

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday May 7, 2007, 7pm, EWEB Community Room

Present: Diane Albino, Katie Cousins, Paxton Hoag, Lara Howe, Jack Makarchek, Deane Morrow (alternate), Palmer Parker (alternate), Anna Scott, Carl Taylor, Lawrence Taylor. Greg Rikhoff (*who is also a member of the Eugene Human Rights Commission*) had another meeting to attend so he arrived late at 8:30. (*Deane voted for him through the NRO vote.*)

Not: Bear Wilner-Nugent (*Palmer voted in his absence.*)

Announcements

Katie said yesterday was Jon Pincus's (Elder) birthday so everybody sang to him.

Jen-lin Hodgden (Feedback Coordinator) had a fire at her house and lost some equipment she used at Fair functions. She has a 'wish list' if there's anyone out there who can replace some of it. All humans and pets were unharmed but she lost the cider press and an ultraviolet radiation tube and pump (like those used in aquariums) that she used for processing the cider. Personally, she lost camping gear and gardening equipment. Contact her at arielden@hotmail.com.

Kay Kintzley (Youth Program Development Committee) said there are more than 70 graduates of the Teen Crew who still do not have ways to earn their passes to this year's Fair. She encouraged Crew Coordinators to consider them for openings, also Elders who may need helpers. She said, "These are our Family teens. Let's help them come to the Fair this year."

norma showed off this year's poster; autographed copies are for sale for \$20 at the office.

Ishi and Iana from the Wayne Morse Youth Project gave a card to the Board and thanked them for last month's \$2000 donation to the WMYP that will allow them to buy solar panels for their Free Speech Mobile.

There will be a Board/Vision Quest workshop onsite from 10am to noon at Alice's on Sunday, June 3. All are welcome. (*This actually wasn't decided until after the meeting but the Board asked that I include it in the minutes to help spread the word.*)

Approval of Minutes

Deane moved and Carl seconded to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2007 Board meeting. The motion passed: 10 in favor, 0 opposed.

Member Input

Lawrence paid tribute to Kurt Vonnegut Jr. who recently passed.

Howard Galvin (External Security Co-Coordinator) was concerned about a letter he received at the April Coordinators' Potluck detailing 'new rules' about how many vehicle stickers he could order for his Crew. He said, "I have people coming from far away to keep us safe and this represents a 37 percent reduction in the number of stickers I can provide for them. I need help." Co-Treasurer Hilary Anthony responded and said there was no policy change from last year, that the person who wrote the letter was mistaken and the letter unfortunately went out before it could be checked. Co-Treasurer Steve 'Grumpy' Gorham reiterated that this was simply a mistake in a letter, was an operations issue, and any future problems like this could be handled without coming to the Board "because the Board deals with policy, not operations."

Paxton likes a website called picasaweb.google.com/Paxton.hoag and invited people to "check out the photos I posted there of site walkabouts." He said it's "really easy to use."

Jonathan Seraphim (Pre-Fair Kitchen Crew) mentioned an organization that collects used eyeglasses to send to needy individuals in Togo, West Africa. Glasses can be sent to Alaffia, P.O. Box 11143, Olympia WA 98508 or get more information by calling 360-866-0080. He hopes to have a barrel near the Fair entrance to collect used eyeglasses.

Eric from the Clay Baby booth said he wasn't sure if this was the proper place to air his concern but was upset that his family's booth was denied entrance to this year's Fair because of a policy violation last year which he said "was my fault but the rest of them shouldn't be punished." He said his calls were unreturned. Leslie said she received one call and remembered referring him to Back Up Manager Sara. She agreed to talk with him at the break.

Staff and Officer Reports

General Manager: Leslie said it was a "fantastic Spring Fling" and thanked norma for her work coordinating efforts from lots of people. Leslie said April was a month filled with marketing and promotions. Tickets went on sale Friday May 4. She said there were more than 30 years of posters on display at the Fifth Street Public Market as part of the First Friday Artwalk. The posters will be moving into the food court because the market said they would like to have them as a permanent display. She said it was fun to "hear all the stories" people told about the Fair as they looked at the posters. Contracts with LTD and Honey Buckets are almost completed. LTD will "bring biodiesel buses on line for the Fair." The grant cycle for the Jill Heiman Vision Fund was completed. The Fair will again match contributions 2/1 up to \$10,000 and hopes to have \$20,000 to distribute among Siuslaw Outreach Services, Lane Shelter Care, Lane County Law and Advocacy, Springfield Dental Clinic, and LCOG Senior Meals on Wheels. She has been working with Charlie and "a small group of advisors to develop sustainability goals for the Fair including the idea of Green Tickets" which she asked the Board to add to new business for the June meeting. She said interviews for Culture Jam staff are completed and staff training is scheduled for May 20. Peggy Taylor, co-founder of Power of Hope, will come from Whidbey Island to do the training. Last minute budget issues are being finalized; she "juggled money market accounts and CD's and swept interest" from two bank accounts. She said the Fair "will have the same fantastic team of BUMs as we have for the past 5-6 years." She has been working on site set up coordination with staff and getting ready to open Main Camp on June 9.

Administrative Assistant: norma thanked everyone who helped with the Spring Fling. They sold raffle tickets for \$1 and generated \$631.10, "although I don't know where the ten cents came from," she added. She mentioned that Grumpy won two 'A' seat tickets to the Bach Festival. She thanked Bob Fennessey who booked the band, Charlie and Steve for their site slide show, Robin and the Culture Jam kids who did a presentation, and "our video crew and Bob Nisbet and Rock Badger who made and showed videos." She said the Fair will have a new website in September thanks to Robin Albano and Shirley Walker Combs. The town office will move out to the site office on June 9. She congratulated Fair Family News on their fifteenth anniversary and said they "never missed a deadline or went over budget."

Site Manager: Steve W. said work is "proceeding at pace onsite," that things were drying out "and then we got one and 3/4 inches of rain last week." He talked about a couple of projects that are progressing. The bathroom remodel at Alice's is almost finished. They built a platform on Hub Hill (where the old double-wide used to be) for the Pacific Yurt that was donated last fall; next comes the frame and then the roof and side walls. He said there is no designated use for the yurt but it will probably be used for an open meeting space. It will have a ramp and be ADA accessible. He said, "a 30' yurt is a pretty big meeting space." He said there

was a nice Elders retreat onsite last month as well as a couple of other events such as the highway pickup and the wildflower walk, both on April 12, “and next year we’ll coordinate the schedules better so folks can participate in both.” He thanked Charlene Simpson of the Native Plant Society and Bob Nisbet for leading the walk and said there is “a population explosion of several species of wildflowers.” He took a week off at the end of April and thanked Charlie, Andy and Jeff for filling in for him, “and thanks also to the highway pickup volunteers, to the VegManEcs, and to David Hoffman and Tommy Rhea.”

Assistant Manager: Charlie said there will be no City Fling in Portland this year but the Fair will participate in both the May and June Last Thursday Artwalks in Portland’s Alberta Street area.

Office Assistant: Robin reported on Culture Jam and said the City of Eugene Recreation Services registers the first 20 youth, and those spots were filled in just 5 weeks. She said other spaces are quickly filling and was excited that there were “lots of new names.” Youth interested in signing up should call her directly at the OCF office now. Fern Ridge youth are encouraged to register and there are special scholarship funds available to them.

Treasurers: Grumpy said they are working on finalizing the budget. He asked Coordinators to “keep your receipts and watch your spending.”

President: Jack said he won a glass peach at the Spring Fling and said it was “a good omen. When we think about this event and all we’re trying to accomplish and manifest, we need to understand measure, we need to spend time over the next 20 years dealing with our growth, making sure it’s not just status quo growth but diverse and encompassing growth.” He talked about the fact that “our event is something people need to drive to; we need to carpool and drive energy efficient cars. There is a reward for using and consuming less. We need to think big; think about the Peach Power Fund; think about having an electric vehicle plug-in as part of the peach grid.” He said growth is stressful and “we need to keep a loving and accepting energy; we have to manifest that. Using less is very important. Thanks everybody. Tell a friend about our great event, take the bus, carpool, understand the impact we have as we grow. And thanks for the peach.”

Committee Reports Elders Committee

Chris Browne read two reports, one from their committee meeting on April 26, also a summary of their retreat on April 14-15. At their regular committee meeting on April 26 they reviewed new applications bringing the total to 272 recognized and verified Elders. They decided to have an info table at the Spring Fling, started work on the Old Timers Picnic to be held June 30 at 4pm at Main Camp Kitchen (Elders please RSVP by June 16), and planned a Wine and Cheese Meet and Greet at Alice’s from 7-9pm on July 11. The Bell Ringing Ceremony for new Elders will be at Shady Grove at 8:30pm on July 13. They appointed a camping host for the Elders camping area and are developing plans for improving the area with the Site Manager. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be at 7pm on May 24 at the town office. At their weekend retreat, 29 people met at Alice’s Wonderland “to go over several topics in depth and form subcommittees to help work on them.” The four main topics of discussion were: events (“to explore Elders’ involvement in future events”); job transitions (outline work to date and develop future plans); entertainment, camping and crafts (“explore ways to improve these fields for the betterment of everyone”); formation of an Elders Council (“to explore ways to tap into the wealth of experience and knowledge”). By unanimous approval of all persons present, an Elders

Council was created that very weekend. Besides the work sessions, they also enjoyed “wonderful meals and social gatherings” including live music by the Dancing Moon Orkhestra. Chris said detailed notes were taken at the retreat and are available upon request. They are considering having a follow-up retreat in September to evaluate progress.

Peach Power Ad Hoc Committee

Anna said she and three other members of the committee met by phone on Monday, April 23. She plans to meet with Leslie to get her signature on a couple of forms: one is a utility interconnection agreement (so the Fair can sell energy back to the grid); the other is a 12-page business energy tax credit form. They are still involved in the permit process “which is slow because Lane County now has only one person instead of three doing structural permitting for residential and commercial projects.” They are working with the Site Manager and Archaeology Crew to dig a trench.

Old Business Budget Issues

Capital Project Request for Green Thumb Crew

Deane moved and Lara seconded that the Board approve \$850 for the Green Thumb Crew (for the Flowers ‘sub-crew’) as recommended by the Treasurers and the Budget Committee.

Background: The money will be used for carts, flower boxes and other equipment. Charlie said they’ve been “needing this for a while. They started with a higher figure but are willing to work with less.”

Peach Gallery and Board: Thumbs up.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Consider Donation Request for Network for Reproductive Options

Deane moved and Jack seconded that the Board donate \$500 to the Network for Reproductive Options.

Background: Marti Black, NRO Coordinator and Staff Fundraiser, spoke about many aspects of the program including their Community Resource Library. This donation from the Fair would “permit us to continue improving our reference library and educational programs, with particular concentration on acquiring volumes written in Spanish in order to meet the needs of a growing Latina population in the area.”

Peach Gallery: Thumbs up.

Board: Jack said women should have the right to control their own bodies.

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

Support for Lane Arts Council

Jack moved and Katie seconded that the Board donate the remainder of the 2006 Board budget, about \$4000, to Lane Arts Council.

Background: Ben Brinkley, Acting Executive Director, said he was “grateful to be invited to make this proposal.” He said LAC has been in existence since 1976 and runs programs such as the First Friday Artwalk and “the programs most dear to my heart which are the programs for our youth. For many kids, the artists-in-residence program is the only exposure to the arts they get.”

Peach Gallery: Grumpy asked what LAC would do with the money and how their financial troubles came about. Ben said the money will help them “reach the end of summer in a healthy financial condition.” He said they lost several grants that were expected, they used to get money from the county but no longer do, they don’t get money from the city or state, they lost their executive director and have reduced both staff and operating expenses to deal with part of the shortfall until other funding comes through this fall. Eugene 4J school district has agreed to provide funding for their educational program. Grumpy said there are arts councils in other counties too, that the Fair doesn’t know why LAC funds were “mismanaged or for some reason underfunded,” that the Fair’s money “represents all our sweat equity and do you really want to spend \$4,000 on something you’ve heard about for 5 minutes.” Hilary recommended the money be given from the Board donation budget. She supports helping LAC because if “our urban art scene is not robust, what does that mean for the rest of us? I really want them in our community.” David Liberty (Fair Cartographer) liked an idea Grumpy mentioned about setting up a negotiation to possibly make the money a loan instead of a grant like was done when the Fair helped WOW Hall. Jon Pincus (Elder) supports the idea of helping LAC but “is not sure about the amount or format.” Howard Galvin said they “deserve our support but as a fiscal conservative” he thinks it’s a large expenditure. Cathy Coulson-Keegan (Crafter) said, “Art is important. Art heals. Our children need to be encouraged. A lot of us older people grew up in schools with good art programs but those programs have been neglected and cut.” Wally Jones (Recycling Crew) talked about “socialism of the rich” and said most art funding now goes to the Hult Center. Jen-lin said “we’re not excluding other counties from coming to us for help; but this is who is here now. This is our home turf. Lane County is as big as my home state of Connecticut.” Leslie talked about the long-standing partnership with LAC on endowment projects in the Fern Ridge area “that simply would not have been possible with their support and involvement.” She also spoke about the First Friday Artwalk that the Fair just participated in and said the walks “get people and energy downtown and puts a focus on mostly local arts and artists. LAC has been central to the arts in Lane County for decades and this donation would provide crucial bridge funding to get them to the end of the fiscal year.”

Board: Katie said the reason she votes ‘no’ on many donation requests, even for organizations she personally supports, is because she interprets the Fair’s bylaws to mean the Fair is an arts and education organization. She said, “I’m happy to support this motion, however we can work it out.” Palmer has “known about LAC for decades” and supports the request. Lawrence said he “was initially taken aback by the amount, but we have the funds to do this and to still take care of our usual donation recipients.” He said he “trusts Leslie’s insight into the local arts community.” He lives in Portland but was in town for a meeting at 6pm on a Monday night, sitting by the Ken Kesey statue. He said there were a few street kids around and a couple homeless people and a TV crew filming a segment about proposals for downtown. No one else was around and he found himself wondering, “Where did Eugene go?” Diane said she doesn’t know which line item this will come out of but she supports the motion. She said her kids have benefited from the artists-in-residence programs in the rural schools they attend. Paxton suggested taking it out of the change line item. He said the motion “meets our mission and is well worth it.” Even though Jack supports the motion, he understands Grumpy’s reluctance and thanked the Treasurers, saying they have “a financial responsibility and the Fair is lucky to have them.” He said, “We should use the Rainy Day fund if necessary. We have to shoulder up. Arts education is going by the wayside to support killing and devastation.” Anna supports restructuring the endowments and donation process so this type of funding is not so unusual. She

said, “If we have to be a bank, at least we have the means and the will. Let’s do it.” Lara said, “Art is so important to our lives, our children, our elders. It’s so sad these organizations are having so much trouble. What Jack said was the bomb and I’m with him.” Someone yielded time to Grumpy who suggested having this donation come out of the Board budget. He and Hilary explained there is no ‘carry-over’ from 2006; this donation, if passed, will come out of the 2007 budget. Jack realized that but said he only meant that the amount to be donated should be the same amount they had left over in 2006. **Jack and Katie accepted a friendly amendment creating an ‘emergency art funding’ line item in the 2007 Board budget for this donation.**

The amended motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed. (*Greg arrived during the above discussion so he voted on this motion and for the remainder of the evening.*)

Peach Power Fund

Anna moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board direct the Financial Planning and Budget Committees and relevant officers and staff to create a fund called the Peach Power Fund to receive donations of money and/or securities and/or equipment. This fund would be for the purpose of assisting the OCF to finance capital projects to develop and implement energy and water efficiency, conservation, and renewable technologies that improve the organization’s effort to continue to serve and educate the public.

Background: Anna thanked Hilary for detailing the two-page report with specifics of how to set up a separate fund for peach power purposes. Any donations will be kept in a separate OCF bank account. The Peach Power Committee will develop a priority planning list with the help of the Site Manager and General Manager and final approval by the Board. The Fair already has the ability to receive donations but this motion proposes a special fund for a dedicated purpose. Any money left over at the end of any given year will stay in the restricted account.

Peach Gallery: Thumbs up. Leslie suggested having a member of the Budget Committee or Financial Planning Committee on the Peach Power Committee. Anna asked Charlie to join until they could get someone from one of those committees.

Board: Lawrence said the Fair “should strive to be a carbon neutral community at a minimum” and he thanked Anna for her “tireless effort on this issue.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Appoint Main Camp Check Signers

Carl moved and Greg seconded that the Board remove Jamie O’Brien’s name and add Christina Donald’s name to the Kitchen Account. Carl moved and Greg seconded that the Board add the names of Michael Westrick and Jennifer Hodgden to the Key Bank checking account through July 31, 2007.

Board: Someone asked who else is on the accounts. The only other signers are Leslie, norma, and the Co-Treasurers.

Both motions passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed

Appoint Dog Control Co-Coordiators

Lawrence moved and Palmer seconded that the Board appoint Royal Eddings and Jamey Buck as Dog Control Co-Coordiators.

Background: They will work with current Co-Coordinator Jon Silvermoon. Jamey said, “Our main goal is to keep the dogs off the property.” Royal said, “We like to help dogs find solutions to their people.” They work in conjunction with Security and Traffic who notify them if

they see dogs in parked cars “which still happens every year.” They try to educate the owners and they work closely with Greenhill and local campgrounds.

Board: Lawrence said in 1983 he had the chance to choose between joining the Dog Control Crew or Sanitation Crew and he “chose cleaning the six-packs because it’s a better fit for me. It takes someone with a higher level of patience” to deal with people who would leave a dog in a car. Lara thanked retiring Co-Coordinators Barbara Bartel and Brice McMorris for their service, and also thanked Royal and Jamey for stepping forward to volunteer to fill the posts.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Establish Path Planning as Board Committee

Paxton moved and Deane seconded that the Oregon Country Fair reestablish Path Planning as a standing Board Committee, adopting the Revised Path Planning Process V1.1 as presented to the Board May 2007.

Background: Paxton said his intention is for Path Planning to be a Board Committee instead of an Operations Committee. He said the Board should make final decisions on land use plans. The Board had copies of a 4-page path planning process proposal that was compiled by Leslie, Steve W, Sallie Edmunds, and Kirk Shultz. Paxton revised a copy to include more Board responsibility and membership involvement. He shared the papers with the Peach Gallery.

Peach Gallery: Joseph Newton (Recycling Crew) said, “It’s a long proposal. It looks good at first glance” but could benefit from wider distribution and comments from the membership. Dennis Todd (LUMP Committee) said much of path planning is “ad hoc and situational” and not always appropriate for Board involvement. He said the Board should be involved “in the big picture but this proposal has too much Board involvement in day-to-day operations.” Wally Jones said he is “basically in favor” and that not much has happened in path planning for the past year, that meetings have not been publicized and that it’s “something that’s important to many people.” Jon Pincus likened the debate to “do you want an elected city council or city staff to make these decisions?” He said the “democratic process is integral to this.” He encouraged people to “go back in the minutes to when Path Planning was created. The Board is ultimately responsible for the disposition of the Fair’s assets. There should be an assignment of tasks to staff but the bottom line is the Board’s responsibility.” Grumpy said policy and operations should be kept separate and that “Paxton’s plan goes too far in having Board involvement in Operations minutiae.” He agreed with Dennis’s assessment. He said the decision to create Chela Mela was a Board decision but a decision such as where to hold fire dancing should be part of operations and should not be the Board’s purview. He asked, “Do you really want the Board deciding things like that?” He said both plans “call for large issues to come to the Board but small issues should be done by Operations. We have one of the best GMs we could have for being inclusive. We have a hard time coming together to find a date for a Board/VQ meeting. How are we going to handle small path planning issues in a short time?” Bill Wright (Crafter) said that Path Planning Committee is “hugely important to members” and that it virtually disappeared. He wants to see diverse participation in the membership of the committee. David Liberty said he thought Path Planning was already a very open committee. He served on the Board for 8 years and thinks it’s “a mistake for the Board to jump into the minutiae of this.” He also served on the LUMP Committee and reminded the Board that the LUMP Manual they adopted has the information Path Planning needs. He said requiring detailed Board involvement was “a slap in the face” to the GM. Steve W. said Path Planning took “a hiatus during the VQ process to wait for the outcome of that before having more large design charette meetings.” He

said long-term planning is definitely needed but is temporarily “on hold” for VQ. He said they have been dealing with solving only small-scale issues due to erosion, 3 booths last year, one booth this year. He talked about working with some people who “are very resistant to change and actually expect Operations to control the river.” He said he would “like us to take a little more time and try to come up with a process that involves Board and Operations in a way that works. The Board needs to decide big issues but we need to be able to react quickly to emergencies.”

Board: Jack suggested tabling the motion because it was almost 10 pm and “the Board hasn’t even begun to discuss this yet.” Lawrence moved to table. Paxton said it was “unfair to do it that way” and by unanimous consent the Board agreed to let Paxton speak. Paxton stated he liked the original 4-page proposal but he “changed it to add more membership participation, early notification to the Board, and Board decisions in more areas.” The original plan called for no Board input on emergency projects. He said, “I propose to make notification mandatory at an early stage and I think that’s very important. Path Planning should be a permanent standing Board committee. If we had used this process before we would have already solved some problems we’re still dealing with. I like the document, just not the chain of authority.”

The motion to table passed: 8 in favor and 2 opposed (Diane, Paxton).

Set Date for July Board Meeting

Diane moved and Anna seconded that the Board hold the July Board meeting onsite on Sunday, July 1 at 4pm.

Background: This was originally listed as new business for next month’s meeting but the Board decided to vote on it tonight so it could be published in the May minutes.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, June 4, 2007 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; Establish Path Planning as Board Committee (Paxton); Path Planning Process (Paxton); as well as the following new business: Consider Donation Request for Eugene Peace Choir (Deane); Consider Donation Request for School Garden Project (Lara); Green Ticket; GOTV; Still Living Room for Elders (Katie); Approve Peach Power Fund General Set-Up Requirements (Anna). Educational Event Development and Bioneers Youth Scholarships was dropped from the agenda; Anna is working with Youth Development Committee but has no motion now.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks John Bassett McCleary (“The Hippie Dictionary: A Cultural Encyclopedia of the 1960’s and 1970’s”) for the following quote: “I contend that the hippie era was the intellectual renaissance of the twentieth century. I believe it came about because of an emotional rebellion against the mindless direction in which our world was headed... My feeling is that all the noise that the church, media, and government make about sex, drugs, and rock and roll is just a smoke screen to divert attention from all the really nasty and truly immoral things that governments and the military-industrial complex are doing around the world. Which is worse, getting stoned and making love or killing Indians in the rain forest to get their land to raise beef for fast-food restaurants? The vocabulary of the hippie generation comes, in large part, from the beat generation, jazz and blues music, African American culture, Eastern religions, and the British musical invasion of the early 1960’s. Yet that is only the beginning of the story...”

