

## OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday April 3, 2006, 7:15 pm, EWEB Community Room

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

NOT: Greg Rikhoff. (Note: During Agenda Review, Brad moved and Lawrence seconded to move 'Donation to New Old Time Chautauqua' from new business to old business because of timing issues. Leslie received the request only last week. The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Katie). Joseph voted in place of Bear on this motion because Bear arrived a few minutes late. Deane voted in place of Greg all evening.)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

norma put a stack of new Guidelines books on the table and invited those present to pick up a copy. She "hopes to see everyone on May 6 at the Spring Fling with entertainment by Fair favorites Adam and Kris and their band SweetJuice."

Katie said she might have to leave the meeting early because her father passed away last night and she had a sleepless evening. (You could almost feel invisible arms reaching out from all corners of the room to hug her. We love you, Katie.)

Steve W. said there will be a clean-up work party onsite on Saturday, April 22 and the following day on Sunday is both a highway pick-up day and also the Wildflower Walk with Bob Nisbet. For all three events meet at the Warehouse at 10am. He said, "All Fair Family are invited to these events; we especially need help with the clean-up."

Hilary congratulated Community Village for a "successful and well-attended event at the McDonald" to raise money for rebuilding their booths.

Mark Pankratz (Construction Crew) said, "I finally convinced my girlfriend to marry me." (whoops and cheers) He is looking for someone to perform the ceremony at the Fair and asked people to e-mail him with suggestions at [markpankratz@hotmail.com](mailto:markpankratz@hotmail.com).

Leslie said, "City Fling in Portland has been reborn under the umbrella of the Alberta Art Hop, May 20-21." She said as she gets more information she will post it on the website, and to look in the April issue of FFN to find out how to get involved.

Diane went to Belize for the wedding of the daughter of OCF booth person Michael Strickling. She got a laugh when she said, "While I was there I ran into Bill Conde who is fine and is writing newspaper articles on hemp."

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Joseph moved and Bear seconded that the minutes of the January 30 special Board meeting on the budget be approved. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed. (Someone asked why such late approval. It's because the minutes were mistakenly omitted from the March Board packet.) Brad moved and Joseph seconded that the minutes of the March 6 Board meeting be approved. The minutes as they appeared in the March FFN were correct but Katie noticed a typo on the copies that were included in the Board packets and asked that it be corrected on the official copy kept at the office. The motion passed: 8 in favor and 2 abstentions (Bear and Diane).

### MEMBER INPUT

Jen-lin Hodgden (Feedback Coordinator) passed around a container filled with homemade cookies and an envelope for folks to pay \$1 per cookie. It was a fundraiser for Culture Jam scholarships. She asked, "Would you like to have cookies at your meetings?" Contact her through the Fair office to place your order. (It was reported later in the meeting that \$57 dollars was raised tonight!)

Virgil Courtright (Archaeology Crew) said the Fair has “one of the most significant archaeological sites in Oregon.” He reminded people of the importance of checking with Archaeology Crew before starting any project that will disturb the ground.

Don Doolin (Security Crew) said he is unable to attend the May meeting so he wanted to speak tonight. A proposal to name him as a new Co-Coordinator of Main Camp Security will be on the May agenda. This year will mark 26 years of service to the Fair from Don. He hopes the Board will approve his appointment next month.

Kay Kintzley (Booth L86) proposed that next year there be a one-year moratorium on the craft jury process “to allow our talented juried artists to bring something new and show us what they can do.”

Jim Sahr (Crafter) passed out a letter asking coordinators or anyone else who purchases supplies for the Fair to consider a Board resolution passed in 1992 stating that when capital expenditures are needed that the buyer make an effort to buy from U.S. companies and especially to ‘think local’ by purchasing if possible in Veneta or Eugene, or at least in Oregon or the Pacific Northwest.

#### STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager: Leslie said that String Cheese Incident has withdrawn their request for now because it felt “too fast, too big, too soon.” They said they might approach the Fair again at some future time. She said the news “will disappoint some people, and relieve others.” In other news, all insurances have been renewed with premiums being “a bit higher but still within budget.” She and Steve went to a Lane County meeting about expired permit issues. She thanked Tim Wolden for help with all the paperwork involved with that. The Zimfest contract has been signed but the LTD contract is still being negotiated. She had a meeting with the Sheriff and the City of Veneta who are both facing cutbacks so security contracts with them are being re-negotiated. She said Hip Hop Hope went off really well last week. She met “some amazing young people” and said they are recording a CD “that is really hot.” She thanked Robin for “a fantastic job” on that. Last week the office was really busy because of application deadlines. She said, “Thanks again to Craft Inventory and norma and Robin for pulling it off so well.” She said, “We’ve outgrown the space at the town office and since the upstairs tenant gave notice we’ve decided to use that as office space rather than renting it out again. That will require a revenue adjustment that will be brought up at the May meeting.” She thanked all the members of the Computer Task Force for their long hours. On April 4 she will give a talk on “The Social Value of Events” at the Governor’s conference on tourism.

Administrative Assistant: norma thanked Robin for a busy week of “going back and forth between the office and Hip Hop Hope.” There’s now a new website for use by Fair Family. The .org website is still intended for use by the general public but the new .net website ([www.oregoncountryfair.net](http://www.oregoncountryfair.net)) will have information specifically for the Family. She also thanked Kelly, Len and Jesse Crane for hosting last month’s coordinator potluck “at their beautiful home.”

Site Manager: Steve W. said March was another wet month “but at least it didn’t flood again.” He said the site is “soft, wet, green, and mushy” but encouraged people to come out and enjoy the wildflowers, check on their booths and camps, walk the riverbank and see the erosion, “and just remember to please tread lightly.” The floodplain remains closed to vehicles. He hopes for good attendance at the upcoming work parties on April 22 and May 6. He gave a big thank you to Charlie, Andy, Jeff, Big Mike, Tommy, David Hoffman, “and everybody else who regularly helps out” for all their work. He also thanked “the VegManEcs for the heavy work of removing the erosion dams on a rainy April 2.” He clarified a report in the FFN; while the VegManEc Crew has participated in riverbank planting efforts over the years, most of that work has been done by Site Crew and he just wanted to give proper credit. He said there was a remark about the beavers in past minutes and wanted to say, “Whatever the beavers do is fine with me. They have been the dominant land shapers of the Fair’s ecosystems for tens of thousands of years.” He said right now site staff is “chomping at the bit” to start other work but it’s still too wet for trucks and equipment.

Office Assistant: Robin added that programs like Hip Hop Hope have “a lasting and empowering impact on kids but it’s great to watch the effect it has on the artists too.” She said it “sparked lots of good connections.”

Treasurers: Hilary said there will be some changes in operations procedures but they would save the

updates until closer to the Fair. Grumpy added that he wants to remind coordinators to turn in their crew lists on time. He said because of the computerization project it is even more important this year to be timely. He said all the lists must be turned in by the June Coordinator Potluck and that the lists should also include information on who gets vehicle stickers.

President: Jack said, "Committees are really the year-round core of this organization". He said he has mentioned the fine work of the VQ Task Force in the past but also wanted to acknowledge the members of both the Personnel Committee and the Computerization Task Force for their particularly hard work this year. He encouraged those interested in committee work to think about contributing their special skills and volunteering to be on a committee. He said, "An important part of our Fair world happens in committees and I want to take time to acknowledge that."

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ELDERS COMMITTEE

Chris Browne reported that they reviewed 14 applications for Elder status (11 new ones and 3 held over from previous months). Thirteen were approved and one was held for further inquiry. There are now 181 Elders. They are having discussions on the implementation of the Transition Pass and exploring areas for an Elder campground. They are considering having an Elders info table at the Spring Fling. Their next meeting will be held at the town office on April 20 at 7pm.

### VISION QUEST TASK FORCE

Bethe Grafe thanked the Board for their participation in a work session with the task force last month and said another one is scheduled for May. She also congratulated task force members Bear and Dedee on becoming new parents.

### ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Jen-lin Hodgden reported that the committee sent 1,027 postcards to members who have requested that absentee ballots be sent to them every year. She explained that the committee is "starting the list again from scratch because we were sending about 1,000 absentee ballots and we got tired of seeing only about 300 returned. This seemed a waste of postage." Starting from scratch will also allow the committee to re-verify voter eligibility. To vote in the 2006 election, a member must have worked at either the '05 or '06 Fair. She thanked committee chair Heidi Doscher for "hosting the last meeting at her lovely lakeview home in Elmira."

The committee submitted a written report asking the Board to consider a by-laws change at the May meeting. In article 7, section 2c, it states: "Votes for directors shall be sequentially numbered in order of preference. Members may vote for as many directors as they prefer, but only those votes assigned a number equal to or less than the total number of vacancies existing at the close of balloting shall be counted. Each vote shall count as only one vote, regardless of preference ranking, and only one vote per member may be assigned to any individual candidate." After conferring with the Fair's lawyer who said the committee's objective could be accomplished by changing 'shall' to 'may' and adding two clarifying sentences, the committee is asking the Board to change the wording to the following: 'Votes for directors may be sequentially numbered in order of preference. Members may vote for as many directors as they prefer, but only those votes assigned a number equal to or less than the total number of vacancies existing at the close of balloting shall be counted. Each vote shall count as only one vote, regardless of preference ranking, and only one vote per member may be assigned to any individual candidate. Members who do not sequentially number their ballots in order of preference may only vote for up to the number of vacancies existing at the close of balloting. Non-sequentially numbered ballots which reflect votes for more than the number of vacancies existing as of the close of balloting shall be disqualified.'

Making this change would allow the committee to count ballots that must now be declared invalid. The reason for the numbered system of voting was to give absentee voters the chance to vote for more candidates than there were vacancies, in case more vacancies occurred before the close of balloting. However, by requiring voters to mark their ballots with numbers, the committee currently has to ignore all the ballots that are returned with x's or checkmarks. The committee "wants to make every vote count."

## OLD BUSINESS

### LOGO JURYING

Jeff Harrison (Craft Inventory Crew Co-Coordinator) had a table set up with all the logo items that were submitted for approval for the 2006 Fair. There were 29 items in all, including an OCF mandala made from digital photographs, a July-to-July OCF calendar, laminated OCF maps, and hemp hats. Leslie asked for a round of applause for Jeff. The Board voted on the items during the break. Later in the meeting, Jeff announced everything had been approved except for item #27 labeled 'small glass containers'. At that time, Marlene moved and Paxton seconded that the Board approve all the items that passed the logo jury process. Bear said he wished the shot glasses had been approved and Anna said she wished crafters did the voting instead of the Board. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

### APPOINT NEW CART CENTRAL COORDINATOR

Bear moved and Joseph seconded that David Laborde be appointed as Cart Central Coordinator.

Board: They thanked Robyn Reid, past coordinator, who resigned in February because she was about to have a baby.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed. (Joseph voted instead of Marlene who was briefly out of the room.)

### APPOINT NEW INVENTORY CREW CO-COORDINATORS

Background: Letters to the Board from current Co-Coordiators Monte Mathews and Bonnie Sorenson indicated that Matt and Amanda will make fine replacements and referred to them as "capable, congenial and competent." Leslie said she "appreciates their willingness to take on this large and complex job."

Katie moved and Paxton seconded that the Board appoint Matt Dyste as Co-Coordinator of Inventory Crew.

Peach Gallery: Grumpy spoke in favor of Matt's appointment.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed. (Joseph voted for Marlene again.)

Bear moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board appoint Amanda Finegold as Co-Coordinator of Inventory Crew.

Board: Bear said he used to work breakfast shift with her at Main Camp Kitchen and that "no one is more dependable than Amanda, especially at 5am."

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

### CONSIDER DONATION TO ELMIRA HIGH SCHOOL GRAD COMMITTEE

Joseph moved and Deane seconded that the Board donate \$425 to the Elmira High School Grad Committee.

Background: Craig Soderberg from the committee said this class lost three members in a terrible accident a few years ago and they want to "keep the kids off the street and give them a big night with their classmates." He thanked the Board for past support and said, "Whatever you can do to help would be appreciated." The committee's letter to the Board said they produce a special, fun event with no drugs or alcohol. They said, "We feel this contribution would be putting your resources towards a valuable group of future adults. We are very proud of them here in the Elmira area and believe they have great tomorrows ahead of them."

Peach Gallery: Beth Grafe (Construction Crew Co-Coordinator) said, "Let's support the kids in our local community."

Board: Bear urged a 'no' vote and said it's fine for the Fair to support art or environmental education in the schools but not appropriate to support one school's party. Deane supports the motion and said it's good policy to support our neighbors. Joseph said the motion is in line with the Fair's values because they want the kids to be safe and to have fun without drugs.

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

(Note: Katie had to leave during the above discussion, so Joseph voted for her on this motion and for the rest of the evening. Any Fair Family wishing to donate privately to this cause may send a check payable to '2006 EHS Grad Committee' to P.O. Box 216, Veneta, OR 97487. Their tax ID # is 20-2617557.)

#### CONSIDER DONATION TO SCHOOL GARDEN PROJECT

Brad moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board donate \$500 to the School Garden Project.

Background: Megan Kemple, project treasurer, said they serve schools throughout Lane County and in the past 5 years they have supported more than 30 school gardens. She said many of the children they work with are lower-income children who live in apartments and do not have yards. Megan's letter to the Board stated, "The ultimate beneficiaries of any donation you give us are the children in these schools, who will be able to have class outdoors and work together to grow plants while learning science, math, nutrition, and agricultural skills." (More information can be found on their website at [www.efn.org/~sgp](http://www.efn.org/~sgp))

Board: Bear supports this because it is "a year-round program that benefits lots of schools and is consistent with our values." Jack said he recently heard the term "nature-deficient children" and said it's important "to keep our children connected to the Earth."

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

#### CONSIDER DONATION TO NOBEL LAUREATE MONUMENT

Joseph moved and Deane seconded that the Board donate \$500 to the Nobel Peace Laureate Monument.

Background: Committee member John Attig spoke on the need to increase awareness of peacemakers. He said most people recognize names of war generals but not the names of winners of the Nobel Peace Prize. His group is raising money for a project in Alton Baker Park along the banks of the Willamette River where "the design includes a serpentine wall and winding path in the park, a center alcove setting for quiet contemplation and school group meetings, plaques mounted on pillars along the path describing the laureates and their peacemaking deeds, and appropriate plantings and benches." John said, "Your grandchildren will be able to take their grandchildren to see this." Their goal is to also create social studies materials that "emphasize peacemakers and peacemaking." More information can be found on their website at [www.nobelpeacemonument.org](http://www.nobelpeacemonument.org).

Peach Gallery: Leslie said she graduated in Peace Studies and that "we need to understand peace is a global project." However, she's conflicted about this as she believes the project should honor all the winners rather than just the winners that happen to be from the United States; and she asked John why that decision was made. John said it would be hard to honor more than 100 individuals so the committee decided to focus on the 3 organizations and 19 individuals from this country who have received the award. Grumpy asked about their tax status. John said they are "a grass roots organization" but they receive 501(c)3 status under the umbrella of the Lane Arts Council.

Board: Brad said he can't support a donation of \$500 but would support a donation of \$100. Anna agreed. Marlene said she supports "anything that brings peace to the forefront of our attention." Jack didn't think it was especially important that the monument would only honor the American recipients and said, "Peace is peace." Deane said he would support either amount but felt it was important "to donate to this fine cause." Bear said he "can't support anything that would honor Henry Kissinger." Paxton said he likes the idea of the peace curriculum but not the idea of the monument.

The motion failed: 5 in favor and 5 opposed (Bear, Anna, Brad, Paxton, Lawrence).

#### CONSIDER DONATION TO EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Jack moved and Diane seconded that the Board donate \$500 to the Earth Day Celebration.

Background: Steering Committee member Steve Remington got a laugh when he said, "I read this morning that they're finally figuring out the Earth is warming." He said this is the seventh year that the current sponsors have collaborated on this event. Sponsors include EWEB, EPUD, LRAPA, City of Eugene, and Lane County. It will take place on Saturday, April 22 at the EWEB River Edge Plaza. This year's theme is called "Sustainability: Food for Thought" and will "amplify the role of locally grown and harvested food in our community."

Peach Gallery: Leslie, Steve W. and Beth all expressed support. Steve W. said trees will be planted onsite on Earth Day.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

#### CONSIDER DONATION TO HIV ALLIANCE RIVERWALK

Bear moved and Joseph seconded that the Board donate \$550 to the HIV Alliance RiverWalk.

Background: Michele Erickson, HIV Alliance Development Director, said this is the twentieth anniversary of this event. It will take place on Saturday, May 13. She thanked the Board for past support and encouraged continued support. She talked about the HIV Alliance's success in such areas as the needle exchange program, but said more work is needed because "every six days someone else in Lane County gets infected with HIV."

Peach Gallery: Palmer Parker (Fair Central) encouraged support for "this really important life-changing work."

Board: Joseph said, "Wow, one person every 6 days, that hurts. Let's keep up our support." Jack said, "HIV is still here and still affecting people. It's important to support the needle-exchange program and outreach to this community."

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

#### CONSIDER DONATION TO TRANSITIONS TO SUCCESS

Anna moved and Bear seconded that the Board donate \$500 to the Transitions to Success program at LCC.

Background: Patsy Raney spoke about a variety of programs available at LCC to women in transition. She said "any donation would be appreciated and used well." Their letter to the Board describes the program as "an entry program to help displaced homemakers, single parents, and other women in transitions move into education and training." They have also started offering free non-credit workshops in Spanish that they hope will serve as "a bridge for Spanish-speaking women to the full Transitions Program and to other education or training at LCC."

Peach Gallery: Thumbs up.

Board: Bear said his work as a public defender has taught him "this is the kind of program we need to be supporting. Many people need help like this to keep from dipping into crime." Marlene knows women going through divorce who were helped by this program. Deane was impressed by the information in their letter which said, "Our students also maintain a high GPA, averaging 3.41 one year after program completion."

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

#### CONSIDER DONATION TO NEW OLD TIME CHAUTAUQUA

Lawrence moved and Jack seconded that the Board donate \$2,000 to the New Old Time Chautauqua for their 'Jambalaya Vaudeville Tour' to Louisiana and Mississippi.

Background: Several representatives from Chautauqua were present at the meeting including Jim Goettler who said 51 people will tour flood-devastated areas to do free shows. Marge Wise (Vaudeville Crew) said, "Chautauqua comes into an area and changes it powerfully; it offers big dreams." Joannie Murayama, one of the original founders of Chautauqua, talked about the show they will put on as well as the work they will do. Their cover letter to the Board states, "When not performing, members of the troupe will work with Common Ground and other relief agencies; helping wherever help is needed, doing whatever needs to be done." A partial list of performers includes The Flying Karamazov Brothers, Artis the Spoonman, Faith Petric, Chris Chandler, Noodlini and Son, and The Fighting Instruments of Karma Marching Chamber Band/Orchestra.

Peach Gallery: Ben Farrell (Vaudeville Co-Coordinator) talked about “bringing smiles to dismal places.” Grumpy said it’s a good cause but he felt \$2,000 was too much money because “if you pass this you’ve spent 55% of your donation budget in just 4 months.” Leslie said, “Yes it’s a big chunk, but it takes a lot to get there.” She wants to see the Fair get some media acknowledgment for its donations “because the world should know the good we’re doing. Chautauqua is us, and speaks so perfectly to what we’re about they will spread our message.” Hilary loves the marching band and thinks \$2,000 is okay “because it’s an exceptional case.” norma said this motion “fits every word of our intention statement” and pointed out that last September Board members said they wanted to do more to help Katrina survivors. Andy said it’s a great opportunity to support both entertainers and the people of New Orleans. Beth said participants in the VQ process expressed a desire to do more for entertainers. Zak Schwartz (BUM) said, “Our federal government seems to be forgetting that area and this is a golden opportunity for us to spread our spirit.” Palmer said he wished he could juggle so he could climb on board. norma asked them to bring back photos and an article about their trip for the FFN.

Board: Lawrence gave thanks “that we’re part of a community that has the capacity to conceive and execute a plan like this.” Joseph knows that fall will come and other groups will need money too, but said, “I’m acting on faith and I say let’s support this because it’s the right thing to do.” Diane likes the fact that “we’re sending people and not just money.” Deane thanked them for doing this.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

#### CARETAKER SABBATICAL

Marlene moved and Anna seconded that the Board approve a 3-month sabbatical for caretaker Andy Strickland.

Background: The leave will not be taken until fall or winter. Andy requested the time off to travel in the Peruvian Andes. His letter to the Board stated that he hopes to have opportunities “to study interesting echoes and contrasts between our own culture and another’s, in such forms as sustainable living, architecture, agriculture, and technology.” He also plans to continue his studies of the Spanish language as well as “the art and culture of the country.”

Peach Gallery: Site Manager Steve W. and Assistant Manager Charlie both urged support for Andy, saying “He’s earned it!” Andy said he’s been working for the Fair for almost 8 years and “it has been an enormous privilege.” He said the Fair has been a great thing in his life and he loves being able to live onsite. He also said the “best thing about a trip is coming home, and how can I come home if I never go away?”

Board: Deane said he will vote for this but hopes that eventually it may be possible to give Andy the full six months off that he originally requested. Bear said the Fair has “an enlightened personnel policy” that he hopes will serve as a model for other organizations.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, May 1, 2006 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; Appoint Main Stage Co-Coordinator; Consider Donation to The Natives Program; as well as the following new business: Appoint New Main Camp Security Co-Coordinator; Consider Donation to Prevention and Recovery Northwest; Consider Donation to Crest Drive’s Watershed Curriculum; Consider Donation to Eugene Peace Choir; Consider Donation to WOW Hall (Jack); KRVM Broadcast from OCF; Consider By-Laws Change Regarding Election Procedure. Paxton requested that his Vaudeville Proposal be dropped from the agenda.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Lynne Truss (“Eats, Shoots and Leaves”) for the following quote: “Assuming a sentence rises into the air with the initial capital letter and lands with a soft-ish bump at the full stop, the humble comma can keep the sentence aloft all right, like this, UP, for hours if necessary, UP, like this, UP, sort-of bouncing, and then falling down, and then UP it goes again, assuming you have enough additional things to say, although in the end you may run out of ideas and then you have

to roll around the ground with no commas at all until some sort of surface resistance takes over and you run out of steam anyway and then eventually with the help of three little dots...you stop.”