letter the Board received from Frank Sharpy who expressed

appreciation for the wonderful service his family received from staff when his son got married onsite.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm. *(That's not a typo, it was really 7:35 pm!)* The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2006 at 7pm at the Central Presbyterian Church on the corner of 15th and Ferry in Eugene. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; Consider Donation to CALC New Theatre Project (Greg); Consider Donation to Try-On Life Community Farm (Bear); Consider Donation to Lane County Oregon Peacemakers; and Appoint Buses Co-Coordinator as well as the following new business: Consider Guidelines Changes; Consider Appointments to Elders Committee; Consider Site Rental Request from Eugene Permaculture Guild; Re-Consider Donation to Catholic Community Services (Deane); Peach Pages Report and Proposal; Consider OCF Participation in 2006 OSF; and Appoint Archaeology Crew Co-Coordinator. Joseph decided to withdraw the topic of Accommodating Medical Marijuana Patients for now, but said he will probably re-introduce the topic in a couple of months.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Sarah Chauncey Woolsey for the following quote: "Every day is a fresh beginning, every morn is the world made new."