

# OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

**Monday May 1, 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), Greg Rikhoff, Anna Scott, Lawrence Taylor.  
Not: Bear Wilner-Nugent. (Note: Joseph voted in place of Bear all evening.)

## **Announcements**

Steve W. and norma reminded everyone in the room that this Saturday, May 6 is another clean-up day at the Fair, followed by the Spring Fling at WOW Hall that evening.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Lawrence moved and Joseph seconded that the minutes of the April 3, 2006 Board meeting be approved. The motion passed: 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention (Katie). (Greg yielded his vote to Deane on this motion because he missed the last meeting.)

## **Member Input**

Jen-lin Hodgden (Feedback Coordinator) again passed around cookies for sale for \$1 each to raise money for Culture Jam scholarships. (She recently raised \$60 this way at a Community Village meeting, and another \$32 tonight.) She announced that cookies can be delivered to crew and committee meetings (give her one week's notice if possible); also, crews or individuals wishing to sponsor all or part of a youth's fee (\$350) may make tax-deductible donations to the Fair designated for Culture Jam scholarships.

## **Staff and Officer Reports**

**General Manager:** Leslie has been working on contracts, getting tickets ready to go on sale, getting marketing materials ready, working on cross-promotion with the Bach Festival, and many other details. She managed to hold LTD's contract within budget this year "so we won't have to ask for an increase on that item." The two checks for buses and toilets are close to \$100,000. She is taking bids from toilet companies this year, and will have that contract finalized in about a week. She said, "If we do decide to go with someone other than Best Pots, everyone should know that it has nothing to do with performance as Best Pots has done a fantastic job for the Fair and has been an excellent company to work with. It's a matter of budget and scale." She thanked Sallie Edmunds for putting together the Fair's participation with the Alberta Art Hop in Portland and thanked norma for organizing the Spring Fling. She thanked Andy, Charlie, and Steve for the "fabulous work party onsite." She said the food was a big success, and that it was great to see everybody out there. She said the new Inventory systems are being set up and that "the briefing on that at the Coordinator Potluck went pretty well. There was a large turn-out at the potluck too, which was great." The poster has gone to press and the t-shirts are due to arrive soon. She thanked Registration Crew for "an incredibly smooth process this year."

**Administrative Assistant:** norma said she has been working on preparations for the Spring Fling. There will be two videos this year as well as a presentation about Culture Jam. She thanked the Registration Crew for the huge amount of work they have been doing lately, and thanked Sara Rich for helping to work out a transition with the Fair Family News staff. She had a meeting about ATMs and there will be two this year, one at the Dragon and one at Main Stage. The Main Stage schedule is now on the website and includes some great acts and speakers such as Zen Tricksters, Amy Goodman, and Rob Brezsny.

**Site Manager:** Steve W. thanked everyone involved with the successful work party and highway pick-up day last month. He said everyone “enjoyed Charlie’s culinary skills.” He especially thanked Andy, Jeff, Carl and QMs, Shane and the Site Crew, and the VegManEcs for all their work in “cleaning up flood debris and removing about 40 cubic yards of dimensional wood debris.” He said the Wildflower Walk was well-attended and thanked Bob Nisbet who acts as tour guide and also “helps safeguard our rare and endangered plant and butterfly populations.” He said, “Come on out and enjoy, check on your booth or camp; it’s a beautiful time of year. Be careful along the riverbanks, some of the Fair just isn’t there anymore.” Park by the Warehouse or the Hub because the floodplain is still closed to vehicles.

**Assistant Manager:** Charlie also thanked everyone who came out for “the great work party.”  
**Office Assistant:** Robin said there was “a great feature article about Hip Hop Hope in the Register-Guard and the same week a Culture Jammer who also attended Hip Hop Hope was on the cover of the Daily Emerald.” He and other Hip Hop Hope participants were “invited by Fair Family member Sara Rich, a member of CALC’s Board of Directors, to perform at CALC’s Martin Luther King, Jr. event in April which featured a dramatic reading of MLK’s 1968 anti-war speech about Vietnam.” She also said Kelly Crane of Teen Crew has 30 teen grads looking for spots on crews. She encouraged Crew Coordinators to contact Kelly if they have any openings on their crew. Sign-ups for Culture Jam have begun and are almost half-full already. If you know someone who might be interested, she suggested you have them sign up soon by calling 541-682-5521.

**Treasurers:** Grumpy has been busy working on the IT project (Internet Technology), currently getting all the lists of inventory in order. He hopes coordinators “are being frugal because we are in a deficit budget year.”

**President:** Jack expressed his appreciation to Teen Crew and the Elders Committee for their “hard and important work” in promoting the Fair’s desire to “make room for all to participate.” He said, “It feels good to say those two words together, ‘teens’ and ‘elders’.” He feels it’s important for teens to know they can have a spot on a crew if they want it hard enough, and for Elders to know they will still have a spot when they feel the need to retire from their crew. He said, “Tickets will be on sale very soon. Tell your friends and relatives they will have a really, really good time.”(By the time you read this either online or in the FFN, tickets will be on sale.)

## **Committee Reports**

### **Elders Committee**

Chris Browne (Elder) reported that twenty-four more applications for Elder status have been received, reviewed, and recommended for approval. They also approved 67 paid Elders camping passes, five of which were helper’s passes. There are 205 approved Elders. Their next meeting will be at the town office on May 25 at 7pm. They are planning an Elders Work Party at 11am on May 13 to scope out tentative camping sites for the Elders and to locate and remove any dangerous brush such as poison oak. Meet at the Hub across from Alice’s and bring gloves and plastic garbage bags with ties. They will host the Old Timers Picnic in June. (The date is tentatively set for Sunday, June 25 at 3pm, but they will update that information next month.)

### **Craft Committee**

Cathy Coulson-Keegan (Crafter) said there is an item on next month’s agenda to appoint Lara Howe to the Craft Committee. She said the committee wholeheartedly approves of this appointment and she urged passage by the Board. She also read a letter to the Board expressing the Craft Committee’s concern over the removal/relocation of Dena Neeman’s Pony Rides booth. They understand that staff may need to relocate booths as necessary, but are concerned that Dena faced this issue when she had not violated any Guidelines and was not on probation. She said they understand that the Board is “reluctant to interfere with operational issues” but the committee expressed concern that “if this outcome is allowed to stand, we

fear this could happen to any craft booth that is in a space desired by the Fair for another use.” (Discussion and further explanation of this topic is scheduled for the June meeting.)

### **Vision Quest Task Force**

Beth Grafe (Construction Crew Co-Coordinator) said they are “digesting feedback from an earlier work session” and planning for the next one. She reminded the Board of the information forms they were to fill out for the Task Force and encouraged them to return the forms very soon.

### **Peach Power Task Force**

Anna Scott said that their most recent meeting was attended by two people “in person” and by four more people attending “virtually by speaker phone”. They set goals for putting the project “on the ground, which means getting feet in motion.” She thanked David Peek for his help in completing the necessary paperwork to prepare for the physical installation of photo voltaic cells.

### **Old Business**

#### **Appoint Main Stage Co-Coordinator**

Marlene moved and Jack seconded that the Board appoint Tia Christiansen as Main Stage Co-Coordinator.

Peach Gallery: Leslie thanked Coordinator David Paul who she said will “still be working behind the scenes” and thanked Tia for coming forward to co-coordinate. (David got applause and a standing ovation for his work as a solo coordinator. He and Tia will now share the job.) Beth said she worked with Tia at last summer’s LiveArt at the State Fair and that Tia is “a powerhouse.” Jon Pincus (Elder) said Tia is “totally awesome.”

Board: Lawrence said that he and David Paul go “way back almost 30 years.” He said he was pleased to meet Tia last year and that “we are lucky to have her.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

#### **Appoint Main Camp Security Co-Coordinator**

Marlene moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board appoint Don Doolin as Main Camp Security Co-Coordinator.

Background: Don spoke at last month’s meeting because he could not attend tonight.

Peach Gallery and Board: Thumbs up.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

#### **Consider Donation to The NATIVES Program**

Lawrence moved and Joseph seconded that the Board donate \$1,000 to The NATIVES Program.

Background: The donation request submitted by the group contained much information. The N.A.T.I.V.E.S. Program (Native Americans Towards Improved Values in Education and Society) has operated “in Lane County for 31 years as incorporated in several school districts and as a 501(c)3 organization. The program provides educational enhancement, cultural enrichment, and one-on-one mentoring services to Native Americans between the ages of 5 and 18.” They have 2,370 young people

enrolled in 9 school districts. Brenda Brainard (Indian name Chavesta) of the Beaver Clan spoke in her native tongue of Miiluk and then translated into English. She thanked the Fair for considering their request, and introduced many program elders as well as students from their program including Brandyn Salazar who spoke about his experiences and how the program has helped him. He said he was struggling academically and emotionally before his experience with the program, and he wants “the Fair to help other kids because I feel special now.” Brenda pointed out that Brandyn had a 1.0 GPA before getting involved with the program and now has a 3.5 GPA. Past administrations allowed their Title VII grants to pay for academic development as well as cultural enhancement, but under the direction of the Bush administration their grant is now allowed to cover only the teaching of reading. The group brought traditional gifts of sweets and tobacco (“for smelling and praying over, not for smoking!”) for the Board, and gifted the entire room with a song by one of the tribal elders.

Peach Gallery: Several people spoke in favor of the motion including Kay Kintzley, Leslie, norma, and Beth who said, “Nothing we can do for a child is ever wasted.”

Board: Many Board members spoke in favor of this motion. A few highlights include Lawrence’s comment, “I know how much good this program does, this is humbling for us” and Joseph saying, “We’re aware of the cultural significance of the land where we hold our event; thank you for keeping traditions alive.” Anna expressed her “deep disappointment in the current administration’s policy” and said this “is a touchstone of outrage for me.” Greg said “ties are too few with our nation’s first peoples” and Jack said, “My heart is really pounding. What we are about to give you is nowhere close to what we would call justice.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed. (Deane joked and said, “Make that eleven” because he wished he could vote.)

### **Consider Donation to Prevention and Recovery Northwest**

Marlene moved and Brad seconded that the Board donate \$500 to Prevention and Recovery Northwest.

Background: This group is a non-profit organization “dedicated to creating freedom from drug and alcohol addiction for youth and adults and improving the health of our community.” They are a 501(c)3 organization; the director could not attend tonight’s meeting because they also have their board meetings on the first Monday of the month.

Peach Gallery: Grumpy said lots of groups do this work and wondered why the Fair should give money to this group, asking “Is it just because they’re the one who asked? Maybe that’s how it works.”

Board: Anna said, “This is a case in point for donation reform efforts I have brought up before.” Joseph said the donation budget is “pretty tight, but all these groups that come to us do important work.” Lawrence and Paxton spoke about how methamphetamine corrodes empathy but neither will support the motion because of limited funding and feeling that it’s “more important to help kids.” Brad was “leaning towards support” because of changes in the Oregon health plan, loss of public funding, and the fact that while clients are waiting for slots their motivation for change disappears. Marlene yielded time to Kay who said that “land abuse is part of the problem because meth chemicals are dumped, creating a toxic environment.” Deane said he has lost good friends to speed, “but once they’re lost to speed, they’re gone.” Greg said, “This sucks bad. With a heavy heart, I’ll vote no. I fear this donation would be a drop in the bucket and our money can do so much more good supporting a project that helps kids.” He felt an application through the Jill Heiman Vision Fund would be more appropriate for this group. Marlene said she was saddened by what she perceived as prejudice and bias by some members of the Board. The motion failed: 3 in favor and 7 opposed (Anna, Diane, Greg, Jack, Katie, Lawrence, Paxton).

### **Consider Donation to Crest Drive Watershed Curriculum**

Greg moved and Paxton seconded that the Board donate \$500 to the ongoing development of the Crest Drive Watershed Curriculum.

Background: Joe Alsup, principal at Crest Drive Elementary and coordinator of the project, thanked the Board for past support and passed out copies of the newest publication. Chapter four begins “with a bit of history about the fourth waterway in our watershed journey to the sea, the Long Tom River.” This chapter is dedicated to the OCF which “takes center stage as being one of the most important entities along this waterway.”

Peach Gallery: Steve W. said, “Enlightening a young mind to nature is priceless, please support this.”

Board: Paxton said he was “truly impressed by the document I saw. What we teach our children will pay dividends in the future.” Joseph spoke about “how honored we are to be able to contribute to this” and suggested that Joe participate in the Bioneers Conference this October. Brad called it “an incredible piece of work” and Lawrence said, “It’s so exciting to see this kind of education being done.” Jack said we hear more about pollution by cars but “let’s not lose sight that waterways are threatened.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed. (Deane voted in place of Katie on this motion because she had briefly stepped out.)

### **Consider Donation to WOW Hall**

Jack moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board donate \$1,000 to the WOW Hall Capital Campaign Fund.

Background: The Fair’s own Beth Grafe is the new manager of WOW Hall so she “took off her Fair hat and put on her manager’s hat” to present this request. They are in the process of buying the back lot and have raised \$33,000 of the needed \$55,000. The Fair has already agreed to loan WOW Hall up to \$30,000 if needed by the deadline, but WOW Hall’s goal is to not have to ask for the loan. Beth spoke of WOW Hall and said, “We create intergenerational experiences and events; this is THE all-ages venue in Eugene.”

Peach Gallery: David Helton (Registration Crew Co-Coordinator) is now on WOW’s Board of Directors. He said most people are surprised to learn that WOW doesn’t already own the back lot because it is so crucial to their operation. That’s where the bands unload. The next phase of their improvement project will be an expansion and also the addition of a noise-blocker to limit noise to the apartment building going up next door to them. He thanked the Fair for considering their request because “the OCF recognizes the importance of land ownership to the long-term viability of an organization.” Jon Pincus said he is “somewhat biased in favor of WOW”, has worked on fundraising with them and is impressed by the quality of leadership. He said, “Beth will be great.” He gave a bit of history by saying that the WOW-a-thon got money from the Renaissance Fair in 1975.

Board: Lawrence said, “You’ve heard me say it before and here I go again. WOW Hall, Growers Market, KLCC and KRVM, Saturday Market, are all part of our larger community. It’s great for all ages, so yes yes yes.” Brad and Anna declared their membership in WOW Hall as a possible conflict of interest. Brad got a laugh when he asked, “If we support this, can we get a free parking spot?” Beth’s perfect timing countered with, “Can we get a parking spot at the Fair?”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

### **KRVM Broadcast from OCF**

Joseph moved and Paxton seconded that the Board accept KRVM’s proposal to broadcast from Blue Moon Stage at the 2006 Fair.

Background: Bill Ganser and Chris Calise wrote a letter to the Board explaining a bit of KRVM's history at the Fair and outlining this year's proposal "to broadcast three or more hours live each day of the Fair. KRVM volunteer dj's will announce from the stage and conduct brief artist interviews."

Peach Gallery: Grumpy said the only financial impact this motion has on the Fair is the wristbands provided to the two project coordinators (Bill and Chris) as well as the dj's and sound technicians. Leslie asked that they connect with Linda Dievendorf who is booking the stage this year to make sure they obtain the necessary releases.

Board: Brad wondered why the KLCC broadcast is a standing deal but the Board seems to re-visit the KRVM broadcast every year. Anna suggested "operationalizing" the matter so it is handled the same way as KLCC. Jack said the KRVM broadcast is newer and is still in the process of changing coordinators as well as stages. He said it is probably best to keep it a yearly decision until they "find a permanent home and then turn the matter over to a crew." Anna suggested that the Board make it a priority later to "look at the bigger picture" by discussing the possibility of not just radio broadcasting, but media broadcasting as well.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

### **Set Date for "July" Board Meeting**

Marlene moved and Paxton seconded that the Board move this issue from new business to old business so it could be settled tonight. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Marlene moved and Paxton seconded that the Board hold the "July" Board meeting on Sunday, June 25 at 4pm onsite (exact location TBA).

Board: Brad said he is still bothered that we call it the "July" meeting when it's always held in June and said it should be called "the second June meeting." When people laughed, he added, "I'm serious."

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

### **Consider By-Laws Change Regarding Election Procedure**

Brad moved and Marlene seconded that the Board direct the By-Laws Committee to amend Article 7, Section 2c to read as follows: "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."

Background: This proposal was introduced and explained at last month's meeting. Basically, the Elections Committee now has to declare invalid any ballots that are returned with x's or checkmarks rather than sequential numbers. The Committee wants to "make every vote count" and needs this change of wording to accomplish that.

Peach Gallery: Beth said she is in favor of anything that will make it possible to count more ballots.

Board: Jack thought perhaps this issue should go to the By-Laws Committee before coming to the Board. Barbara explained that Russell (the Fair's lawyer) said the proper procedure was for the Board to first approve it and then for the By-Laws Committee to implement it. Paxton and Lawrence who are both on the By-Laws Committee agreed. Lawrence explained that the Board can direct the By-Laws Committee to develop a change, but they don't "act as a gatekeeper" on proposed changes. The wording of this proposed change was already developed by Russell so there was no reason to send it to By-Laws first. Brad said, "If

this helps us to count more votes, I'm thoroughly in favor.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, June 5, 2006 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; Donation to Eugene Peace Choir; as well as the following new business: Confirm Main Camp and Kitchen Check Signers; Consider Donation to Center for Community Counseling; Consider Donation to Whiteaker Thanksgiving; Appoint New Craft Committee Member; Appoint Main Camp Co-Coordinator; Revise AM Job Description; Discuss Policy on Literature Distribution; Discuss Pony Rides Booth; Adopt Statement of Priorities for Vision Quest Survey (Bear).

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Robert L. Benedetti (“The Actor at Work”) for the following quote: “Uncover as much of your skin as possible, and feel the resistance of the air as you move through it, swimming in the ocean of air. Now become aware that every breath takes in space; you are not only swimming through space, but space is swimming through you.”