

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday February 5, 2007, 7pm, EWEB Community Room

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

Not: Lara Howe (*Palmer voted in her absence.*)

Announcements

Bear thanked Donna Blaser and Jamie O'Brien, retiring Co-Coordinator of Pre-Fair Kitchen Crew, for their service to the Fair.

Greg said the Asian Celebration will be held at the Lane County Fairgrounds on Feb. 17-18, and the dedication of the Eugene Japanese American Art Memorial will be at noon on Monday, Feb. 19 outside between the Hult Center and the Hilton Hotel, the same location where Japanese Americans were boarded onto buses to be taken to internment camps.

norma said everyone is invited to a Board/Vision Quest work session on Feb. 19 from 6:45pm to 9pm at the Washington Park Center, 2025 Washington Street.

Joseph Newton (Recycling Crew) said there will be a rally in support of domestic partnerships in Salem on March 7. For more information see the Basic Rights Oregon website at www.basicrights.org.

Leslie announced that culture jam was again successful in its grant application to the Lovell Foundation, receiving \$11,000 for Culture Jam in 2007. She gave a "huge thanks to the Lovell family and to Carolyn Sykora for all her help with the grant process."

Approval of Minutes

Palmer moved and Deane seconded to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2007 Board meeting. The motion passed: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions (Bear and Greg). Bear moved and Carl seconded to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2007 Board/Budget meeting. The motion passed: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions (Anna, Greg, Lawrence).

Member Input

Lawrence recommended a book called Dancing in the Streets: A History of Collective Joy by Barbara Ehrenreich for "a good historical perspective, going back 10,000 years to the present, on why the things we do when we get together to dance and celebrate are so important."

David Zupan (Peace and Justice Booth, Community Village) passed out a letter to the Board asking for a solution to the question of whether non-profits should be allowed to sell merchandise such as buttons, bumper stickers, and t-shirts as fund-raisers. Several years ago the Village Council outlawed sales in the Village. David suggested, "In the spirit of compromise, we could guarantee that all merchandise would be made in the US and be restricted to stickers and buttons if that would help." (*In the past, concerns were voiced about working conditions surrounding products made overseas.*) David asked for a solution to this problem before the 2007 event.

Paxton thanked the Fair for the opportunity he and Lawrence had to attend a fund-raising workshop in Portland. He said, "It will help with large projects like the peach power fund." Lawrence added, "One of the things we noticed is how different the Fair is from most non-profit corporations."

Staff and Officer Reports

General Manager: Leslie thanked the Fair staff for filling in while she took vacation time to participate in the Truffle Festival “which was really fun” and thanked other Fair volunteers who helped at the event, saying “Wherever Fair volunteers were involved, things went really well.” She said it was great to continually hear comments like, “Wow, those volunteers from the Fair are really great!” She said she was busy the rest of the month with operational meetings, Vision Quest work, working with the Fair’s bookkeeper to close out the year financially, and on budget details generally. She and Steve W. met with people from the permaculture group and they will have more information about that at the March meeting. She also has been working on finalizing plans for Hip Hop Hope to be held during spring break and said, “We’re hoping to have some kind of public event this year at the end of the week.” She said, “I got a call from Andyman who just finished a barge trip through Bolivia where he connected with some Brazil nut pickers who took him into the primordial forests which is the habitat for these nuts. He’s back in his home base in Peru now and just wanted to say he loves us and misses us, and how much he appreciates the Board and the Fair for making this sabbatical possible. It was so good to hear his voice.”

Administrative Assistant: norma thanked Robert DeSpain and Laura Stuart for hosting both the February and March Coordinators’ Potlucks. She said craft and entertainment applications are available online and through the office. She has been editing the Guidelines and getting the 2007 edition ready to go to the printer soon, and also setting up phone extensions and e-mail accounts for some of the busiest Coordinators. She acknowledged “everyone who participated in the highway pick-up who make a tremendous difference and deserve a lot of thanks.”

Site Manager: Steve W. mentioned the USGS river gage in the Long Tom near Noti “that I talked about at last month’s meeting” and showed a graph of gage measurements over the month of January, pointing out when the water height was 13 and a half feet (two feet over bank height) at the start of the month and the site was flooded. Then the jet stream shifted, the rains stopped and he said, “Now it’s just barely two feet high, but winter’s not over.” He said they have been cabling trees in place and then “watch and wait and cross our fingers.” He said there was “a great turnout and a fine crew” for the highway pickup day on Jan. 28, and also thanked everyone who showed up “at yesterday’s VegManEc work party where we removed diseased hybrid pines, scotch broom, and blackberries from the Hub property.’ He said there are always so many people to thank “and they know who they are” but this month he wanted to single out Jeff Johnson “who has been doing all the things that Andy usually does.”

Treasurers: Hilary said the Budget Committee is transitioning from working on operational budgets to capital projects budgets and they are scheduling meetings with Coordinators to discuss capital project requests.

President: Jack said, “It’s been nice these past couple of weeks, the sun, the moon, the stars, I even saw an amazing comet that streaked across the sky. I love comets; I wish it had picked me up. At times like that I’m reminded of how interconnected our spirits are, how important it is that we communicate our expectations clearly, and then live up to our expectations. A lot of times we lose sight of that, and it’s one of the more binding things we have with each other. As we age, and there are those of us who are passing and those yet to come, that type of connectedness has got to be shared, we have to keep that, we have to be mindful and respectful of that. For me, it’s an appreciation thing. I can’t tell everyone enough how much I

appreciate being accepted and how much I appreciate the hard work that is done by the Board, by our staff, and especially by our volunteers. When I'm caught up in a beautiful moment that the environment is giving me, that's where my thoughts go."

Committee Reports Endowment Committee

Claire Feighan who has been on the Endowment Committee for 10 years talked about a grant workshop they held last October at Camp Wilani "for former and future grant writers" and said about 30 people attended and "their number one reason for being there was to thank the Fair for past donations and to say how much the money has meant to their communities. There were representatives from the local schools, the City of Veneta, the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce, and Camp Wilani to name a few. They were also appreciative of the user-friendly application process that we have streamlined over the years." She announced that a total of \$11,000 in endowment funds will be given to five organizations: Veneta Elementary, Elmira Elementary, Culture Jam scholarships for youth in the Fern Ridge community, Applegate Art Guild, and Campfire USA Wilani Council. She said most of the money goes to fund arts education in the schools but also talked about one school that created a community garden and then donated the food they grew to individuals at a senior center.

Elders Committee

Chris Browne read a report from their Jan. 25 meeting where they reviewed and made adjustments to their phone tree and filled out a questionnaire they received from the Vision Quest task force. They are also developing an agenda for the Elders Retreat. The next Elders meeting will be on Feb. 22 at 7pm at the town office.

Peach Power Ad Hoc Committee

Anna said they met via conference phone at the Fair office on Jan. 29. The meeting was "pretty technical, getting down to the brass tacks of budgets for particular projects, talking about things like utility interconnection agreements, just to give you a flavor of where we're at. We are coming to a point where we would like to affirm our choice of solar contractors and we'll need direction from staff on how that is done such as finding out if our choice needs Board approval." She talked about tax liability and tax credits and said businesses or individuals interested in learning more about how they can support the Peach Power Fund and receive a tax credit should contact her (annascott@peak.org). They will have another teleconference meeting at the office at 5:30pm on Feb. 26. She thanked Mark Johnson for acting as the group's secretary.

Land Use Management Planning (LUMP) Committee

Steve W. said they met on Tuesday Jan. 16 and their next meeting will be on Feb. 13. They continued work on "developing a green zone protection plan and a site restoration and recovery plan as per the Board's direction." They have a first draft and will continue working on it at their next meeting.

Old Business

Appoint Two Pre-Fair Kitchen Co-Coordinators

Bear moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board appoint John Lassen and Kris Donald as Pre-Fair Kitchen Co-Coordinators.

Peach Gallery: John and Kris talked about their extensive experience with the Kitchen Crew. Besides preparing meals, John has also worked on both the paperwork and personnel problems related to the Crew, and has been involved with the kitchen (with some breaks) “going back for many years.” Kris has been on the Crew for 3 years and said she is “totally passionate about being in the kitchen and feeding everyone.” Leslie thanked retiring Co-Coordinators Jamie O’Brien and Donna Blaser and also had a big thank you for returning Co-Coordinator Joanna Colby who will work with John and Kris.

Board: Palmer joked and said he hopes there will be a line item expenditure for bacon. Bear said he has “heard nothing but good reports about these people.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Appoint Solar Stages Coordinator

Lawrence moved and Bear seconded that the Board approve breaking off the Solar Stages from Ambiance Crew and appoint Linda Dievendorf as the Coordinator of the Solar Stages Crew.

Background: This item appeared in last month’s minutes listed for tonight’s agenda under the heading “Appoint Outer Stages Coordinator” because that was the temporary name given to the new Crew. The name the folks involved decided on is Solar Stages Crew. The ‘solar stages’ refer to Hoarse Chorale, Blue Moon, and Shady Grove. Brian (Entertainment Crew, last name withheld by request) said Linda “did a great job managing Blue Moon and we’re lucky to have someone with her production experience. Besides the Fair, she has also worked for the Eugene Celebration and the Siskiyou Hoedown.” Linda was unable to attend tonight’s meeting but Brian read a letter she sent to the Board detailing her experience and enthusiasm for the job.

Peach Gallery: Leslie talked about how the process of splitting the Ambiance Crew into smaller crews has been “about a three year process of separating to give these areas their due. It was a huge workload that had fallen to Ambiance Crew such as managing these three stages, all of ambiance performers and activities, as well as entertainment camp.” She said Linda has been a coordinator-in-training and “we are so lucky to have her.” Norma said, “I get to work with Entertainment Coordinators a lot and I worked with Linda last year. She did an incredible job. There were probably 200 tapes submitted and she listened to all of them I’m sure. She’s just tireless.” Bill Ganser of KRVM said “it was a great experience” to work with Linda at Blue Moon.

Board: Lawrence said he wants to continue to “improve the quality of experience for our entertainers because I believe they are the primary magnet that draw people to the Fair.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Appoint Ambiance Co-Coordinator

Greg moved and Diane seconded that the Board appoint Jay Hogan as Ambiance Co-Coordinator.

Peach Gallery: Leslie said there were a lot of different areas that didn’t have a crew such as Altered Space and others, and “our survey work shows our guests want more participatory events and areas. We want to grow Ambiance and not burden an already overburdened crew.” She also said she “really appreciates all the work Bear and Brian have put into this change.” Brian (Entertainment Crew) said it is “imperative to break the work down to more sustainable units. The job needs support to avoid burnout because each area is a huge amount of work. Just like smaller class sizes work better in schools, I think smaller crew sizes can work better at the

Fair too.” Hilary said, “Jay is a delight, very creative, helped the Fair build some of the giant puppets, volunteered with Culture Jam, and has a great sense of humor. He was part of the Risk of Change group when he lived in Seattle.”

Board: Palmer got a laugh when he asked, “Can we vote yes yet?”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Renew Membership in Lane Arts Council

Bear moved and Carl seconded that the Board renew the Fair’s annual membership in the Lane Arts Council.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed

Consider Guidelines Change Regarding Teen Wristbands

Katie moved and Carl seconded that the Board direct the following information be added to the Guidelines: “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.”

Peach Gallery: Charlie Zennache (BUM) said many blended families don’t share the same last name and this concern was echoed by three others in the Peach Gallery. Leslie suggested omitting the phrase “with the same last name.” Leslie said the change was requested by the Coordinators of Wristband Crew who say it is a “perennial problem. They need to know who these kids are and what adult they are attached to. It is an ongoing problem and they have asked for this clarification.” Hilary asked what happens if a teen present at the Fair without a legal guardian gets hurt and there is no one to authorize medical treatment. Jonathan Seraphim asked if teens under 16 generally have photo ID’s.

Board: **Paxton proposed a friendly amendment that was accepted by Katie and Carl to omit the phrase “with the same last name.”** Jack said whether it’s a teen or an adult, if there is a medical problem that the Fair can’t handle, then 911 is called. Greg said middle-schoolers and older teens generally have bus passes that include their photo. He said it will be a question of “training them to bring their ID. There will be headaches but it’s a step in the right direction.” Palmer is concerned that teens present without their parents “get into things they shouldn’t.” He doesn’t like the idea of teens being permitted to camp at the Fair without their parent or legal guardian present. Katie said, “That may require a separate Guidelines change. This one only deals with picking up wristbands, but I share the concern.” Lawrence said there should be a signed permission form from the parent or legal guardian if they are not present at the Fair.

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

Consider Guidelines Change Regarding Amplified Sound

Deane moved and Anna seconded that the Board direct the following information be added to the Guidelines: “All sound amplification must end at midnight, with the exception of the Main Stage Midnight Show.”

Peach Gallery: Charlie Zennache said the late night pre-Fair noise is having an impact on the Fair’s neighbors “who are expressing more and more concern.” He talked about how there used to be more acoustical music along the path at night but now that is being drowned out more and more by amplified music. Mambo (Security Crew) said it’s already in the Guidelines that Fair family has to follow outside rules and that we have to cooperate with each other. He said,

“We have a grievance process and a new rule isn’t needed. What’s needed is cooperation.” Jonathan Seraphim (Pre-Fair Kitchen Crew) said, “It’s a bad idea to put it in the Guidelines. We need to manage the sound, and this can easily be done with decibel meters.” He said the ‘disco cart’ travels around the 8 disturbing everybody when it should be “moved so that the sound is isolated. Don’t ban it, manage it.” Leslie was thankful that the motion has “generated rich discussion and good ideas such as Jonathan’s. I don’t think any of us think that if this passes much would change with how this works on the ground from just passing a motion. But the BUMs have asked for back-up and support from the Board. It’s hard being the one who has to ask to have music turned down.” She also said the Fair is getting more complaints from neighbors, that “even the animals are disturbed,” and that the loud music “discourages smaller quieter gatherings.” Steve W. mentioned Sara Rich’s plea at last month’s Board meeting (she spoke to this motion last month because she knew she could not attend tonight’s meeting) and said she needs support from the Board and a “level of understanding from the Fair family. People are not reasonable at 2am.” He described one night when even though he was sleeping in his tent, one person after another called to him asking him to “do something” about the noise from a nearby party. He said he “finally put my boots on and went over there, and there were fewer than 10 people dancing to music that was audible to hundreds of campers.” He said this “impacts our neighbors and our Family. Some of our members are not having a fun time dealing with this and I’m afraid some of them will stop coming to the Fair because of the change” with more loud music. He said, “This motion gives management something more to work with besides pleading.” Joseph Newton said people have a right to sleep and “we should respect our neighbors.” He thinks the motion should be approved but hopes “we can find creative accommodations.” Dorcas Cott (Pre-Fair Kitchen) said, “You’re all so smart. We can find some creative solutions to the problem but it’s too rigid as it’s written now.” Leslie said that as amplified sound has increased so has the problem of people “commandeering the Fair’s energy carts and extension cords. Last year we blew a transformer because so much energy was being used because we are so plugged in to the grid; talk about a dynamic tension in our values!” Jonathan Seraphim said there should be a group of people “who do sound checks before midnight and develop a relationship with the people who play amplified music so we won’t get complaints from neighbors.” Steve W. said an acoustic musician attended last summer’s evaluation meeting because he wanted to say that he “used to be able to sit with friends at the edge of the path and play music and that opportunity is being lost.”

Board: Diane said last year she used earplugs “starting on Tuesday.” She “misses the soft music” and said “you can’t get away from amplified sound now. But there must be a more creative way to deal with this.” She can’t support it in its current form but “wants to find another way.” Lawrence said he doesn’t support the motion but “supports management in making our ambiance unique. We don’t come to the Fair for manufactured music any more than we come for manufactured products or manufactured food.” He said the Guidelines stipulate adhering to federal and state law, and “they should probably stipulate county law too.” He said “we need to be creative” and this issue is “a generational thing. If it’s too loud, you’re too old.” He quoted Grandpa Simpson who said, “I used to be with it, but then they changed what ‘it’ was.” Deane said, “No amplified music doesn’t mean there’s no party going on. This seems perfectly reasonable. Management needs our help. This seems like a little bit of help we can give them.” Carl said, “Tying our hands with Guidelines changes doesn’t feel right” and suggested that there are really “two different situations: Pre/Post Fair and during the Fair.” He said, “We need an arrangement between the Fair and who is having the party about expectations of how loud the

music will be and what time it will end.” Katie compared this motion to two earlier motions that “also generated a lot of opposition: when we instituted the no drugs and alcohol rule and when we instituted the requirement for wristbands. People said ‘you’re ruining the Fair and no one will come’ but that didn’t happen.” She said, “This strikes me the same way. I have no trouble supporting this. It may need to be tweaked in the future, but having it in the Guidelines is a good start.” Greg said this motion “is a hard one for me. This is one of those times when our shared values collide. I wish there was more flexibility with this.” He said, “We’ve got to get younger people on the Board,” then got a laugh when he continued, “Maybe if we pass this, they’ll run for the Board.” Jack said, “We really know mostly who to talk to directly to solve this. This would be a real loss to pass this and put it in the Guidelines. I won’t support this. I know we can solve this. I’m willing to talk to people about this.” Paxton asked for clarification on which section of the guidelines would be affected and if the change was intended to be enforced year round (*yes*). He likes Jonathan’s suggestion and said he is “willing to get up at night and bring my own sound meter, and I recommend the Fair buy one too.” Palmer said this “is a sticky one for me as well. I support management but I want a better solution. The deal breaker for me is that the motion is a year-round ban.” Anna said she seconded the motion because of “concerns of acoustical entertainers. When you have power and no respect you get a whole bunch of people pissed off. This is a difficult but not impossible situation to resolve. I’ll support this and take the fallout.” Greg said, “If this motion fails, and it sounds like it will, I want to be part of the solution for this problem.” Bear said, “I’m used to backing up management but here I have to disagree.” He said people who act disrespectfully are “already in violation of the Guidelines” and he doesn’t like “enacting rules that won’t be fully enforced just to send a message.” He thanked the Board and the Peach Gallery for what was “a very respectful discussion even though there was disagreement.”

The motion failed: 3 in favor and 7 opposed (Diane, Paxton, Jack, Palmer, Carl, Lawrence, and Bear.)

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, March 5, 2007 (*Leslie’s birthday*) at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; Consider Open Letter from Board to Membership (Anna); KRVM Blue Moon Stage Proposal (Jack); Consider Admissions Gift Certificate (Deane); Wayne Morse Project (Greg); Peach Power Fund (Anna); as well as the following new business: Appoint NRT Co-Coordinator; Appoint New Budget Committee Member; Appoint New Personnel Committee Member; Consider Donation to Friendship with Cambodia (Lara); Consider Donation to Spiral Scouts; Consider Donation to The N.A.T.I.V.E.S. Program (Palmer); Consider Peter Bergel’s/Dr. Atomic’s Petition to the Board (Paxton). Anna asked to have her motion on Bioneers Youth Scholarships/Educational Event Development postponed until the April meeting. Jack asked to have his motion on Develop Policy on Conflict of Interest removed from the agenda until further notice.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks David Kuo (“Tempting Faith: An Inside Story of Political Seduction”) for the following quote: ““And finally, sir, this thought. I don’t know if you are aware of this, but your staff frequently refers to the faith-based initiative as ‘the f*#king faith-based initiative’. That doesn’t help.” He shook my hand and assured me that he would look into it and that the president was committed to the initiative. I was being spun. I was already an outsider.”