

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday January 9, 2006, 7pm, Central Presbyterian Church

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, Bear Wilner-Nugent.

NOT:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bear said “we’re halfway between Fairs and on the downhill slope.”

Leslie will teach a class on Event Management this term for ten Wednesdays, so she’ll be away from the office on those days. She brought flyers with her about the First Annual Oregon Truffle Festival happening at the end of January and added that today is Brad’s birthday. (*cheers and song*)

Brad continued the good news by announcing that his wife Indigo is pregnant (*more cheers*). Then he mentioned his new look and credited local hairstylist and former OCF Board member Michelle Sharpy who will give free haircuts if your hair is long enough to donate to Locks of Love, an organization that makes wigs for children with cancer.

Greg will miss the next board meeting due to his wife Lisa’s heart surgery on Jan. 27 at 7:30am. He requested that the Family send her prayers, good thoughts, and healing energy.

Lawrence wished a happy 100th birthday to Dr. Albert Hoffman on Jan. 11 and Leslie wished a happy birthday to Treasurer Hilary who shares that birthday.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Joseph moved and Deane seconded to approve the minutes of the December 2005 Board meeting. The motion passed: 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention (Bear). (*Note: Deane voted in place of Lawrence who arrived a bit late during staff reports. If you’re very observant you’ll notice there is an announcement above from Lawrence, but he didn’t actually make that announcement until later in the meeting when he remembered it.*)

MEMBER INPUT

(*Oh so quiet tonight.*)

STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager: Leslie was on vacation for part of December and said she thought about us while she was away. She thanked norma and Robin and the site staff for all their work while she was gone, and also expressed appreciation to the Board for “giving the staff such good support and enabling us to do those things.” After her return, she spent time working with the rest of the staff on employee goals and objectives. She was invited to meet with the Elders Committee and mentioned the Elders Helper Pass that will be voted on next month. She was “extremely impressed by their thorough, articulate presentation of the issues.” She worked on the next phase of the VQ process involving “capacity assessment and resource development.” She also worked with the staff on “reviewing the *Guidelines* for coherence and clarity” and with Sallie Edmunds (BUM) and Katie and Greg on re-writing the first two pages to incorporate the community agreement and mission statement. She said the Code of Conduct is still included and “don’t think it’s disappeared just because it’s in a different spot as a result of the reorganization of the first two pages.” She’s also been working on 2006 operating budgets.

Administrative Assistant: norma said she and Jeff Harrison updated the craft applications which are now available online, and that entertainment applications should be online by mid-February. She has also been working on the website and “playing catch-up.”

Site Manager: Steve W. thanked Kay and Deane for the pre-holiday wreath-making party at Alice’s that he called “fun for those who participated and a great opportunity to get rid of non-native

holly.” He passed around photos of last month’s flood and freeze damage. The only freeze damage in the cold snap in early December was “to a couple of temporary water lines that are easy to repair.” He said the flood “peaked on Dec. 31 and was probably the highest flood in 6 or 8 years. We lost one big tree into the river at Ark Park and there was some path and bank erosion. Most of the flood damage is to the fences, structures and booths we leave there, not to the natural land. The lesson to be learned is to secure your booth.” He said anyone wanting to canoe onsite should call first (541-935-7846) and wear a personal floatation device. He also said there will be lots of opportunities this spring for people to help with the clean-up process.

Treasurers: Hilary said the Budget Committee will be working hard the rest of this month to prepare for the Board’s budget meeting on the 30th. She said even with capital project expenditures such as the Peach Power fund and improvements to the compost pile, that the Fair is “still in great strong shape and the final budget will probably show us in the black by 25 –50 thousand dollars.”

President: Jack thanked the staff and said he appreciates all they do and “we should all be very grateful to them.” He said he’s been thinking about all the “severe natural disasters that have occurred and how important volunteerism is, for us, for Lane County, for the people who are still suffering from a hurricane or a tsunami. It just really got me to thinking about how important it is to volunteer.”

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POSTER COMMITTEE

Patti Lomont and Kevin Dougherty presented a written report to the Board announcing this year’s artist, giving some history of the poster competition and reasons why that process was temporarily suspended, and announcing a competition for the 2007 poster. Kevin said Jeanne Sharpy worked on the report with them, but she couldn’t attend tonight’s meeting. Patti talked about some of the main points in the report. The committee’s goal is to “have the best possible posters for the OCF, posters that will convey what the Fair is all about, as well as being excellent advertising tools.” Last year they “selected an artist and then worked closely with that artist on the final design.” That will be this year’s process as well. The designer of the 2006 poster “will be Jim Carpenter, a well-known artist who created one of our most popular posters in 1988, an image of a magician’s hands cradling the peach.” They will make “a limited number of signed, collectible silk-screened posters” to be sold at the History Booth and Commemorative Sales Booth as well as a large number of off-set printed posters for advertising. Talking about past contests, she said they didn’t want to continue to ask artists to spend the time to create a finished poster for judging so they started asking for samples of previous work instead; but that was a problem because sometimes they would select an artist based on the style of the submitted work and then the poster created by that artist would be in a completely different style. The contest was temporarily suspended for the 2005 Fair because of uncertainties about whether the process would be silk-screening or off-set printing as well as time-line questions and working with a different printing company than in the past. So they opted to work last year with local artist Bev Soasey. Describing how the committee worked with Bev and now with Jim, they found it “works best to meet with the artist to share our vision of a poster that will reflect the Fair. The artist can ask us questions about what we want and come to us with rough sketches, which we can then discuss and go in one direction or another. The artist then comes up with a final design.” As for the 2007 poster, they plan to advertise this Fall and ask artists to submit slides of previous work. They will then select one artist to work with in a similar process as with Bev and Jim. Vick Parkison (Pre-Post Security) wondered if there was a provision for folks who can’t put their work on slides. Patti answered slides are preferable, but said they would look at something else if a slide was not possible.

VISION QUEST

Beth Grafe said the committee is “delving into a chewy phase and working hard and with heart to bring a process that will honor the Fair’s values.” She said they’ll need to spend some of the 2006 budget before it is approved on the 30th and “that request will be presented later in tonight’s meeting under Budget Issues.”

PEACH PAGES

Aleta Miller and Robin Lindsey reported that 15,000 copies of the 2005-06 Peach Pages were distributed statewide. They generated \$14,000 in ad sales (\$11,000 in cash and \$3,000 in trades). Printing

costs were higher because they printed 5,000 more copies than expected. They feel the Fair “doesn’t need to be in the publication business and this should be jobbed out.” They suggest keeping the ‘Peach Pages’ brand because “it is a recognized name for 4 years now.” They think it should still be a fundraising effort and they have even discussed joint ventureship with “other bioregional groups.” They presented their ideas tonight and asked that the Board consider their proposal next month.

OLD BUSINESS BUDGET ISSUES

Bear moved and Jack seconded that the Board authorize the General Manager to spend up to \$2,000 from the 2006 Board Change line item on a contract with Matrix Associates to complete a scope of work for the next phase of the Vision Quest.

Background: Leslie explained they needed an outside consultant to do some analysis and report writing “to link the phase of the visioning and survey work we did in 2005 to a scope of work for the next phase, which is capacity assessment” and the VQ task force agreed that Jennifer Pratt and Michael Wetter of Matrix Associates are the best choice for this work.” They gave Matrix a down payment of \$1,000 from last year’s VQ budget. The total cost will be up to \$3,000 and the balance is due this month so they need permission to write the check from this year’s budget even though it will not be approved until Jan. 30. Beth added that she “wants the Board to know we really try to keep expenses down.”

Board: Bear said “we’re not expert at holding a mirror to ourselves” and Joseph added “we need professional assistance and this is a pretty modest cost.” Paxton asked if Matrix has an association with the Fair. Leslie said they “know and love the Fair but have never had camping passes” and she mentioned that Jennifer was “the lead RDI staff involved in Veneta’s strategic planning process I was asked to participate in way back in the early 90’s.” Jack said, “Timing is everything; let’s keep on track or we might end up spending more later.” Anna asked if the work is being done this month (yes) and if Matrix will continue to be involved with the VQ process after this month. Leslie answered it is “not an open-ended contract or agreement; we may or may not need them after this next phase, and we may choose to work with other organizational consultants as well.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

CONSIDER DONATION TO TRYON LIFE COMMUNITY FARM

Bear moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board donate \$500 to the Tryon Life Community Farm.

Background: TLC Farm is located on seven acres of farmland in Southwest Portland, surrounded by the native forest of Tryon Creek State Park. The Farm’s primary purposes are: “outreach and education about sustainable living and agriculture; restoring native ecosystems; integrating arts and the environment, and promoting affordable ecologically responsible living.” More information can be found at www.tryonfarm.org.

Peach Gallery: Leslie supports this and said a friend told her the people at Tryon “reminded him of Fair people and they share many Fair values.”

Board: Bear said the land was threatened by a proposed subdivision development but the group raised enough money for a down payment and is now only \$45,000 short of the one and a half million dollars needed for purchase. (*Note: Several days later Bear reported the group made their goal.*) He said, “What they are trying to do fits our statement of intent and I highly recommend this. It’s a really fun place.” Lawrence said this group has received very favorable press and “their success will encourage others”. He appealed to Fair family to donate privately to this effort. Joseph said, “They’re so in line with our values, it’s a no-brainer.” Deane supports this group but suggested donating a lesser amount. He said, “We’re in the habit of giving everyone \$500. If we gave a lesser amount, we could donate to more groups.” Brad suggested Deane think about proposing an increase in the donation budget at the budget meeting on the 30th.

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Katie).

RE-CONSIDER DONATION TO CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES

Deane moved and Joseph seconded that the Board donate \$100 to Catholic Community

Services.

Background: A representative from CCS attended the December Board meeting but was not allowed to speak because the proposal lacked a Board sponsor. Deane didn't sponsor it last month because he mistakenly thought the donation budget was depleted but it was actually just very low. He didn't invite the representative to attend tonight's meeting because "it would be worse to turn him down twice." He felt the gentleman was not treated well and requested that the Board reconsider the donation again tonight.

Peach Gallery: Leslie said this group does wonderful work and they also received a Jill Heiman Vision Fund grant of several thousand dollars in 2004. She said the award can't go to the same organization two years in a row so they were not able to apply in 2005 but are eligible to apply through the JHVF again this year. Kay Kintzley (Booth L86) said she was embarrassed at the last meeting because she felt the man from CCS had been treated rudely. Palmer Parker (Fair Central) said the CCS does "incredibly important work."

Board: Joseph said we should help them out because they do incredible work. Paxton felt the CCS request was too vague and "not what we're supposed to be doing." Greg supports the organization but thinks they should apply through JHVF. Anna said this is a "good example to show we need a better donation process. We don't want to make these people work so hard; we want to point them in the right direction. We have multiple resources and we're willing to give." Bear said he "takes it on faith, no pun intended" and trusts everyone who told of the organization's good works, but he has "a hard time voting for anything with a religious affiliation, however tangential; I don't think it's an appropriate use of the Fair's money to give it to an organization with 'Catholic' in the name, period." Marlene said she didn't think an organization should be singled out that way. Jack said "People are coming to us because of a lack of government resources. I'll vote yes even though they received money before, because \$100 to help people is still important." He added that fundraisers' requests are sometimes denied and he "doesn't think the person from CCS felt bad or that we did him a disservice, especially since they got thousands from us the prior year."

The motion failed: 3 in favor and 7 opposed (Bear, Brad, Greg, Lawrence, Anna, Katie, and Paxton.)

APPOINTMENTS TO ELDERS COMMITTEE

Paxton moved and Katie seconded to appoint Chris Browne and Patricia Van Esso to the Elders Committee.

Peach Gallery and Board: Thumbs up.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

APPOINT ARCHAEOLOGY CREW CO-COORDINATOR

Deane moved and Joseph seconded that the Board re-appoint Virgil Courtright as Archaeology Crew Co-Coordinator.

Background: Current coordinator D.J. Rogers wrote a letter to the Board stating the need for two people to share this extensive job and asked to have the position become two co-coordinators and to have Virgil be appointed as his partner.

Peach Gallery: Thumbs up. Steve W. got a laugh when he said, "Not that you ever left, but welcome back, Virgil!"

Board: Brad thanked Virgil for his past and present work. Joseph supports the motion and also encouraged financial support for archaeology crew saying, "This is a mandate. It is not an option; we are legally obligated to protect these archaeological resources."

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

OCF PARTICIPATION IN 2006 OSF

Jack moved and Greg seconded that the Board authorize the General Manager to enter negotiations with the Oregon State Fair to participate in their 2006 event.

Background: Steven Bledsoe from OSF distributed four pages of information about the State Fair that explained the state legislature voted to move the operation of the OSF to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and detailed some changes that are being made as a result including some ideas to

“reinvent and improve the OSF.” Steven said in the past the OSF focused “more on agricultural exhibits and the carnival aspect” but lost sight of the arts and cultural information. He didn’t think the OSF promoted the OCF involvement last year as well as it could have and likes the idea of bringing elements of OSF into the LiveArt! area as well as sprinkling aspects of OCF throughout the fairgrounds.

Peach Gallery: Al (sorry, I wasn’t able to ask his last name or Fair affiliation) was disappointed that booth people didn’t have enough business and suggested moving the location. Beth doesn’t think the location was the problem and said it’s the best location for OCF booths because “we like the grass and shade.” Hilary said last year’s involvement “was done as a loss leader because we contributed the GM’s time” and hopes for more compensation from OSF this year. Leslie said she is “excited about this” and agreed with Beth that “we have the sweetest spot. Last year we knew we got into this late, but this year we have more ideas, such as modeling sustainability, our cultural heritage, and more public art projects. True, it’s a huge amount of work, but the creative stretch it offers, as well as the chance to work with very different organizational and audience cultures, make it worth all the work.”

Board: Lawrence likes the grass and trees and said it’s a “valuable promotional experience. For people who have never been to Veneta, they can get a taste of what we do.” Brad supports this but is concerned about the burnout factor for our employees “who work so hard and so gracefully, and August is a busy month.” Joseph said that Leslie and Beth took on the “greatest burden and I don’t see them objecting so let’s go for it.” Paxton said “we’ve been talking about spin-offs and outreach for years and I’m sure willing to give it another year.” Marlene agreed with Paxton and said it takes “more than one year to know if we should make a commitment.” Diane said the Fair is not just about art but also about sustainability, appropriate technology, and social change and these values should be reflected. Deane said, “Last year we got a late start and this year will be better, and next year better yet.” Jack said he loves the State Fair and has been going as long as he’s been in Oregon. He said, “With all art, there is risk. We’ll continue to take risks. Artists like to believe we can change what’s out there.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

ANNOUNCE PROPOSED GUIDELINES CHANGES

Background: Three changes were read for consideration. Discussion and voting are scheduled for next month’s meeting. The first is an addition of one sentence to existing guideline #9 under ‘Entertaining at the Fair’ that states, “There is no sound amplification allowed after midnight with the exception of the Saturday night Main Stage midnight show.” The second is an addition of one sentence to the section on recycling guidelines for food vendors stating, “The use of plastic disposable service ware and utensils is strictly prohibited (excluding coffee lids, plastic straws and stirrers which should be provided only upon request).” The third proposed change is an extensive reorganization and re-writing of part of the first two pages of the Guidelines book incorporating the Fair’s mission statement and community agreement as follows:

WHO WE ARE

It is the intention of the Oregon Country Fair to create events and experiences that nourish the spirit, explore living artfully and authentically on Earth and transform culture in magical, joyous and healthy ways.

The OCF is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation that is overseen by a twelve-member Board of Directors elected by the membership. The OCF depends on the work of hundreds of dedicated volunteers who are joined by six employees.

The Board holds its open meetings the first Monday of the month at the EWEB Community Room in Eugene. You are welcome to attend and are encouraged to read the monthly *Fair Family News* that includes the Board minutes. To get on the mailing list, send your request to: Oregon Country Fair, 442 Lawrence Street, Eugene, OR 97401 or e-mail the Fair at office@oregoncountryfair.org. Our web address is www.oregoncountryfair.org.

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diane Albino* Katie Cousins * Paxton Hoag * Brad Lerch * Jack Makarchek * Marlene Monette * Greg Rikhoff * Anna Scott * Lawrence Taylor * Bear Wilner-Nugent

Alternates Deane Morrow * Joseph Newton

Officers

Jack Makarchek, President
Steve Gorham, Hilary Anthony, Co-Treasurers
Barbara Edmonds, Recording Secretary
Heidi Doscher, Membership Secretary

Employees

Robin Bernardi, Office Assistant
Charlie Ruff, Assistant Manager
Norma Sax, Administrative Assistant
Leslie Scott, General Manager
Andy Strickland, Caretaker
Steve Wisnovsky, Site Manager

OUR CODE OF CONDUCT

We are an association of equals. Each and every member of our community is entitled to respectful and equitable treatment by all other participants. We should all act responsibly towards one another wherever we gather.

The OCF is committed to the principles of non-violence. Mental, verbal, physical, or sexual abuse will not be tolerated.

We share reverence for the land. Stewardship is everyone's responsibility. Please help protect the plant and animal life whose space we share, and work to extend this practice beyond the OCF and into daily life.

As Bill Wooten, one of our founders, wrote:

This is a community of choice of reason rather than by the chance of birth. Reason is found more each day on the side of cooperation, conservation, and community. Reason stands with those who reduce their wants and simplify their needs, who lessen demands upon the world's resources. Reason stands with those who do not ask the world to do for them what they can do for themselves. Reason stands with those who treat neighbors as friends, friends as brothers and sisters, and this earth, as our one and only home. Let us so stand together. It stands to reason, to endure is to prevail.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

Every July, the Fair brings us together from all over the world in a reunion that affirms our sense of community. It assembles artists, craftspeople, and entertainers for a celebration of the arts and a marketplace where the value of our labor is appreciated.

The Fair is a small, temporary village with roads, bridges, traffic control and water. We provide recycling and a waste disposal system, fire protection, security, public health, child care, and governance. We have rules by which order is maintained and peace is kept in our village. We must remember that we are not isolated. We affect the lives of many people who have no direct connection with the Fair. Be courteous; be fair; be cooperative – for the sake of a joyous and memorable Fair.

This is a drug-free event. Alcohol consumption is not allowed in public places during public hours.

The OCF wants you to have a safe and wonderful experience at the Fair. As our event has grown we no longer all know each other, and unfortunately there are people who come to the Fair who take advantage of our open and loving community. Even though the Fair tries hard to prevent problems, inappropriate behaviors sometimes occur. These behaviors can include theft, and physical and sexual assault.

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 agreed to abide by, the OCF Guidelines, Code of Conduct, and the following statement:

1. I agree to be responsible for insuring the safety of all minors in my care. I will not leave children

unattended at any time while at the Fair.

2. 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 one another and our land.

3. I agree to cooperate fully with the Sweep volunteers, including permitting my tent, vehicle, or other camping facility to be swept if requested.

Failure to abide by the Oregon Country Fair Code of Conduct, the *Guidelines*, Federal, Oregon, or Lane County laws may result in expulsion from the Fair, booth penalties, removal from staff position, termination of membership, or being turned over to the proper authorities, as the situation requires. If you are involved in a confrontation please remember the following: 1) all parties must identify themselves when asked; 2) although decisions by authorized staff must be followed at the time, disagreements may be reviewed through proper procedure. Reports of situations that cannot be fully resolved during the Fair should emphasize verifiable facts rather than assumptions or hearsay.

If you need support or guidance in resolving some unrest while we're onsite, please check with QM or an Information Booth for a process appropriate to your situation. Feedback forms are available at the Information Booths and in the office year round.

Working together we will constantly rediscover the imagination, creativity, and magic that are the essence of the Oregon Country Fair.

(Note: A fourth suggested change to the Guidelines was not read at the meeting but was received the following day. It was decided to include it in the minutes so it would meet the membership notification requirement.) This change will be discussed and voted on at the February meeting. The Craft Committee would like to add the following sentence: "Before or after the hours the Fair is open to the public, sale of handmade or handcrafted items is allowed inside of booths so long as the person or persons who made them are present at the Fair with a valid wristband or pass."

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm. The next Board meeting will be a special meeting on the budget and will be held on Monday, January 30, 2006 at 7pm at the Central Presbyterian Church at 15th and Ferry. The next regular Board meeting will be on Monday, February 6, 2006 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; Consider Donation to CALC New Theatre Project (Joseph); as well as the following new business: Appoint Wristbands Crew Co-Coordinator; Consider Donation to Community Puppet Theatre; Consider Donation to Spiral Scouts; Elders Helper Pass; Computer Privacy Policy; Consider Guidelines Changes; Peach Pages Proposal; OCF Get Out the Vote in 2006 (Bear). The following items were removed from the agenda: Appoint Buses Co-Coordinator; Consider Donation to Lane County Oregon Peacemakers (*lack of a Board sponsor*); and Consider Site Rental Request from Eugene Permaculture Guild (*Steve W. said the guild is re-thinking their plans for now.*)

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Rick Nelson ("Garden Party") for the following quote: "You can't please everyone, so you've got to please yourself."