



OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday January 8, 2007, 7pm, Central Presbyterian Church

Present: Diane Albino, Katie Cousins, Lara Howe, Paxton Hoag, Jack Makarchek, Deane Morrow (alternate), Palmer Parker (alternate), Anna Scott, Carl Taylor, Lawrence Taylor.

Not: Greg Rikhoff, Bear Wilner-Nugent. (*Palmer and Deane voted in their absence.*)

Announcements

Barbara said anyone wanting to contribute money (or goods/services for a raffle and prizes) to the Elmira High School Grad Night Committee should contact committee member Lynne Pengra at 935-2353 or write EHS Grad Night, P.O. Box 935, Veneta OR 97487.

Lara said Anne Morris "who for the past two years has been our cutlery queen" has to resign due to health issues. She and her partner Jim McAllister have "been an integral part of this project. They have worked so hard and I am so grateful for the time they have been able to spend on this project."

Jack said Happy Birthday to Elvis (and Leslie added the same this week to Hilary and to Anna's daughter Josie).

Diane said applications close late this month "for a great job as executive director of the McKenzie Watershed Council."

Deane thanked management and everyone else who has been working on a plan to get the Pony Rides back and hopes that Dena will decide to return with the ponies.

Leslie reminded everyone that she teaches at UO winter term, so she will not be in the office on Wednesdays.

Approval of Minutes

The motion titled "Consider Open Letter from Board to Membership" was mistakenly omitted from the list of tabled items in last month's minutes. Lara moved and Katie seconded to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2006 Board meeting as amended. The motion passed: 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Paxton).

Member Input

Sara Rich (BUM) spoke in favor of the proposed guideline change stipulating that amplified music not be allowed at the Fair after midnight with the exception of the Midnight Show. She said she needs "support and back-up from the Board" on this matter and that she doesn't like "being the heavy" when she has to deal with people who are playing loud music and bothering their neighbors. She said we "need to build community, we are not isolated." She gets many complaints about loud noise from people with young children, people who have to be up for a 6am shift, or just folks who want to get some sleep. She said some of the Fair's neighbors have called to say they have to take a day off from work because they couldn't sleep all night. She has been screamed at by people who don't want to turn their music down and she wants "clear support and direction from the Board."

Deane said there is a 5acre parcel of land for sale next to the Fair and "maybe a Fair member would like to buy it so we'll have a neighbor we're guaranteed to get along with."

(After the meeting Steve W. asked me to add this info to the minutes. He said, "In the interests of developing Fair-friendly neighbors, here's the info Deane mentioned": 24254 Suttle Road, 5 acres, \$209,000, www.hammerquist.com; 24662 Suttle road, one-fifth of an acre, \$193,000, www.rmlsweb.com; and 24300 Suttle Road, 5 acres, \$495,000, for sale by owner.)

Staff and Officer Reports

General Manager: Leslie said because the Fair is a 501(c)3 the end of the year always brings some "lovely surprises" of unsolicited donations. The O'Callaghan Family Foundation of Salem donated \$1500 to the Fair with the stipulation that it be used for "fun". She talked with Michael O'Callaghan to get a better idea of what they might like to fund and explained various projects like Culture Jam, the tenth anniversary of Chela Mela, Vision Quest, Peach Power, art projects, spoken word and many others when Michael said to put \$1,000 of the money toward Hip Hop Hope because "our Mom was a singer and a dancer and she would really like that." Michael said to Leslie, "The Country Fair is not just a 3-day event, it is a loving community and it's life-changing for so many people, and I would like to see that lifestyle present on that land 24/7 all year." He wanted the remaining \$500 to express that sentiment. Leslie encouraged people to "think about ways to express that, all ideas are welcome." She also said there was a \$750 donation from Brian Bontempo's company Mountain Measurement dedicated to the Vision Quest. Brian's letter stated, "The Oregon Country Fair, right now, is an incredibly inspiring experience, and we see great potential for the OCF to be even more inspiring in the future." *(The entire letter that accompanied this donation is reprinted elsewhere in the FFN.)* Leslie said the Fair's revenue generation is "like a one-legged stool, and we need to let more people know we're open to donations and educate more people about how to take advantage of opportunities such as matching funds through the Oregon Cultural Trust. She and Steve W. will meet soon with the permaculture conference folks. She was part of a team that drafted a letter to Dena with various proposals for how to bring back the pony rides and she hopes that Dena will accept one of the proposals and "remain part of the Family." She has been dealing with the State Fair about Randy Poole's stolen art and said there has been a change of management at the State Fair that has treated the Fair "very badly," not just about this issue with Randy but in other aspects as well. She said she was "sad to say" her recommendation is that the Fair no longer participate in the State Fair. Her letter to the Board stated, "It's really a shame because there were a lot of people who told us the whole State Fair should be more like LiveArt! – fun, participatory, unique, creative,

energized, beautiful, and green. I think we made a significant impression on thousands of people who may never otherwise have experienced a taste of the magic of the Oregon Country Fair."

Administrative Assistant: norma said craft applications are now online. She told people they would be available "in January" and on January 2 she began getting phone calls from people wondering when they would be ready. She told them, "It's not January enough yet." She moved to Leslie's old office (*Leslie moved upstairs*) and is getting used to the new phone system and still setting up voice mailboxes for crews. She is doing the yearly comparison of options for health insurance and said "you'll hear more about that at the budget meeting." The FFN will be available in a pdf format online so if folks want to view it that way they can have their names removed from the mailing list thereby "saving paper and postage." She encouraged coordinators to attend the next Coordinators Potluck on January 20 and wished a "happy new year to everybody."

Site Manager: Steve W. said, "AndyMan is thousands of miles away on sabbatical in South America, so Charlie and I arranged our schedules over the holidays so that he could go to Ohio to visit his family and I could go to southern Oregon to visit my family." He thanked Charlie, Jeff, Big Mike, and Tommy for all their help in taking care of the site. He said the US Geological Survey has "a web-accessible river gage in the Long Tom River just upstream from the Fair site." For information on site conditions and accessibility, check the National Weather Service hourly observations for Eugene at www.crh.noaa.gov/data/obhistory/KEUG.html. He said when rainfall totals from a winter storm are in the 1"-2" in 24 hours range, the site will begin to flood. Check the river gage at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv?14166500>. A gage height of 10 feet is "about bank-full on the fair site, and heights over 12 feet mean most of the Fair site is flooded and canoeable. After a storm, once the gage height falls below 8' the floodwaters are draining off and most of the site is accessible with kneeboots." He said there have been the usual winter problems with broken tree limbs and flooding and that "most places are doing okay but we lost a big tree and chunk of bank in Upper River Loop between Ark Park and the McKenzie Map booth." Fair staff will work with the affected booths and Path Planning to create a solution but "there is definitely a change coming there." The VegManEcs held "a work party onsite yesterday and there is another one planned for Sunday, February 4 when we'll go into The Hub and Marshall's Landing to remove some invasive non-native plants and diseased hybrid pines." He said Elders and 4A are welcome to join the work party.

Assistant Manager: Charlie has been working on adding information to the website including a yearly timeline for when various events and deadlines occur. He is looking for "a cool computer table so let me know if you hear of one."

Office Assistant: Robin has been involved in "moving the office around" and said people are starting to call for applications.

Treasurers: Hilary said, "Grumpy is in Hawaii working on spreadsheets for the budget meeting two weeks from tonight." When people laughed and said 'sure' she said "no really, he contacted me for updates!" She said the draft of the proposed budget included in tonight's Board packet should be "taken as just that, a draft, because there will be some changes in the next couple weeks." She also said there have been \$10,000 worth of bounced checks, mostly from vendors, written to the Fair over the past 3 years and they will want to discuss that at the budget meeting too. She thanked everyone "who manages their budget well, and pays attention to making this organization successful."

President: Jack said, "Since I'm facilitating the meeting in Bear's absence tonight, I just want to say Happy New Year to everyone and let's move on with the meeting. Thanks everybody."

Committee Reports Elders Committee

Chris Browne read a short report from their December 13 meeting where they reviewed and approved two new applications, set the date for the Elders Retreat for April 14-15, and "spent the rest of the evening enjoying a dessert potluck that was enjoyed by 12 very lucky Elders."

Peach Power Ad Hoc Committee

Anna said since the conditional use permit was approved she has "moved forward with retaining an engineering firm," then added, "that just means I called Tim but it sounds so much better the other way." She said, "Tim has the conceptual drawings and preliminary comments from the Lane County Building Department so before we submit we will get all our ducks in a row to make the process smoother. We will work with Charlie to schedule a phone conference with the Committee." She added, "a huge hug to Hilary for setting up the draft of the funding process for the Peach Power Fund."

Old Business Appoint Spoken Word Co-Coordinator

Lara moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board appoint Laura Stuart as Co-Coordinator of Spoken Word

Peach Gallery and Board: Thumbs up all around and Lara said, "Laura is so awesome."
The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Consider Expanding Membership Eligibility to Include Participants in OCF-Affiliated Events and Committees

Katie moved and Lara seconded that the Board direct the By-Laws Committee to consider expanding membership eligibility to include participants in OCF-affiliated events and committees.

Peach Gallery: Jeya Aerenson (Construction Crew and Main Camp Inventory Crew) said Culture Jam people are "so involved but not eligible for membership. A lot participants in the OCF entry in the Eugene Celebration parade this year were Culture Jam folks." Joseph Newton (Recycling Crew) said the By-Laws Committee would have to "come up with the details but in concept this is a great idea because we do a lot and we have to expand beyond the three days." Leslie said several years ago the Board worked with By-Laws to expand membership eligibility "for instance to folks who worked all year on the FFN. They didn't work during the event but their effort was still connected to the event." She said this next part of expanding the definition of membership would serve "to unhook the definition of membership from the connection to a camping pass. Some people work hard on Culture Jam and should be eligible for membership but not necessarily for a camping pass." Barbara said she has "mixed feelings about this motion." She would like more people to vote but said it "seems funny that someone could vote for the Board of Directors and never even attend the event." Jeya said some people work all year on Committees and come to the Fair as an SO but aren't eligible for membership. Jon Pincus (Elder) said perhaps it would be good to define a certain number of hours worked on a Committee to be eligible for membership. Leslie said she

hopes this motion “anticipates the outcome of the VQ process with regard to our diversity and participation outreach efforts.” She gave the example of a woman who currently chairs the Endowment Committee and helps organize the Galleria Philanthropia but who no longer wants to spend the night so receives day passes. Leslie said, “Her membership eligibility is in question simply because she doesn’t have a camping pass.”

Board: Katie said this motion would help to “move the Fair forward in defining itself as more of a year round event than how it is currently defined in the By-Laws.” Paxton is opposed to this motion because it states in the By-Laws that the “purpose of the corporation is to sponsor the Oregon Country Fair which shall be an annual event intended to educate and inform the public... etc.” He said the Fair is our primary fundraising event and he “finds it hard to believe that someone could be a member of the organization and not attend or be involved directly with the event.” He said he wouldn’t mind a non-voting membership for other people and he doesn’t think camping at the event should be essential for membership. He said it is his “job as a Board member to protect the event” and he sees this as “potentially dangerous.” Lawrence shares Paxton’s concerns about “decoupling the concept of membership from participation in the event” but said he is not sure he would support a second tier of membership. He said part of this problem could be fixed by changing some current wording in the By-Laws such as changing “participation in one of the past two Fairs” to “participation during one of the past two years” and redefining what it means to be a ‘volunteer’. Katie said, “We can be creative in working this out but the Fair is heading in the direction of its purpose being well beyond putting on the 3-day event.” Anna said there should be only one class of membership and that “change comes from within.” She said, “Embrace the change that’s coming. I am hearing the clarion call of youth and I am not seeing that reflected in our voting membership. We need to make a gateway because we are not able to do it with our crew structure.” Palmer said this is “one of the most major changes in the By-Laws” that he has heard in a number of years and a change this significant “should receive input from membership.” He said he feels “huge trepidation” with this change and is “concerned with creepage on this.” He also said the phrase ‘being prepared for it’ “concerns the hell out of me because I’m not sure I’m ready to be prepared for something when I’m not sure what it is.” Lara said she has “never seen Culture Jam or Committees as being separate from the Fair” and pointed out that the motion simply asks the By-Laws Committee to “consider this idea. We can ask the Committee to consider this and look into all these great questions that are coming up tonight. I will vote for this motion and see what the By-Laws Committee brings us.” Diane said the Fair is our “essential event” and perhaps as we grow we should consider not a second tier of membership but a category of “Friends of the OCF”. She agreed with Palmer that the motion constitutes “a huge change.” Lawrence said membership does not have an age attached to eligibility, that “anyone who otherwise qualifies can be a member at any age.” Jack said, “We’re grappling in the VQ process with some limiting aspects of our 3-day event, diversity being a huge part of this. We’ve got to address that in an active way. Room has to be made for diversity, that is the true legitimate thing we need to create room for in this organization, expanding our inclusiveness of color, ethnicity, religious background, all those things that offend us the most when we see those restrictions elsewhere. We can’t say we want to be diverse and continue to have such a closed restriction on our membership. This is a core value issue.” Deane said he hopes that SOs will be considered in this process so that

working SOs can become members because “it seems unfair that they are not eligible for membership now.”

Back to Peach Gallery: (*Jack yielded time for further comments from the Peach Gallery.*) Hilary said, “When OCF participated in the PRIDE day event, people were saying ‘we really like the Fair, how can we be a part of it?’ and we don’t have an answer to give them.” She said, “I’m not sure this proposed change will address that issue but it’s true we have people out there wanting to be included and we don’t have a way to bring them in.” Jon Pincus said he thinks the issue Jack brought up “is very important but I don’t see it as necessarily the same thing as the structural issue. The way to approach the diversity issue lies in opening up our programming to include more things that diverse populations would want to plug into and providing more opportunity for doing so.” He liked Lawrence’s idea of how to address the membership issue through clarifying the definition of ‘volunteer’ in the existing By-Laws wording.

Back to Board: Palmer said, “As a member of the By-Laws Committee, it sounds like the motion is just asking By-Laws to ‘consider’ the idea and that sounds like we could talk about it and eat chocolate and go home.” Jack responded that Committees are now required to write two written reports to the Board each year and that he “hopes the Committee will come up with ideas but you might write that you considered it and don’t approve of it.”

The motion passed: 7 in favor and 3 opposed (Lawrence, Paxton, Diane).

Schedule Work Session

Lara said she was asked by Virgil to schedule a Board work session with Archaeology. This did not require a vote. The Board agreed to have the work session and Lara will consult with Archaeology to find an available date. The date and place will be announced later.

Guidelines Changes

Background: The Board is scheduled to vote on these two changes at the February 5 Board meeting. Other Guidelines changes were submitted to norma but were simply editing changes that don’t require a Board vote. Tonight the changes were just read into the minutes so membership would be aware of the proposed changes before the vote.

- 1) Any teen or youth (not on Teen Crew) who comes to the sticker booth for their wristband needs photo ID. If they do not have photo ID their legal parent or guardian with the same last name or the crew person who purchased that teen/youth pass may vouch for that teen/youth’s identification.
- 2) All sound amplification must end at midnight, with the exception of the Main Stage Midnight Show.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. The Board/Budget meeting will be held on Monday, January 22 at 7pm at the Central Presbyterian Church and will deal solely with budget issues. The next regular Board meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2007 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; Guidelines Changes; Consider Open Letter from Board to Membership (Anna); KRVM Blue Moon Stage Proposal (Jack); Consider Admissions Gift Certificate (Deane); Develop Policy on Conflict of Interest (Jack); Wayne Morse Project (Greg); Bioneers Youth Scholarships (Anna); Educational Event Development (Anna); as well as the following new business: Appoint Pre-Fair Kitchen Co-Coordinator, Outer Stages Coordinator, and Ambiance Co-Coordinator;

Renew Membership in Lane Arts Council; Peach Power Fund. Consider Donation to Elmira High School Grad Committee was dropped from the agenda for lack of a sponsor.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Neale Donald Walsch ("Conversations with God") for the following quote: "It is the truth that is eloquent. Truth has an elegance that startles the heart to its own reawakening."