



OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday March 5, 2007, 7pm, EWEB Community room

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

Not: Diane Albino, Lawrence Taylor. *(Palmer and Deane voted in their absence.)*
(During Agenda Review it was moved and seconded to place three items on new business and move them to old business so they could be discussed tonight. Each motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed. Consider Donation to HIV Alliance was discussed tonight because a representative from the organization was at tonight's meeting and passing the motion tonight would allow time for the Fair's name to be included in the publicity flyers about the event. Revisiting the Guidelines Change About Teen Photo ID's was discussed tonight because of a printing deadline for the Guidelines. Special Events Negotiating Team was discussed tonight because, as Bear said, "so we can be ready for whatever might come our way this summer.")

Announcements

Greg said everyone should stop by the Eugene Japanese American Art Memorial "and be sure to look for the stone paver from the Oregon Country Fair." The memorial is outside, on the north side between the Hult and the Hilton, the same location where Japanese Americans were boarded onto buses to be taken to internment camps during WWII.

norma said the Spring Fling will be at WOW Hall on May 5 and also that Tom Noddy was on the David Letterman show on February 27. If you missed it you can search for "Tom Noddy on David Letterman" at www.youtube.com.

Steve W. announced a walkabout to be held onsite Saturday, March 17. Meet at 1pm at the Hub. Come see river erosion and express ideas and opinions for discussion at future path planning meetings.

Aleta Miller (Peach Pages) said the Eugene Permaculture Guild is having a Seed Swap at the UO Longhouse at 1630 Columbia St. on March 24 from 10am-2pm.

Paxton said Diane sends her greetings. She is in Belize delivering a truckload of clothes to the village of Hopkins. Bear joked, "Well then, I guess her absence is excused!"

Lara said the date for the Board workshop with Archaeology still has not been set and said they "are working on trying to find a date that works."

Palmer said Happy Birthday to Leslie and everybody sang and was invited to enjoy a piece of birthday cake if they got hungry during the meeting. Leslie said, "Thank you for the yummy triple chocolate cake!"

Approval of Minutes

. Greg moved and Katie seconded to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2007 Board meeting. Paxton noted a letter the Board received from Tim Mueller asking for a possible correction of the minutes because he claimed some of the information given at the last meeting by David Zupan (*about sales in Community Village*) was incorrect. Barbara felt amending the minutes was not the correct procedure because the minutes accurately reflected David's comments. If the information David gave was incorrect, she suggested Tim attend a meeting or write the FFN to express his point of view. **The motion to approve the minutes passed: 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Lara).**

Member Input

Lara said she "would like to address David Zupan's comments at the last Board meeting about sales for non-profits." She met with the Craft Committee who said they support sales by non-profits "as long as they go through the jury system." She said after she read the letter to the Board from Tim Mueller it felt to her like there was "no consensus in Community Village in particular; but other non-profit areas like Energy Park should also be included in the discussion of non-profit sales." Her suggestion is that David meet with these groups to find consensus and then she "will be willing to support a motion, but right now I don't feel comfortable supporting any motion because there is no consensus in these groups."

Palmer read a letter from Project Homeless Connect thanking the Fair for support. Part of the letter read, "PHC would like to express our deepest appreciation for your strong show of support for this important community event that assisted our neighbors who are homeless. By convening a one-day 'one-stop shop', we offered assistance with housing, health care, legal issues, benefits enrollment, treatment, food and other basic needs to more than 1,000 people."

Staff and Officer Reports

General Manager: Leslie hopes everyone will attend the walkabout on March 17. She apologized if she has "been hard to get in touch with lately." She had major computer problems and also took a bit of time off to deal with personal matters but said she is "back full-time and full-on this month and I should be easier to contact." She expressed enthusiasm for Hip Hop Hope which will be held later this month and said there are "wonderful youth and staff participating." In other matters, she has been working with the Vision Quest and Budget Committee on capital projects requests and negotiating the contract with LTD. She said there are 36 applicants for donations from the Jill Heiman Vision Fund this year, "more than ever before."

Administrative Assistant: norma said the new Guidelines will go to the printer this week and she will bring some copies to the next meeting. She said, "Besides Leslie's computer taking a vacation, the Fair's database computer also decided not to work, so welcome to computer hell." She said the office has been getting pretty busy with lots of visitors and lots of

phone calls, so “come and visit us because everybody else is. Applications are ready online or in the office for crafts, entertainment, and also for Teen Crew.” Teen Crew applications are due April 15; all others are due April 2.

Site Manager: Steve W. said, “I’ll start with some good news. My computer still works.” He continued, “Last Monday was the peak of another flood over the Fair site. It crested at 12&ahalf feet, that is about 2&ahalf feet over bank height. Most of the site stayed flooded during the week but by Sunday, March 4 the water level had dropped enough that we could get into the 8 for the usual VegManEc work party and walk-about. Dedicated VegManEcs were able to rake leaves, sometimes standing in ankle-deep water. Erosion takes subtle forms; having a deep freeze in the middle of the month on saturated soil means we had a frost heave so there was a nice loose layer of soil and gravel on all the roads, most of which moved downstream in the following flood.” He said, “The effects of erosion point up the need for us to get everybody involved who has something to say about path planning. Please come to the walkabout on March 17. There are necessary short-term fixes to be made so we can hold the event this year but we also need to begin discussions for planning for ’08, ’09, and ’10. We’re losing riverbank and becoming increasingly untenable in several places. The Upper River Loop is living on borrowed bank.” He also thanked the VegManEcs and Jeff Johnson for all their hard work.

Office Assistant: Robin said in the office “things are cooking and applications are ready to go.” She said Culture Jam staff applications are available online to download as a .pdf and the deadline to apply is April 2.

Treasurers: Hilary said she would wait to talk until the discussion of capital projects requests.

President: Jack said, “One group we tend not to thank are all the people who have significant others who are integral to them being able to participate in the Fair. I thank them.” He added, “It’s time to start talking up the event. Tell your friends, family, and neighbors. Tell everybody that we’ve got a good gig going here and they’d be surprised how much fun they’d have.”

Committee Reports

Elders Committee

Chris Browne read a report from their February 22 meeting where they reviewed and approved six new applications, bringing the total of approved Elders to 227. They discussed “scheduling and intent of the work sessions” for the upcoming Elders Retreat. The work sessions will “clarify, establish, and define goals and roles of the various subcommittees.” The schedule will be printed in the FFN and posted on the OCF website. They prepared pass request forms for approved Elders and mailed them on March 1. The forms must be returned by April 30. The next meeting will be held on March 22 at 7pm at the town office.

LUMP Committee

Robert Albano reported on the committee’s work on green zone designations, the first step being to identify different types of zones and then to clearly define the boundaries between them. There are emerald zones that would be untouchable; re-greening zones that are being restored; educational zones for such things as an interpretive trail; brown zones which include roads, trails, and buildings; and mixed-use zones. He said, “Once we have categories, we need to map them and get stake holders to agree on boundaries. Enforcement will be needed later, but we are still in the defining process now.” Anna added that LUMP is asking for input from Energy

Park and others. She invited people to come to their meetings that are held a week and a day after the Board meetings and said this process is “part of responding to what we need to do to care for our land long-term.”

Peach Power Ad Hoc Committee

Anna said, “You may have noticed I’ve tabled the Peach Power Fund agenda item a couple of times.” They are in the process of applying for a building permit to put photo voltaics up onsite and are preparing a cost analysis for a 1.4 kw project to submit to the Budget Committee.

Vision Quest Task Force

Bear said he would give some information and he invited others to jump in and add more. He explained that originally the task force thought it would be “a one year process to make proposals for where the Fair wants to be at our fiftieth anniversary; and now, two and a half years into the process, we are planning how to wrap up our committee’s activities and think we see the light at the end of the tunnel.” Up until now they have been focusing on “gathering information to make recommendations to the Board” through the process of writing the mission statement, surveys, and summit meetings. They worked out a way to prioritize projects and have been running ideas through their “decision-making matrix.” Their goal is to present proposals in October. Leslie thanked Dedee Wilner-Nugent for “her incredible leadership” in chairing the task force, and added that the task force is also planning for a VQ presence at the Fair and continuing work on diversity outreach. Joseph Newton encouraged anyone who wants to see a project get done to become a ‘project champion’. He said the Fair has only six employees and runs on volunteer energy. He said, “Become a project champion; develop a proposal and be ready to put it to work.”

Old Business

Revisit Guidelines Change About Teen Photo IDs

Lara moved and Deane seconded that the Board replace the wording approved last month with the following wording: “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 the crew person who purchased that teen/youth pass may vouch for that teen/youth’s identification.”

Background: Merrill Levine (Co-Coordinator of Wristbands Crew) said this information should be placed in the section on crew wristbands and explained, “historically it has been a challenge for us to determine youth identification without photo ID.” She was unable to attend last month’s meeting and therefore was not present to explain why the original language of “parent or guardian with the same last name” had been proposed. She felt it was “too much burden and responsibility for the Fair and Coordinators to determine legal guardianship.” She said this wording makes it easier for her Crew because the teen/youth will hopefully have a photo ID, but if not then identification can be verified by the adult who purchased that teen/youth’s pass.

Board: Lara said, “I can’t fathom your responsibility and I bow to your wishes.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Donation to HIV Alliance Riverwalk

Palmer moved and Lara seconded that the Board donate \$1,000 to the HIV Alliance Riverwalk.

Background: Sarah-Kate Sharkey spoke on behalf of the HIV Alliance. She started by saying she enjoys the Fair every year and that her Dad in Massachusetts flies in every year for the Fair. She thanked the Fair for past support and talked about the various programs they sponsor including prevention (target highest risk communities), advocacy (media, legislative and community outreach), care (direct service to nearly 200 clients last year), and education (reach more than 12,000 youth annually). She asked the crowd, “How many of you are worried about someone who has engaged in risky behavior? Someone can live with HIV for 10 years without knowing they have it.” She stressed the importance of testing and said, “75% of all new infections are spread by 25% of people who don’t know they’re positive.”

Peach Gallery: Thumbs up.

Board: Deane said, “Since Grumpy isn’t here, I feel I have to ask for him – is this a 501(c)3?” (yes) He also questioned why a \$1,000 donation this year when it was \$500 last year. Anna pointed out that the entire 2007 Board donation budget is \$12,000. Greg said it’s a “remarkable organization” but he’s “uncomfortable doubling our contribution and worried about setting precedent.” Paxton said it’s a worthwhile project but that it generates income from other sources and “our resources should target organizations less able to get other funding.” He suggested a friendly amendment changing the amount to \$500 but Palmer wanted to keep the motion at \$1,000. Bear said even though the Board donation budget is sometimes short there is a “surplus in the overall budget which tells me that we’re not working hard enough at giving our money away.” Jack said, “Doubling the amount is not the only way to go, but we’ve been giving \$500 to them for 8 years and the world has changed. \$500 is not enough.”

The motion failed: 6 in favor and 4 opposed ((Anna, Deane, Katie, Paxton)).

Donation to HIV Alliance Riverwalk (*the continuing saga*)

Palmer moved and Bear seconded that the Board donate \$750 to the HIV Alliance Riverwalk.

Board: Palmer said the Fair’s donation will be included in publicity for the event. Anna suggested that \$250 of the donation be directed toward their education program. Bear said it’s best to keep the funds unrestricted. Palmer said the Riverwalk helps them to raise even more money. Jack said, “We all know why there’s gaps in their finances and it has to do with big pharmaceuticals and it has to do with government agencies and it has to do with the segment of the population that this most affects. That said, I think a \$250 increase for this organization is long overdue.” Palmer said he was reminded of something his Mom always used to say to him, which was “Give me the opportunity to say yes.” He continued, “If you don’t ask for something, we don’t know you need it. Asking for \$1,000 is a way of letting people know you need it. And if we’re not able to say yes to \$1,000 I hope we’re able to say yes to this.”

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Katie).

Donation to The NATIVES Program

Palmer moved and Greg seconded that the Board donate \$1,000 to The NATIVES Program (Native Americans Towards Improved Values in Education and Society) for their summer camp.

Background: Brenda Brainard, coordinator of the NATIVES Indian Education Program, was joined by about a dozen members of the organization including some children who are

served by the program. Brenda said they serve about 2500 children in the local school districts. She said the Indian Education Act requires that federal money be provided for cultural education but that this year the federal government again refused to provide that money, stipulating that any federal money be used for academics only. She said 80% of the summer camp workers are volunteers and donated money is “for direct services to the kids.” She and some others in the organization “went to the Fair last year and had a wonderful time.” There are over 100 tribes represented in the program.

Peach Gallery: Leslie said, “The notion that culture can be de-funded makes me speechless. We want to create and experience cultural richness and diversity. Let’s support this.” Joseph Newton (Recycling Crew) said, “Our event is blessed because Native Americans lived there for centuries before us. We have a duty to help sustain their culture.” Kay Kintzley (formerly of booth L86 and currently looking for a new crew) supports the motion and said her son attended the camp.

Board: Greg said, “We’re the lucky ones. We’re blessed to be able to support this event.” Anna said it “sounds like there is a critical need for funding year after year” and she encouraged them to talk with Leslie about the possibility of applying for funds through the endowment program which “has deeper pockets” than the Board donation budget. Palmer said he appreciates the \$11,000 grant that Culture Jam received from the Lovell Foundation and likes the Board being able to fund other deserving programs. Paxton said this donation “gives us more bang for our buck” because it’s harder for them to get donations than it is for other groups. Deane recalled being on a walkabout at the Fair last summer when he had the opportunity to see 5,000-year-old ovens where Native Americans did their baking. Jack said, “It’s a beautiful flourishing culture” and de-funding is “a huge step backwards.” He wants “diverse communities to understand how much the Fair wants them and needs them. Let’s look at how we can be creative in ongoing funding, not just through this line item process.” Katie got a laugh when she said, “Even I have no trouble supporting this!”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed. *(It is their tradition to return a gift with another gift so the guests honored the Board, Staff, and Peach Gallery with a gift of song and then gave mugs to the Board members and shook hands with each one before departing.)*

Consider Peter Bergel’s/Dr. Atomic’s Petition

Paxton moved and Deane seconded that the Board accept Peter Bergel’s request for a discussion of the values used in selecting entertainment and to facilitate communication between the entertainers and the governing bodies of the Fair and that we send his request to the Vision Quest Committee for discussion in the Entertainers and Artists part of the goals discussion.

Background: Peter Bergel collected signatures on a petition at last year’s Fair from people who missed not having Dr. Atomic’s Medicine Show on the entertainment schedule. Many people “perceive them as Fair Family because they have been booked 24 of the past 26 years.” The petition requests that the Fair continue to book them in future years. Last September the Board received a letter from Peter and a copy of the petition signed by 116 people. Paxton said the By-Laws state that petitioners have a right to be heard by the Board and said this has not been handled “in a timely manner.” He had hoped the issue would be discussed at the Board retreat last October but time was limited. The Board does not decide which acts will be booked, but Peter’s letter asks the Board to consider “two key issues: 1) We ask that the Board clarify what values should guide the selection of entertainment for the Fair. 2) We ask that the Board

consider creating a mechanism that allows performers to communicate their concerns as directly as possible to the governing bodies of the Fair, including the Board.” One of the possible mechanisms that Peter suggested would be to establish the position of Performers Advocate, someone who would “be responsible for making his/her existence and role known to performers, would circulate surveys to OCF performers to ascertain their views and would attend Board meetings fairly regularly in order to convey information both ways.” Paxton feels that “we should look at the concerns we see from some of our long-term entertainer members.” He said Peter’s request “asks us to develop a policy and a process, which usually takes a series of workshops and a couple of years. What we need is discussion and some way of formalizing it. So I’m asking that Peter’s request be considered as part of the Vision Quest discussion since members picked the topic of fostering artists and entertainers as one of their top six goals.”

Peach Gallery: Peter Bergel (entertainer, director of Oregon PeaceWorks) said he “means no disrespect to Vaudeville Coordinators who are doing a hard job” but asked the Board for guidance on this matter and to set up a mechanism for entertainers’ concerns to be heard. He said he was told by an entertainment coordinator that the Board decided the Fair needs “newer glitzier acts and you don’t fit anymore.” Barbara (*an admitted fan*) said she has been taking minutes for three years now and “if such a motion was passed or if someone made such a comment, I would have included that in the minutes.” Peter said this supposedly happened in 2001. Bear said he was on the Board in 2001 and that the Board made no such decision. Joseph Newton agreed that this was worthy of discussion and that there needs to be “balance for both long-time Fair performers” and newer acts. Jon Pincus (Elder) agreed that it’s an “important discussion that should be incorporated into the VQ process.” Hilary said the questions raised definitely fit the VQ focus area of ‘support artists and entertainers’ as do other issues regarding entertainers (pay level, tenure issue, who has control over stages, how are vaudeville coordinators chosen). She said it would not be the role of the VQ Task Force to supply the answers but to facilitate the process for the Fair to have those discussions. Leslie said the Fair should help entertainers in other ways besides booking at the event. She said vaudevillians were “put on stage for 11 days as part of the OCF presence at the State Fair and were seen by many people who didn’t even know that vaudeville still exists.” She suggested that the conversation “not be restricted to simply guaranteeing a camping pass every year.”

Board: Paxton said “we need to set up a workshop because there are lots of questions from entertainers that haven’t been addressed,” and added, “Dr. Atomic’s political commentary is part of what the Fair is all about. The background of the Fair came from that perspective.” Lara likes the idea of a performers’ advocate or liaison and also said she “has been coming to Board meetings for many years and I have never heard anything like that ‘glitzy’ comment. Someone would have to prove to me that was said. Board members have been nothing but respectful. I just don’t believe that was said.” Deane said it’s the “unfairness” that bothers him. As a booth rep, he can return year after year. He said, “Because you came into the Fair another way, you can’t. The unfairness of it is why I’m on your side. Maybe there should be an Entertainment Committee.” Jack said, “The Board is not a gatekeeper for Vision Quest and I don’t want this remotely skewed that way. The Board never has and never will book acts. We can discuss this but the Board will not decide which entertainers get booked. I’m for Vision Quest discussing this; I just don’t want the process misconstrued as thinking that people have to go through the Board to get something on the VQ agenda.” Bear supports the motion “even though I don’t like the process.” Greg asked Paxton to repeat the rather lengthy motion. Paxton did, and then added, “I hate to admit it, but it basically says we’re sending it to committee.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Donation to Friendship with Cambodia

Lara moved and Deane seconded that the Board donate \$500 to Friendship with Cambodia.

Background: Bhavia Wagner started this 501(c)3 organization three years ago and said she first visited Cambodia in 1991 and saw “the extreme poverty there.” She gave a brief history of US involvement with Cambodia including four years of bombing, blocking humanitarian aid, and funding a civil war. The organization “works to heal the wounds of war through humanitarian projects that focus on the most vulnerable populations including women, children, and the disabled.” Programs include credit for women to start their own businesses, scholarships for children to attend school, vocational training for landmine survivors, and a shelter for street children to name just a few that are listed in their letter to the Board. More information can be found at www.friendshipwithcambodia.org.

Peach Gallery: Joseph Newton said he’s “sorry we can’t do more to help. We’re all Americans and we share in the responsibility of what has happened to these people.”

Board: Bear said it is “a wonderful organization” but said he wasn’t going to vote for the donation because he felt that “we have to have some kind of consistent principle to limit how we make donations and, for me, whether or not an organization is locally oriented is part of that.”

Katie said she personally supports their work but agrees with Bear that supporting this organization “would not be consistent with the purpose of the OCF.” Lara said it is “very much an educational program and we should reach our arms further out” into the world. Jack said he “doesn’t like drawing lines” and would feel “uncomfortable sending them away with nothing” but thinks \$500 is too much. Deane said he is “100% for this.” He said he looked at their literature and “hopes we donate some money.” He said the fact that they send children to school fits our educational objectives. Bear yielded time to Hilary who said, “The people who first organized the Fair were very upset about what was going on in Southeast Asia. I don’t like hearing that we’re not connected to these people.” Palmer got a laugh when he gently chided, “I’m kind of the anti-Katie. I think we should give money to just about anyone.” He added, “This is a relatively small amount of money to people who have nothing. Our tax dollars in the 1970’s put these people in this situation.”

The motion passed: 7 in favor and 2 opposed (Bear and Katie). *(Greg had to leave at 9pm during the above discussion so for the rest of the meeting the votes will total 9 instead of 10 and a motion will require only 6 votes to pass instead of 7.)*

Donation to Spiral Scouts

Deane moved and Palmer seconded that the Board donate \$500 to the Emerald Earth Seekers hearth of SpiralScouts.

Peach Gallery: Rob Foltz thanked the Board for last year’s donation which was partially used for sculpting material and other art projects, peace bowls, and seeds and hand tools for community garden activities. They make their own uniforms by tie-dyeing shirts and adding the SpiralScouts logo. Their letter to the Board listed some of their activities over the past year including photography, nature journaling, understanding peace, campouts, Solstice and Equinox celebrations, and field trips to the Cascade Raptors Center and the West Eugene Wetlands. They plan to have an art exhibit in town and will let the Fair know when it happens.

Board: Bear said he voted no last year and “my wife was very upset with me and convinced me I made a mistake.” Paxton appreciates that they provide an alternative scouting experience. Jack said, “Seeds and peace and kids and tie-dye.” (*oh my*)

The motion passed: 8 in favor and 1 opposed (Katie).

Budget Issues – Capital Projects

Bear moved and Paxton seconded that the Board carry forward \$33, 338 from the 2006 capital projects budget and allocate \$16,750 in recommended capital projects at this time as outlined by the Budget Committee and Treasurers.

Background: The ‘carry-forward’ projects include \$5,000 for the computerization project; \$14,820 for Peach Power; \$409 for compost improvements; \$3,675 for vault toilets; \$5,050 for the remodeling of Alice’s ADA bathroom (in progress); and \$4,384 for a flail mower (already purchased this year with money approved last year, so the money needs to be moved to this year’s budget) for a total of \$33,338. Hilary said, “More capital project requests will be presented at the April meeting, but the Budget Committee recommended that five projects be approved tonight because of time sensitivity.” These include \$750 for GM computer replacement; \$1,000 for software upgrades; \$10,000 for a truck for recycling and other uses; \$4,500 for a shuttle truck; and \$500 for construction of a women’s urinal, totaling \$16,750.

Peach Gallery: Steve W. talked about the Fair’s fleet of “ancient trucks from 1949, 1952, and 1963.” He said the Fair’s mechanics “work wonders to get them running at all but it’s impossible to keep them running reliably, sometimes even just for a whole day” before something goes wrong again. He said the 1986 truck used for town runs is “a gas hog.” The new trucks will be converted to run on biodiesel and “will have good visibility for safety and be lighter and smaller and nimbler for getting around on the site.”

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 0 opposed.

Appoint New Budget Committee Member

Paxton moved and Bear seconded that the Board appoint Lucy Kingsley as a member of the Budget Committee.

Peach Gallery: Leslie said Lucy has been attending the meetings informally and would like to become a recognized member.

Board: Bear said he “can’t believe she’s not a member already.”

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 0 opposed.

Appointments to Neighborhood Response Team

Lara moved and Palmer seconded that the Board appoint Misty Green as NRT Co-Coordinator and Dean Middleton as NRT Co-Coordinator in Training.

Background: Current NRT Co-Coordinator Michael Connelly said Misty will replace outgoing Co-Coordinator Shannon McCarthy and that Dean will train to replace him when he retires from his position this August. Misty said she has the support of the Crew and “is asking for the Board’s support.” Dean said he is “looking forward to learning to be a Co-Coordinator.”

Peach Gallery: Leslie thanked Michael and Shannon for their service and said NRT is “the only Crew that spends the bulk of their time off-site during the Fair. It’s a complex job, and this idea of going through one year with a recognized coordinator in training is a good one. We are really grateful for all the work they do and the thought they have put into their Crew leadership structure.”

Board: Bear said the Board has never approved a Coordinator in Training before and wondered why the Crew was requesting that appointment. Michael explained that he “wants the Crew to know this transition is coming.” Bear said OK.

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 0 opposed.

Draft Open Letter from Board to Membership

Anna moved and Deane seconded that the Board consider drafting an open letter from the Board to the membership with staff assistance.

Background: Anna said she introduced this topic last fall and feels there are some issues that need to be addressed “especially respecting archaeologically sensitive areas.” She proposed that the letter be “short, simple and to the point.”

Peach Gallery: Mark Pankratz (Construction Crew) commented that so many people had left by this time (it was 9:40) that there were only three others in the Peach Gallery besides himself. He wished more people would come to the meeting and stay until the end. Leslie was “curious about the form” the communication would take. A personal letter to everyone would require “lots of paper and postage” whereas something in the FFN or posted online “would be another matter.” Joseph Newton said it’s good to remind people that the Fair is “a community and we have mutual obligations.”

Board: Katie felt she could support this if it were to be done annually and if such a letter were solely the product of the Board itself, but does not “feel comfortable being a mouthpiece for staff or anyone else.” Bear said if it is longer than one page it will lose impact and said the letter should focus “only on what we really need to admonish the membership about. Archaeology is a key issue here.” Paxton said the motion feels “unfinished” and he’d prefer to see a draft letter before voting. He prefers to “communicate intensely at the Fair.” He said he believes that overall progress is being made but that there were a few “egregious violations” last year regarding respect for the Fair’s archaeological history. Lara said the Guidelines “leave nothing out.” They address the archaeology issue and the issue of being respectful to each other. She added, “The Guidelines are online now and everyone should read them. Coordinators and Booth Reps should stress the importance of all of us being on the same page.” Deane doubted the Board could agree on what to say before the Fair because “we just don’t move that fast.” Jack said he “wasn’t hot on this the first time around and I’m not sure what we’d be accomplishing. We’re making progress and documenting our progress” but stressed that everyone needs to understand the importance of the archaeology guidelines.

The motion failed: 5 in favor and 3 opposed (Carl, Katie, Paxton) and 1 abstention (Deane).

Special Events Negotiating Team

Bear moved and Palmer seconded that the Board authorize Leslie Scott, Russell Poppe, Hilary Anthony, and Jack Makarchek to negotiate and execute contracts for potential 2007 special events on the OCF site.

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 0 opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 10pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 2, 2007 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues (more capital project requests); KRVM Blue Moon Stage Proposal (Jack); Wayne Morse Project (Greg); Peach Power Fund (Anna); and two items tabled

from the February meeting: Bioneers Youth Scholarships (Anna); and Educational Event Development (Anna); as well as the following new business: Vision Quest Budget (Bear); WOW Hall Financial Request (Deane); Permaculture Conference; Craft Logo Jurying; Consider Donation Requests from the Earth Day Steering Committee, Dance for a Reason, SANTA (Sharing Among Neighbors Toy Appeal), and Network for Reproductive Options (Deane). Consider Admissions Gift Certificate (Deane) was withdrawn from the agenda until further notice. Appoint New Personnel Committee Member was dropped from the agenda for lack of a sponsor.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Flight of the Conchords (“Business Time”) for the following quote: “And you know when I get down to just my socks what time it is....it’s time for business.....that’s why they call them business socks.” (*Search www.youtube.com for “Flight of the Conchords.”*)