

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday December 4, 2006, 7pm, EWEB Community Room

Present: Diane Albino, Katie Cousins, Lara Howe, Jack Makarchek, Deane Morrow (alternate), Palmer Parker (alternate), Greg Rikhoff, Anna Scott, Carl Taylor, Lawrence Taylor, Bear Wilner-Nugent.

Not: Paxton Hoag (*Deane voted in place of Paxton all evening.*)

Announcements

Deane said there was a problem with the dial tone so the Internet Committee was unsuccessful with their experiment to allow Paxton to listen to tonight's meeting from out of town.

Bear said there is a joint meeting with the Board and the Vision Quest Task Force on Monday, Dec. 18 at 7pm at the Central Presbyterian Church. All are welcome to attend.

Approval of Minutes

Lawrence said there was a mistake in the Nov. 6 minutes under the 'Appoint Officers' heading. A funny comment was attributed to Jonathan Seraphim but it was actually Kenny Howe (Recycling Crew) who got the laugh. (*Sorry, Kenny!*)

Deane moved and Katie seconded to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2006 Board meeting as amended. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Member Input

Virgil Courtright (Archaeology Crew Co-Coordinator) said Randy Poole (Archaeology Crew) had some stainless steel art pieces in the ground in and around OCF's LiveArt! exhibit at the State Fair. Randy had been offered \$3500 for the pieces but he told the buyer he had promised the Fair could use them in Salem and he would deliver them to the buyer after that, but the pieces were stolen from the State Fair. Virgil was upset that no one from the Fair has contacted Randy recently or offered to pay for the pieces. He said, "If our artists get something stolen, we owe them." He said Randy was unable to get compensation from the State Fair and "if they treat us this way we shouldn't do the State Fair." He said the pieces include "a seal head, shark head, and dolphin head so if you see them, you know they are stolen." He said, "Most of our problems come from lack of communication and I'm upset no one has contacted Randy. I'd like for us to do something for him." (*There were quite a few whisperings around the room from Board members and others. This was the first time most people had heard about the theft.*) Leslie told Virgil that the OCF is pursuing the claim with the State Fair and asked Virgil to give her some contact information and said she would be in touch with Randy.

Kay Kintzley (Booth L86) said, "In the spirit of the season, I want to wish everyone happy holidays and thank everyone for the spirit of family."

Jen-lin Hodgden (Feedback Coordinator) thanked Andy and Charlie for their help with the cider pressing party where they made over 50 gallons of juice. She recounted telling a 4-year-old about the recycling inherent in picking apples, making juice, and then peeing the juice back

out. Later she overheard the little girl point to the outhouse and say, “You know what’s special about that outhouse? Apple-cycling!”

Greg encouraged support of two items on tonight’s agenda (donations to Skipping Stones Magazine and the Eugene Japanese American Art Memorial) especially in light of the recent “racist graffiti that appeared on the streets, sidewalks, trees, and even play structures of South Eugene and included swastikas, white power slogans,” and comments derogatory to Asians, Jews, immigrants, gays, and blacks. He said, “We need to condemn such behavior and be part of an active solution.”

Barbara said the Board received a letter from the Oregon Network for Compassionate Communication (ORNCC) inviting the Fair to participate in presenting a conference on nonviolence and peace to be hosted at the UO in March of 2008. The letter stated, “We seek your help in order to illuminate the work people do, in groups like your own, that make peaceful, just and nonviolent living a reality.” There are many opportunities to contribute over the next 15 months including “initial conference planning, funding and networking, and coordinating workshops and activities and hospitality during the conference.” Although the Board has not proposed participation by the OCF organization itself, Michael Dreiling of ORNCC stated that the invitation to participate is open to all Fair Family as individuals and anyone interested should contact him at dreiling@uoregon.edu.

Staff and Officer Reports

General Manager: Leslie said most of her work in November involved “budgets, budgets, budgets.” She thanked the Budget Committee for being “a dedicated, hard-working group” and said they are “coming down to the wire with crew and other operating budgets.” The Fair opened its new account with Liberty Bank and she has “reallocated the various accounts to reflect what is Endowment principal and what is Rainy Day. Part of the Endowment principal is now with the Oregon Community Foundation so the total of \$350,000 is in three different accounts. The Rainy Day fund now stands at \$334,190.49 and she said “with interest we should reach our goal of \$350,000 by the time of the Fair.” She said the office is in “the process of adapting to the new phone system,” that Charlie has shifted his attention to the computer networking system “after doing a terrific job on the phone system,” that norma is getting the Guidelines revisions going, and that “Robin and I have started working with the City of Eugene on the March 2007 Hip Hop Hope.” Her monthly written report to the Board stated, “2006 will be remembered for its incredible highs and lows, one I imagine we will all remember with a sense of awe and wonder and moments of deep sadness. Thank you for every moment of it.”

Administrative Assistant: norma said there have been 38 submissions for the poster contest so far. She thanked Charlie for all his work setting up the new phone system and will send Coordinators a list of extension numbers for the various crews. She thanked Kay for making “a beautiful swag for the front door of the town office.” She thanked Meredith Snodgrass who writes “From the Peach Gallery” for the FFN for all her work on the newspaper and said Meredith has decided to leave the FFN staff. Suzi Prozanski will take over reporting duties for the FFN.

Site Manager: Steve W. thanked the VegManEcs for the Dec. 3 work party, filling and placing sandbags, and wrapping little trees with chicken wire to protect them from hungry beaver. He said Andy is off to South America and Charlie Ruff has moved into the Caretaker’s yurt. He thanked Kay for “organizing the fun wreath-making party at the site,” and thanked Jeff, Mike, and Tommy for “helping to keep an eye on the place.” He said November was a rainy

month with the normal rainfall for November at the Eugene airport being 8.43 inches but this year it was 14.28 inches. Onsite rainfall registered at 20.5 inches. He said the river “took another tree at Ark Park, and around the corner another tree is leaning but we’re going to try to cable it.” He “just today (*Dec. 4*) happily waved goodbye to the back of a HazMat (*short for hazardous materials*) truck that was carrying away the last cleanup issue from this year’s Fair, a 50 gallon drum filled with waste cooking oil that was left behind by a food booth.”

Assistant Manager: Charlie said, “The new phone system comes complete with kinks and 450 programmable features (*people laughed, and I thought 450 was a joke too, but it turns out he wasn’t kidding!*) and in the next couple of weeks we should have the worst of it done.” He asked folks to visit the new website at www.ocfsite.org and “sign up for the e-newsletter.” He said the online calendar is “up and functioning well. If you want to post an event of concern to Fair Family contact me at am@oregoncountryfair.org.” In two days he leaves “to go back home to visit my Mom and my dog.”

Office Assistant: Robin said it was wonderful to go home to New York for a week and “other than that, it’s been phones and filing.”

Treasurers: Hilary said they have been working on crew budgets and that requests for capital projects are due by the end of January. The annual Budget meeting with the Board of Directors is on Jan.22, 2007 and they will honor the Board’s request to see the budget before the actual meeting by getting it to them a week in advance.

President: Jack wished everyone happy holidays and said, “This is the time of year when we come to the notion of peace on earth. It’s important to try to actualize that in ourselves and amongst ourselves. The ‘earth’ part of ‘peace on earth’ is a significant part of what we do. Thank you to all the Committees, Staff, Board, and members for all you do.”

Committee Reports Elders Committee

Chris Browne read a report from their Nov. 16 meeting. The number of approved Elders now stands at 219. They sent a welcoming letter to all newly accepted Elders, completed the first draft of a phone tree, and submitted their budget request to the Budget Committee. They continue to plan for an Elders Committee Retreat at Alice’s for a weekend sometime between February and April. This month’s meeting will be on Dec. 13 at 7pm at the town office, but the usual date will be on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Archaeology Committee

Virgil said they had a post-Fair walkabout and that they will present a written report to the Board in January that will include a proposal for ground penetrating radar.

Old Business

Consider Donation to Skipping Stones Magazine

Lara moved and Greg seconded that the Board donate \$500 to Skipping Stones Magazine.

Background: Arun Narayan Toke, editor of the magazine, brought copies for all the Board members. He said they have expanded the magazine to include more art and photos and they continue to offer subscriptions to schools with the money donated by the OCF. He said they are a local organization but they “have a global and ecological focus that promotes a spirit of cooperation among children everywhere.”

Peach Gallery: Thumbs up.

Board: Palmer asked how many copies of each issue are printed. (2200) Lara said the magazine is “near and dear to my heart” and she read a poem called “Dreams: Flowers of the Heart” by Natalie Youngquist (14 years old) from the May-August 2006 issue. Just the first stanza reads as follows: “Dreams are like a little seed, planted in your heart, there it stays and then it grows, until it will not part.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Consider Donation to the Veneta Parks Board

Diane moved and Deane seconded that the Board donate \$250 to the Veneta Parks Board for their annual Easter Egg Hunt held the Sunday before Easter.

Background: Cathy Coulson-Wright (OCF Crafter and member of the Veneta Parks Board) said this is the largest event they sponsor each year and that “hundreds of children attend.” While they would love a donation from the Fair to help with the cost of candy, stuffed animals, and prizes, their letter to the Board also asks for participation from individual Fair family members to help “with the preparation of candy-filled eggs that begins a few weeks before the event” and to help on the day of the event itself by “hiding eggs, arranging the stuffed animals, and helping with clean-up.”

Peach Gallery: norma suggested that if the motion passes that the Board stipulate the donated money not be spent on candy because the Fair “shouldn’t contribute to childhood obesity.” She also felt the Fair shouldn’t support an event connected to a religious holiday. Grumpy said the Board donation budget is \$800 over budget and thinks the expenditure would be “somewhat frivolous.” He objects to the Fair supporting it financially because “it’s a religious thing.” Hilary said she “could get behind celebrating springtime, but not Easter.” Joseph Newton (Recycling Crew) said, “If we go over the limit, so be it.” He reminded the Board that he proposed a motion at the September meeting to add more money to the donation line item but that the motion was defeated. Jen-lin Hodgden said, “Hilary spoke my mind.” Cathy Coulson-Wright said the event is “just called an Easter Egg Hunt but it really has no religious significance.”

Board: Greg likes the idea of supporting the sense of community in Veneta but said, “It’s tough to bring in groups without a Christian tradition” and feels this event is “exclusive to one faith.” Anna said this event “is a good example of how we can be more helpful as a communication network” to our members “than as an entity. I hear a call for people to contribute” as volunteers for the event, but not as an organization. Katie said she can’t support the motion because “it doesn’t conform to our purposes as an organization as I understand them, but it sounds like a fun event and I’d personally like to participate.” Carl supports partnerships with the Veneta Parks Board but doesn’t “think this is in the right vein to spend our money on, with the religious connotations of Easter.” Deane said, “There’s such a thing as being too politically correct. Maybe I’ll be the only one supporting it but my grandkids will know that I’m not against the Easter bunny.” Lawrence talked about the historical aspects of the religious calendar and how neither Easter nor Christmas is “owned” by the Christian faith but also said the motion “is not entirely consistent with the purposes of our organization.” Palmer got a laugh when he said, “This is one of the most fascinating discussions I’ve ever heard on the Board!” Diane said it occurred to her that the Fair may not want to support the purchase of candy but she hadn’t even considered the aspect of Easter. She said they do a big Easter Egg Hunt in her community in Marcola that includes “Christians, pagans, all types of people, most of whom

don't go to church!" Jack said, "The reality of it is, the religious exclusivity of it is offensive to some people."

The motion failed: 3 in favor and 7 opposed (Greg, Anna, Katie, Carl, Jack, Bear, and Lara.)

Consider Donation to Eugene Japanese American Art Memorial

Katie moved and Bear seconded that the Board donate \$540 for the purchase of a stone paver at the Eugene Japanese American Art Memorial.

Background: Barbara stopped taking minutes to explain that this wasn't a normal donation request because it didn't come from the group itself. She saw a poster about the memorial at Smith Family Bookstore and felt it would be a fabulous opportunity for the Fair to "support art and diversity, educate about injustice, and get publicity all at the same time." The memorial will be at the Hult Center, which is the actual location where Japanese Americans were gathered together to board buses to take them to relocation camps. The paver will have the name of the Oregon Country Fair as well as the phrase Katie suggested, "nourishing the human spirit."

Peach Gallery: Joseph Newton said, "It's art, it's Oregon history, and we can afford it." Grumpy laughed. Steve W. said he knew someone years ago "who spent time at the internment camp at Tule Lake. The more we can do to remember our mistakes, the better." Arun Narayan Toke expressed support for the motion and said that two former members of the Skipping Stones Board were Japanese Americans who visited the Tule Lake internment camp to learn more about that experience. Leslie strongly "supports this both for personal reasons and for others." Grumpy said in general he thinks it's probably a good project but doesn't like the fact that one of the three plaques at the memorial would honor the Japanese American troops who fought in the war, saying "the pro-war piece of this bothers me."

Board: Palmer likes the fact that it's "a proactive donation rather than people coming to us for money." Bear said, "It's always good to have our name carved in stone, and honoring people who fought against fascism is a little different" than supporting war in general. Greg said he "only wished we were spending \$1,000 for a larger stone paver" and said it's "a remarkable opportunity. For us to be visible in this sends a strong message. This is part of Eugene's history but it's not taught in our schools." Jack said, "That's what 'power' is, the fact that we get wrapped up in the significance of what one act is over another. It's very easy for me to vote for this. I can imagine the pressure a Japanese American person felt to fit in. I don't look at this as honoring war. They felt pressure to do what America was doing." Greg said, "The 442nd division was one of the most decorated regiments. They received more purple hearts and, again because of racism, they were given the most dangerous assignments. It's a remarkable and important story." Jack said the donation line item is over limit but the Board budget as a whole is under limit. Katie suggested moving money from the research and education line item that "still has plenty of money" and reallocating it to the donation line item.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Consider Renewing WOW Hall Membership

Lawrence moved and Carl seconded to renew the OCF's membership in the WOW Hall at the \$700 level.

Background: Bob Fennessy, the CCPA Membership Coordinator, thanked the Fair for past support and said the Fair is recognized as a Major Supporter in the display case at the Hall's entrance and on the back page of the monthly newsletter. The letter to the Board also thanked the

Fair for the donation that helped them acquire the back parking lot that they “now own free and clear.”

Peach Gallery: Thumbs up.

Board: Lawrence said the WOW Hall along with other organizations “of our counter-cultural community” such as Grower’s Market, Saturday Market, and White Bird are all “part of our essential community.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

**Consider Co-Sponsorship of Project Homeless Connect for Lane County
Greg moved and Lara seconded that Board donate \$500 from the ‘other events’ line item of the Board budget to Project Homeless Connect for Lane County and that the Fair co-sponsor the event.**

Background: Richie Weinman (City of Eugene, also a booth rep and Elder) said there are about 9,000 homeless individuals who received services from Lane County last year. Twelve percent of Lane County veterans, that’s 4500 vets, are homeless. Over 2100 homeless kids are enrolled in Lane County schools. He said many homeless families are hard-working people who simply don’t make enough money to afford a place to live. This event will be held on Thursday February 8, 2007 and will bring together a wide array of services. He said, “Many of these folks are eligible for services but they are so far off the grid” that it’s hard to serve them. This is an “opportunity to show the homeless that people care about them.” He said Portland held such an event and expected about 200 people to show up but got 900 people. The Lane County event is sponsored by Eugene, Springfield, the United Way, dozens of other organizations, and “even the Fairgrounds is donating space for the event.” Richie said a financial donation would be great but they also want volunteers to help with the event. The letter to the Board stated, “Our homeless guests are to be provided with medical, dental, and vision care, access to social services and benefit programs, and probably other services such as veterinary care for their pets and repair of their bicycles.” The homeless guests, the staff of service providers, and the community volunteers “will all share meals on site in the same place. It is a powerful way to build community and understanding.” To volunteer at Project Homeless Connect, contact Elizabeth Runte at United Way, 741-6000 or erunte@unitedwaylane.org.

Peach Gallery: Leslie said she met with Richie to “brainstorm how the Fair might be involved, and the more we talked about it the more ways we thought of.” She also met with Laurie Trieger of Food for Lane County who is coordinating a large “umbrella of services” for the event called “hospitality” and narrowed down specific needs of the event. She said, “There are four specific areas for OCF involvement we identified: security (both equipment and personnel); outreach to youth generally around homeless issues and ensuring youth participation in this event and specifically with childcare as the Fair’s childcare services are respected in the community; our waste-free practices are a way to promote our values at this event; and our volunteer spirit and energy are needed in many areas.” Joseph Newton said the event fits all the areas mentioned in the Fair’s mission statement, “nourishes the spirit, an artful and authentic way of exploring living on Earth, and transforming society in joyous ways.” Kay Kintzley said ‘basic needs’ are always high on the Fair membership’s priorities. Jen-lin Hodgden said many people are “a paycheck away from being homeless” and “this could be us.”

Board: Lawrence talked about the Fair’s “full-bellied joyousness” and contrasted that with the image of “a school kid with no home and no food.” Palmer likes the idea of service providers connecting “face to face” with the individuals they serve. Greg said, “It’s a great

chance to be subversive and to walk our talk.” Bear said as a public defender he works with homeless people and thinks it’s “a great opportunity for the Fair.” He asked if the event would include voter registration information. *(yes)*

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Appoint Board Committee Members and Liaisons

Bear moved and Greg seconded that the Board appoint the following Board members as liaisons to the following Committees as listed below.

Background: The Board members designated which committees they would like to serve on and Bear said, “It’s important for us to get more involved in the work of committees.” The committee liaisons are as follows: Archaeology (Diane, Deane, Carl); Budget (Greg, Deane); Bylaws (Palmer, Paxton, Lawrence, Katie); Crafts (Diane, Lara); Elders (Diane, Deane, Katie); Endowment (Greg); Financial Planning (Paxton, Bear); Internet (Paxton, Deane); Jill Heiman Vision Fund (Palmer); LUMP (Anna, Carl); Path Planning (Lara, Deane); Peach Power Task Force (Paxton, Lawrence, Anna); Personnel (Palmer, Anna); Vision Quest (Paxton, Bear, Greg, Carl); Youth Program Development/Culture Jam (Anna, Carl).

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Consider Open Letter from Board to Membership

Anna moved and Greg seconded that the Board draft an open letter to the membership.

Background: Anna read a letter that she wrote as a sample of what they might want to say. It included such topics as recycling, no digging, no sneaking people in, and the ‘pack it in, pack it out’ philosophy.

Peach Gallery: norma said if this motion passes the Board should also pass a budget for it to cover the cost of stamps and paper. Jon Pincus (Elder) said the letter should include information about the motion approved at the October meeting concerning preservation of green space. Jen-lin Hodgden wondered if the letter would be sent to all Fair family members or only voting members and suggested it be sent to all. Leslie hopes the Board will invite input from the Staff and management team on what issues to include. Hilary suggested the Board assign someone or a small group to make the letter “short, simple, and to the point.” Joseph suggested giving the assignment to a subcommittee because having the entire Board “do a word by word draft would be unwieldy.” Steve W. agreed with Jen-lin and also said the letter should stress “encouraging people to participate in the decision making process, to vote, and to get the FFN to stay informed.”

Board: Palmer said, “When a letter starts growing arms and legs it’s hard to stick it in an envelope.” Bear said it should be “a tight, focused letter but all the points raised so far sound important. The Board should definitely approve the final language though.” Greg said, “Let’s experiment and give it a try. We talk about wanting better communication.” Jack said, “Everything that’s been addressed is already in the Guidelines. Let’s table this and take time to reflect, then vote later on whether to send a letter.” **Jack moved and Lara seconded to table the motion.**

The motion to table passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Set Date and Location for January 2007 Board Meetings

Background: There was no need to vote on this; it was simply a ‘housekeeping’ item. The first Monday in January is New Year’s Day so the Board meeting will be held the following Monday on January 8, 2007 at 7pm at the Central Presbyterian Church. They set the date for the annual Budget/Board meeting for Monday, January 22 also at 7pm and at the Central Presbyterian Church.

Employee Bonuses

Jack moved and Lara seconded that the Board give the employees each a bonus of \$500 net of withholding, prorated for the part-time staff.

Board: As an alternate Palmer was not voting on this motion but he said, “If I could vote for this I would, but I also feel a need to say that I think when step tables were created part of the reason for their creation was to eliminate employee bonuses.” Deane said it’s “money well-spent.” Lara said, “Our employees are fantastic.” Katie said it’s “well-deserved.” Jack said, “Thank you guys” and responded to Palmer’s comment by saying, “This is one of the new issues the Personnel Committee will be working on, but that idea wasn’t actually officially adopted.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 8, 2007 at 7pm at the Central Presbyterian Church at 15th and Ferry in Eugene. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; Consider Admissions Gift Certificate (Deane); as well as the following new business: Consider Donation to Elmira High School Grad Night; Appoint Spoken Word Co-Coordinator; Develop Policy on Conflict of Interest (Jack); KRVM Blue Moon Stage Proposal; Wayne Morse Project (Greg); Schedule Work Sessions; Guidelines Changes; Bioneers Youth Scholarships and Educational Event Development (Anna); Consider Expanding Membership Eligibility to Include Participants in OCF-Affiliated Events and Committees (Katie).

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Guillaume Apollinaire for the following quote: “*Come to the edge. We can’t. We are afraid. Come to the edge. We can’t. We will fall. Come to the edge. And they came. And he pushed them. And they flew.*”