

# OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

## OCTOBER 2, 2006

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 place of Bear.)

(During Agenda Review, Anna moved and Lawrence seconded that 'Consider Donation to Artrain USA' be moved from new business to old business so it could be discussed this evening. This is because the event happens in early November. The motion passed 10 in favor and 0 opposed.)

### **Announcements**

Barbara encouraged attendance at the Annual Meeting on October 14, 6:30 pm at Knights of Pythias Hall. She added, "And vote in November too!"

Leslie invited attendance when the Endowment Committee meets on Wednesday, October 25 from 4-5:30 pm at Camp Wilani to talk to the community about the endowment process. The purpose of the meeting is to encourage more requests for donations and to explain the process to potential recipients.

Brad walked in just a bit late and his arrival was greeted with cheers because he brought baby pictures of Terran Oliver Ronlov-Lerch who was born on September 26 to parents Brad and Indigo and who Brad described as "the cutest baby I've ever seen!"

### **Approval of Minutes**

Joseph moved and Katie seconded to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2006 Board meeting. The motion passed: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions (Anna and Greg). Member Input

Lawrence said he "saw a new movie called 'The U.S. vs. John Lennon', it's not just a nostalgia piece, it has a lot of resonance today, and if you go to the movies I recommend this one."

Joseph said he didn't know whether to thank Site Crew or VegManEcs, but he complimented the work done on an area of Strawberry Lane where a tree fell across the river. The cleanup has left "a beautiful green bank, nice job."

Kay Kintzley (Booth L86) said she attended the employee evaluation meeting and described it as "informative and interesting." She suggested having a table at the Teddy Bears' Picnic with various forms such as employee evaluation forms to encourage more people to participate in the process.

Lara Howe (Recycling Crew Co-Coordinator) talked about her experience at LiveArt!, the OCF area of the OSF in Salem, and said she came back "juiced up". She said, "They enjoyed the hell out of us!" She said there were "always people getting their pictures taken atop the giant rocking horse" and she thanked Andy for transporting it to Salem. She said this is "just the kind of second event the Fair should be having."

Marlene said she has been serving on the Board for 8 years and tonight is her last meeting as a Board

member. Her words of thanks were returned with applause and shouts of “thank you.”

## Staff and Officer Reports

**General Manager:** Leslie thanked the Personnel Committee and everyone who attended the employee evaluation meeting. She also thanked VQ task force for all their hard work preparing for the Annual Meeting and presentation to the Board about the next steps in the process. She and Hilary have not yet had time to research bank accounts so she asked to have that agenda item tabled. She talked about her letter to the Board that detailed requests for capital projects expenditures and said she’ll say more about that later in the meeting. She initiated a September potluck to review the revised budget handbook and process with Coordinators and thanked the Treasurers for lots of help preparing for that. She had a meeting with the City of Eugene to discuss debriefing about Culture Jam, Hip Hop Hope, and plans for a Peace Jam. She wrote checks totaling over \$22,000 to the five recipients of the Jill Heiman Vision Fund. Each of the following five organizations received \$4462,93: Direction Service (outreach to the Latino community); Food for Lane County Garden Project; South Lane Wheels (transportation for low-income people); HIV Alliance; and White Bird. She has been preparing for the Annual Meeting and the Board Retreat. She was in Florida helping her Dad move and unable to participate in the town and site work parties but she “very much appreciates everyone who participated.” She also talked about “our beloved Beth.” (More about that in Jack’s report.)

**Administrative Assistant:** norma said the basement at the town office got cleaned up and she thanked Robin, Lucy, Charlie, Andy, RT, Joseph, Barb, and “the extremely handsome Dick Stewart” (laughter, he’s her husband!) for their help. The clean basement “inspired” her to clean out her upstairs files too, and she is in the process of moving her office to Leslie’s old office (Leslie moved to the second floor). She and Charlie talked with Robert Albano about website issues. She thanked Michele and Bubba for hosting the September Coordinators’ Potluck. She said the October issue of FFN will be mailed a little later than normal so they can include the results of the Oct. 14 election. norma said she will be “out of the office from October 19-31 but Robin will hold down the fort” while she’s gone.

**Site Manager:** Steve W. said, “To answer Joseph’s question, it was the Site Crew who did the initial bank repair work at Shady Grove and Strawberry Lane before the Fair, placing soil, jute mesh, trees and shrubs, then Jeff Johnson and I added soil, native grass seed and irrigation post-Fair.” He said they spent September irrigating, coreplugging, and reseeding and that all the paths and meadows are now closed to vehicles and bikes until June. He said the Fair has been given “a 30 foot diameter Oregon Pacific Yurt. A big Fair thank you to Dodie Weyhe and Nancy Steel who donated the yurt and to Junebug who helped arrange the donation.” Andy and Jeff “trucked up to Vida, dismantled it and transported it to the site for storage” until the proper location can be determined for its placement. He also mentioned he would like to contact Steve Simmons (formerly of Community Village and Site Crew) who left a junked car onsite and he asked “anyone who might know where he is to ask him to contact me” because having a title to the car would make it easier to have it hauled off. Steve talked about the LUMP Committee’s last meeting where they “set the agenda and work schedule for the winter.” He said the dry weather has been great but they are still very busy getting ready for winter.

**Assistant Manager:** Charlie said besides the basement cleaning party on Sept. 23 there was also a work party onsite the weekend of Sept. 16-17 and he thanked everyone who participated and “worked their butts off.” He said he likes weekend work parties because folks can “stay overnight and eat together and have that feeling of community.” He also thanked Robert Albano for helping to set up a new website that will focus on issues relating to the site.

**Office Assistant:** Robin said, “Each fall we connect with Culture Jam youths and send a contact sheet so they can stay in touch year round.” This year she also made a poster to send to each participant. She explained that during CJ the youths “make thank you cards for the site guys, people who donate food, etc” and this year she scanned “all those cool and creative cards” and made a poster out of those images. She

passed around a copy of the poster.

**Treasurers:** Grumpy said the treasurers are now engaged in a series of joint meetings between the Financial Committee and the Budget Committee and preparing the 2007 revenue projections for the November Board meeting. He referred to the usual monthly balance sheets that are always included in the Board info packet and also distributed new charts with various types of financial info including a “cash positions” page that shows “what money is in which account.” He talked about which line items appear to be finishing the year “close to actual projections” and which ones were off for various reasons. They predict by year’s end the excess revenue will total just over \$100,000. Hilary added that the recent Coordinators’ Potluck designed to acquaint Coordinators with new budget processes had light attendance but “a couple new Coordinators were there and everybody who participated had meaningful things to talk about.”

**President:** Jack focused his words tonight on talking about his friend and fellow Construction Crew Co-Coordinator Beth Grafe who was recently diagnosed with bone cancer. He said, “She has a fight ahead of her. We should all be thinking good positive thoughts, and check with the Fair about how we can help her. My thoughts are with her.” (Note: E-mail norma at office@oregoncountryfair.org or call the office to see how you can help. Stay tuned for details of a fundraiser for Beth at WOW Hall in December.)

## **Committee Reports**

### **Vision Quest**

Hilary said both Dedee and Bear wished they could be here tonight and that they all “really miss Beth’s input and presence.” She said the committee “does not set priorities but only facilitates the process for others to set them.” The next phase of their work involves gathering ideas and plans to achieve progress in the five areas rated of highest concern in earlier polls and summits: buying and preserving more wetlands; increasing diversity of OCF participants and attendees; support artists and entertainers; development of facilities on site for year round events; and more participatory events, especially for youth and elders. They are also focused on achieving more and better means of communication and information dissemination.

### **Poster Committee**

Patti Lomont said the committee met last week and is “getting in gear” for the 2007 poster contest. The deadline for submissions is December 1. Entries should be in slide or digital form. Applications will be available soon from the Fair office or on the website at [www.oregoncountryfair.org](http://www.oregoncountryfair.org). The committee will place ads in the Eugene Weekly, the FFN, and Portland’s Willamette Week. They will interview three finalists and then “pick one artist to work with directly on creating the 2007 OCF poster.”

### **Elders Committee**

Chris Browne read a report from the committee’s Sept. 21 meeting when they approved two new applications for Elder status, bringing the total to 207. For the 2006 Fair, the committee issued 149 passes including 11 helper passes, 6 compassion passes, and 3 trade passes. They discussed the possibility of setting up a phone tree to keep in touch with Elders who do not have access to e-mail. They also discussed fund-raising activities and the establishment of several sub-committees to work on different projects. The report also noted that the “Elders Camp Site had a good first year” and expressed appreciation to the camp host who set up a small kitchen for their use and to Charlie who “was very prompt in getting our showers repaired when they broke down.” Chris said nine Elders camped on the site this year and that two of them were also alter-abled. Their next meeting will be held at the town office on October 26.

# Old Business

## Consider Donation to Artrain USA

**Anna moved and Joseph seconded that the Board donate \$550 from the Board donation budget to Artrain USA.**

**Background:** Patti Lomont (Booth 941 and member of Oregon Crafted, one of the sponsoring organizations) talked about the traveling art exhibit visiting Eugene from November 8-12 at 410 Garfield Street. The letter to the Board describes ArtrainUSA as “an art museum housed in vintage rail cars that travels throughout the country via the nation’s railways, sharing world-class art exhibitions and art education programs.” The current exhibition is titled “Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture” and features more than fifty artists who “redefine Native American art by broadening the limits and stereotypes that currently define it.” The first days of the exhibit will be filled with school and group tours. It will be open to the general public on Saturday and Sunday Nov. 11-12 from 10am to 5 pm. More information about the exhibit can be found at [www.artrainusa.org](http://www.artrainusa.org) and about the sponsoring organization at [www.oregoncrafted.org](http://www.oregoncrafted.org).

**Peach Gallery:** Grumpy asked if the organization is a 501(c)3 non-profit (yes). He thought because the event is national that the amount of the donation should be lower. He said the usual donation amount is \$500 and perhaps \$300 would be a better amount, leaving more money for Oregon groups. Palmer Parker (Fair Central) said, “I like trains... and I like art.” Patti responded to Grumpy’s concern saying the money that’s raised by the visiting exhibit goes to Oregon Crafted, a local non-profit organization.

**Board:** Katie supports the motion saying it “conforms to our purpose as I interpret the By-Laws.” Paxton asked about the cost of bringing Artrain to Eugene. Patti said the “overall cost is about \$20,000. If we are able to raise close to that amount then we won’t have to charge for admission to the exhibit – which is our goal.”

**The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.**

## Budget Issues

### Fall Capital Projects Budget

**Lawrence moved and Joseph seconded that the Board approve up to \$12,000 from unallocated excess revenue for the long-awaited flail mower and other capital projects outlined in the GM’s report.**

**Background:** The GM’s report requested \$5,000 for a flail mower for the site, an additional \$2,000 to make Alice’s bathroom ADA compliant, \$3,000 for a new telephone system for the town office, \$1,500 for office computer networking, and \$500 for miscellaneous office equipment and furnishings.

**Peach Gallery:** Leslie, Steve W. and Charlie all spoke in favor of the motion. Leslie talked about the telephone and computer upgrades needed “to bring the office into the 21st century and to make norma’s and Robin’s jobs easier.” She also said she and the Treasurers discussed it and felt it makes sense to have an occasional fall capital projects process limited to infrastructure needs that shouldn’t wait until the spring cycle. Last Spring the Board told Steve they would revisit the purchase of a flail mower if the Fair had a good year so Steve appreciates the Board’s willingness to “look at this outside of the usual capital projects cycle.” Charlie said, “Now is the best time to do this intercom and computer work because spring is too busy preparing for the Fair.”

**Board:** Brad said, “Everything here sounds pretty good.” He said he “has some hesitancy to go out of cycle” but that he would like to see the timing changed because “this makes sense to allocate capital projects money after we know what kind of Fair we’ve had.” Lawrence thinks it’s “important to keep up with the new communication technology that is available to us.” Joseph said the Fair had a good year and he supports putting money into the infrastructure. He encouraged purchasers to remember the “cradle to cradle” concept when making purchases. Paxton has “hesitations about the phone system because technology is changing so rapidly it will be out of date in three years. On the other hand, we need it now.” Anna asked if the new phone system will be able to handle conference calls (yes, multiple conferences simultaneously). Jack said he is “trying not to look at this as part of the budget process” but instead looking at some of the expenditures as “immediate need” and some like the flail mower as “a kept promise.” He said, “I’m okay with that but not with talking about a dual budget process.” Greg said he “liked what Brad had to say” and that “as we grow we may need to look at a supplemental budget process. These projects are all worthy.”

**The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.**

### **Additional Sabbatical for Caretaker**

**Greg moved and about eight Board members got a laugh by simultaneously seconding that the Board approve Andy’s request for an additional one and a half months of unpaid leave for his sabattical.**

**Background:** Andy said he originally applied for six months and was approved for three. He is requesting the leave be extended to four and a half months total and said he has the approval of the GM and SM. His leave would run from Nov. 15, 2006 through March 31, 2007. He will travel in South America hoping to “make a breakthrough in my Spanish” and said “three months is not quite long enough to immerse myself in the culture.” His letter to the Board stated, “Life is simply too short to not make the most of such a rare opportunity as this.” Leslie explained that benefits such as health insurance continue but vacation time doesn’t accrue.

**Peach Gallery:** Lara Howe said, “Give it to him.”

**Board:** Brad said as a Board member he “totally supports this” but as a PC member he wishes “it could have come to us first.” Marlene dittoed that. Joseph said, “Please bring back lots of new ideas.”

**The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.**

### **Booth Relocation/Path Expansion Policy**

**Marlene moved and Joseph seconded that it shall be the policy of the OCF that designated and protected green zones be established and enacted into the LUMP manual. These green zones shall include areas which are susceptible to erosion, those providing understory to our stately heritage trees, as well as those serving to provide growth opportunities for juvenile trees. These green zones are to be established and so designated through the cooperation of the LUMP Committee, management, and site-based crews. Until this policy has been enacted and designated in the LUMP manual and Guidelines, all future expansion of the eight for booth and/or camping locations shall be limited to grass or open meadow areas avoiding any brush and understory. Violation of this policy could result in probation and/or suspension as management deems fit.**

**Peach Gallery:** Randy Nowell (VegManEc) said it’s “about damn time we start walking our talk better. In the short time I’ve been here we’ve really trashed the place.” Jon Pincus (Elder) said the matter “should also come before the Board, not just the groups you mentioned in the motion.” Lara Howe said areas that

are “lush and green are trampled after the Fair, and some come back and some don’t. I’m proud of you, Marlene. It’s about time.” Grumpy spoke against the motion saying it “clearly impacts everyone at the Fair. It’s nice to say ‘stop’ but managing that is something different. And I disagree with Randy, we haven’t trashed the land.” He suggested getting LUMP Committee to look into the matter but said the motion is “too expansive for the practical running of the Fair.” Steve W. pointed out that it’s fall and there won’t be any brush cutting until spring. He said there is time for committees to work on this over the winter and this motion “makes a very difficult process impossible. Present something later that is workable.” Leslie said, “Trying to manage this would be very difficult. I urge you to spend time considering this. We’re all resonating with the intention, but without the mandates this motion dictates.” Hilary has “a problem with the last couple of sentences. Does ‘expansion’ mean if a family brings an extra tent for their children they’ll be punished? The onus goes on people who are just trying to find a place to camp.”

**Board:** Marlene said, “Every year we have serious inroads into our vegetation despite our best intentions; until we decide what is precious and important to keep, we need to stop it. We should halt expansion until green zones are identified.” Anna said, “This resonates deeply with me and I want to implement these ideas” but she has a problem with “the implication that LUMP hasn’t done anything.” She also said the best enforcers are local camp hosts and local green zones. Marlene said that people tell her they wouldn’t expand into green zones “if they knew where they were” and she wants this motion to “be an incentive to develop a plan. I’ve been on the Board for eight years and we talk about protecting the vegetation but it’s not being done. I want the Board to say ‘save our understory and give us a plan’.” Joseph said, “Much of this resonates with me but I understand the reservations from people who have to work with this. I don’t think we’ll be ready to adopt this tonight. I seconded the motion because I support so much of this and I wanted this to be discussed.” Diane said she has seen her own camping area change and she supports the motion “if it will get a map of green zones going.” Lawrence said everyone supports maintaining trees and that “a ‘no’ vote on this motion is not a vote against trees.” He said he “weighs the SM’s comments heavily” and has “respect for the LUMP Committee and I think the process hasn’t really been followed here.” Jack said green zones are important but we also need to protect open space. He offered a friendly amendment to drop the last two sentences, essentially directing LUMP etc to develop a plan. Brad said, “In spirit, I’d support the whole thing but I’m a lame duck. This is my last meeting and it wouldn’t be fair for me to vote for it but expect others to implement it.” He read an alternate version omitting the last two lines and adding the sentence, “We direct LUMP and management to operationalize this policy by 2007/08.” Greg said, “I’m really really torn. The understory is getting slashed. Some has been preserved but some has not. The more we wait, the more we’ll lose.” Deane said, “The Long Tom doesn’t just sit there, it moves. That should be part of long-range planning. The motion shouldn’t just be directed to the 8 and booths but to the whole site.” Jack said he “doesn’t want to amend the LUMP Committee’s work but to direct them.” He said, “As I understand it, we would be asking LUMP, Path Planning, etc to start a process of defining green zones by 2007/08. My sense of the Board is that we would like them to make the zones more understandable so we can educate about this.” He supports amending the motion to what Brad suggested. Lawrence moved to table the discussion. The motion failed: 5 in favor and 5 opposed (Marlene, Brad, Diane, Anna, and someone else but sorry I don’t know who).

**Peach Gallery and Board:** Marlene asked Greg to take over leading the meeting because “this is my baby and I have a conflict of interest.” At this point, the discussion opened up again to anyone in the room. Jon Pincus sees “areas getting trashed, pretty soon we’ll just be a dustbowl. You need an ethic in the Fair of not incurring into the understory by projects or by accident.” Grumpy said the motion should be withdrawn or tabled and said to “come back with a motion that is clear and concise and tight. Otherwise you’ll just keep floundering.” Leslie and Steve both asked for additional time to establish clarity of purpose since neither of them had seen the motion until today.

Hilary likes the first part of the motion but repeated that the problem “is not with the individual” and “we will get more cooperation if we are clearer in defining the green zones.” Greg asked Jack to take over the meeting so he could get home to put his daughter to bed. Joseph encouraged Marlene to accept the amendment. Katie said, “I support it all except perhaps the last sentence about the consequences of violating the policy. I think it’s a good job.” Jack called the question. Anna read the amended motion as

follows:

**It shall be the policy of the OCF that designated and protected green zones be established and enacted into the LUMP manual. These green zones shall include areas which are susceptible to erosion, those providing understory to our stately heritage trees, as well as those serving to provide growth opportunities for juvenile trees. These green zones are to be established and so designated through the cooperation of the LUMP Committee, management, and site-based crews. We direct LUMP and management to operationalize this policy by 2007/08.**

**The amended motion passed: 8 in favor and 2 opposed (Paxton and Deane). (Deane voted in place of Greg on this motion.)**

## **Reallocation of Funds to VQ**

Marlene adjourned the meeting but someone said they thought there was another budget item that needed approval, referring to part of Leslie's written report concerning moving some unused GOTV money to the VQ fund. There was some discussion about whether it required Board approval for the Treasurers to reallocate money within the same line item. Deane wanted to discuss VQ expenditures and moved to discuss the issue but was told that was not a proper motion, that a motion requires some kind of action. Deane moved to not approve moving the money but there was no second so Marlene adjourned the meeting again.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, November 6, 2006 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; Approve New Bank Account; Peach Power Fund (Anna); as well as the following new business: Affirm Election Results; Consider Donation to Eugene/Springfield PRIDE; Consider By-Laws Change to Delete Old Mailing Address; Appoint Officers, Board Committee Members and Liaisons (Bear); Revenue Projections; Consider Admissions Gift Certificate; Consider Requiring Written Bi-Yearly Committee Reports (Paxton); Consider New Process for Booth Relocations (Deane); Consider Regional Permaculture Conference Onsite in 2007 (Joseph); Consider Community Village Financial Proposal (Diane). One item, Appoint New NRT Co-Coordinator, was dropped from the agenda.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks an unknown author on a bookmark for the following quote: "Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Watch your words, for they become actions. Watch your actions, for they become habits. Watch your habits, for they become your character."