

Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors
Monday December 3, 2007, 7pm, EWEB Community Room

Present: Diane Albino, Danya Ariel, Katie Cousins, Lara Howe, Jack Makarchek, Deane Morrow, Joseph Newton and Palmer Parker (alternates), Carl Taylor, Bear Wilner-Nugent.
Not: Paxton Hoag, Lawrence Taylor. (*Palmer and Joseph voted all evening.*)

Announcements

Deane said he and others “did a lot of research” and included in the Board packet a copy of a motion passed by the Board in December 2003. He said the “long and short” of what they found is that “the Board approved recording.” He said he would “like to continue recording the Board meetings if that’s not a problem and we’ll figure out what to do with them later” but that he didn’t bring his recorder tonight. Bear said that “sounds like an agenda item for next month.” Barbara said the 2003 motion included in the Board packet was “to allow Board meetings to be digitally filmed” and the background on it was that it was specific to video recordings made by a former Board member. (*Update: Deane decided not to place his request on the agenda because there is already one other motion dealing with recording meetings.*)

Lara said the next upland kitchen meeting is at 6pm on Tues. Jan. 29 at the town office.

Approval of Minutes

Palmer moved and Katie seconded to approve the minutes of the November 2007 Board meeting. The motion passed: 10 in favor; 0 opposed. Barbara said there was one correction: the Youth Services Committee is actually called the Youth Development Committee.

Member Input

Jen-lin Hodgden (Feedback Coordinator) thanked Andy, Kay, Katie, and Steve for “supplies, cocoa, cider, everything for yesterday’s wreath-making party.”

Lara mentioned how much she is enjoying the Renaissance Roots series of articles in the Fair Family News and sent out a thank you to author Suzi Prozanski.

Palmer referred to information given during ‘agenda review’ time at the beginning of the meeting. Deane placed “Bringing Back the Bow” on the agenda and Palmer wanted more information about what that meant. (*It’s the name of an organization that Deane is sponsoring for a donation.*)

norma requested that Board members word their agenda items more carefully so that the membership will better understand what will be discussed.

Staff and Officer Reports

General Manager: Leslie’s 92-year-old father traveled to Eugene from Florida for the Thanksgiving holiday. Leslie spent nine days with him and said she is “grateful to the Fair for the time and space for that visit with my Dad.” Even though it was a short month things were “extremely busy mostly with budgets and ongoing operational meetings and planning processes.” The Endowment cycle is beginning (application forms available from the office or online); the staff has been meeting on Guidelines revisions; the Management Team is sending follow-up letters on incident reports. She thanked web designer Shirley Walker-Combs and norma and Charlie for their work on “the beautiful new website.” There was an all-day Budget Committee meeting on Dec. 2 and they completed all the Crew budgets that have been submitted as well as Culture Jam, AA, Site,

GM, and Operational budgets. She thanked and praised the Treasurers and Budget Committee members. She thanked Tia Christiansen who resigned as Main Stage Co-Coordinator to take a job as executive director for an arts festival in California. She submitted renewal licenses for campgrounds. She will be out of the office most of January (but will be at the Board meetings) so anyone who needs an appointment with her should make one soon.

Administrative Assistant: norma said the new .org website is up and she thanked Leslie, Charlie, Shirley, and Robert Albano. The e-mail problem should be fixed now and norma asked people who had trouble e-mailing the office to try again. The former provider blocked mail from Yahoo, MSN, Hotmail, and Comcast. She prepared the office budget and sent a press release to Fern Ridge schools with endowment information. The office will be closed the last week of December. norma said she'll be out of the office the second half of December "but Robin will be there for the week before Christmas." The Fair will be selling fairaphenalia Dec. 15/16 at Holiday Market (*in the Holiday Hall*). Norma said Chanukah starts "tomorrow" (Dec. 4) and her ancestors would want her to wish everyone a "happy festival of lights."

Site Manager: Steve W. thanked Kay Kintzley for initiating and leading the holiday wreath-making party onsite and said even there "we demonstrate good land stewardship" because the sources for the wreath-making supplies come from onsite non-native invasive holly, diseased hybrid pines, and small Douglas fir trees at the Hub that need thinning. He said, "These are plant materials we want to get rid of, and this way they leave the site to beautify someone's home." He said he discovered during the recent storms that rainfall measurements onsite can be "radically different" from Eugene airport measurements (2.23", Dec. 1-4), with the onsite gauge registering more rainfall (5.1", Dec. 1-4). He said, "We'll probably be canoeing onsite tomorrow." He said it was "pretty dismaying" to find new clean-up issues in the past couple weeks. He said, "This is my tenth Fair in this job and I continue to be dismayed and saddened at what 'reverence for the land' means to some people." He can't pinpoint specific campers but said he will communicate with certain camphosts because "leaving piles of junk behind is just not right." He thanked the VegManEcs for all their hard work: they were out in the storm on Dec. 2 just ahead of the flood, wrapping trees in the eight with chicken wire to protect them from the beavers. He said those interested in canoeing onsite should check the USGS river gauge in Noti (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv?14166500>) because if it's over 10 feet then the site is flooded enough to canoe. He said to have fun and be safe: "please remember your personal flotation devices and beware of hidden snags and swift currents."

Assistant Manager: Charlie said the new .org website looks cool and they'd like to look at ways to improve the .net site. Switching webhost, ISP, and phone service "cut the bills roughly in half." The Fair is now using two local companies, EFN and Integra. He invited folks to "come on out to the site and join us." He talked about the "magical quality" of looking at the full moon through leafless trees and wished "happy holidays of all kinds to everybody."

Caretaker: Andy said, "I ditto Steve on clean-up. Pack it in, pack it out."

Treasurers: Grumpy couldn't be at tonight's meeting but Hilary said they just have "a few loose ends to follow up but the budget is very close to finished." Last-minute questions will be handled at the January 19 Coordinator Potluck, prior to the annual Board meeting to approve the budget on Monday, January 28 at 7pm at the Central Presbyterian Church in Eugene. The meeting will start with open discussion followed by one agenda item - passing a 2008 budget.

President: Jack said the Winter Solstice is almost here and the days are getting longer and "the Fair is in sync with the rhythms of the seasons." He referred to Steve's comments on reverence for the land and encouraged everyone to read the Guidelines, and also reminded everyone that the

Guidelines are available on the .net website. He talked about “walking our talk” and encouraged “starting the year off that way.” He hopes everyone enjoys the “holidays around Solstice.”

Committee Reports Elders Committee

Chris Browne read a report from the Nov. 29 meeting where they reviewed their proposed 2008 budget and also reviewed more applications (now 289 Elders). More people have expressed interest in joining the Elders Committee. They would like to maintain membership at 15 people and will “establish a protocol for reviewing the status of the Committee on an annual basis to determine involvement of the members and determine if and when openings in the Committee are available so that new people can come on board.” The next meeting will be held on Dec. 20 at 7pm at the town office. There is no specific agenda, “just a meeting to celebrate the holiday season for us all. Bring snacks and holiday treats.”

Path Planning Committee

Chris Browne read a report from the Nov. 18 meeting where 15 people met in the yurt “in the middle of a pretty good down pour.” They approved minutes of their Oct. meeting and “clarified and approved that only appointed Committee members vote on motions.” They decided to elect three officers (chair, vice chair, secretary) to serve one-year terms August to August. They plan to acquire more recent drawings and photos to have “as accurate a picture of the property as possible.” They use the LUMP Manual as a guideline and “urge everyone to obtain a copy of it and become familiar with its contents.” They will form subcommittees to work on specific long and short-term projects and tasks. Their next meeting is Dec. 16 at noon. Probable location is the Hub Yurt, weather permitting, but they will post the definite location on the OCF web page calendar.

Old Business Budget Issues

Consider Donation to Project Homeless Connect

Lara moved and Carl seconded that the Board donate \$1000 and the use of the OCF radios for Project Homeless Connect.

Background: Richie Weinman, co-chair of Project Homeless Connect, said next year’s event will be held February 7. This year’s event drew 1007 people who received many kinds of services from 322 community volunteers. They provided basic needs assistance (housing info, clothing, medical services) as well as many other services just a few of which are employment info, bike repairs, veterinary services, even haircuts. To volunteer, contact Michelle Lowery at 541-741-6000 or mlowery@unitedwaylane.org. To make a cash donation make checks payable to United Way of Lane County – Project Homeless Connect and send to 3171 Gateway Loop, Springfield, OR 97477. More info at www.homelessconnect.org.

Peach Gallery: Leslie recalled last year’s event and the wide variety of services they offered and said “the energy was incredible.” Barbara agreed but likes all three donation requests on the agenda and thought \$1000 donation might not leave enough money in the budget for the others. Hilary said the current amount of the donation line item in the 2007 Board budget is \$1950.

Board: Joseph said, “If we go a little over budget to help our neighbors I’m okay with that.” Jack is “grateful our community understands that homeless people have pets too.” Palmer has coordinated the use of OCF radios in the past and knows that radios can backfire, so he’s glad there are “radio addicts on staff.”

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

Consider Donation to Eugene Education Fund

Lara moved and Bear seconded that the Board donate \$550 to the Eugene Education Fund.

Background: David Meredith, executive director of EEF, spoke of the need for art supplies especially for special needs students. More info at www.eef.lane.edu.

Peach Gallery: Jen-lin likes that the money will benefit many schools rather than just one.

Board: Lara is a fan of “hands-on learning.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor; 0 opposed.

Consider Donation to The Backbone Campaign

Palmer moved and Joseph seconded that the Board donate \$1000 to The Backbone Campaign.

Background: Jerry Brule represented The Backbone Campaign and spoke of the current project to build 8-12 large puppets that will tour 10 colleges and hopefully several events as well, possibly including DaVinci Days and the Fair. The project is very expensive. The Fair’s contribution will cover part of the expenses to build a giant origami peace crane (*total cost \$1500*). It costs \$5000 to transport the puppets from one place to another. The peace crane will be part of The Procession for the Future, which is described in their letter to the Board as “a touring parade, using high production value art and spectacle to animate our aspirations and deliver a compelling progressive vision for the country. The giant puppets and floats will portray in iconic form a set of progressive policy priorities including End of War and Dismantling Empire and the Military Industrial Complex.” More info at www.backbonecampaign.org.

Peach Gallery: Hilary “likes the overlap” between Fair people and The Backbone Campaign and said some Fair entertainers and people from Chela Mela are involved. She urged Fair Family to help build the puppets on Vashon Island in mid-January. Leslie thinks it’s a fabulous project and asked if the Fair will be publicly recognized in some way for the contribution. (*Jerry didn’t know but will check on this for us.*) Someone said it would be great to have the puppets as part of the OCF entry in the Eugene Celebration Parade, “but I didn’t know it costs \$5000 to transport them.” Andy thought it would be great if they could attend the Fair with the puppets and would support allocating passes for that if necessary. Jen-lin urged support and said she first learned of the group through UMO (*Unidentified Moving Objects*).

Board: **Jack suggested a friendly amendment (*which was accepted*) that the amount they go over budget (\$600) should come out of the Board ‘second event’ line item.** Joseph recently did some data entry of information gleaned from Vision Quest surveys and remarked that one person even asked for “socially relevant puppet shows.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor; 0 opposed.

Consider Membership Renewal in CCPA

Bear moved and Diane seconded that the Board allocate \$1000 to renew membership in the Community Center for the Performing Arts, aka WOW Hall.

Background: Bob Fennessy said the Fair is recognized on the back page of the CCPA newsletter and talked up WOW Hall’s annual membership party on Dec. 15.

Peach Gallery: Thumbs up.

Board: Bear “invoked LT” (*Lawrence Taylor, absent Board member*) by parroting Lawrence’s oft-heard praise for sister organizations WOW Hall, Growers Market, White Bird, and Saturday Market

The motion passed: 10 in favor; 0 opposed.

Consider Appointment to Endowment Committee

Lara moved and Deane seconded that the Board appoint Kira Burge to the Endowment Committee.

Background: In a letter to the Board, Bill Wooten Endowment Committee member M. Clare Feighan said Kira “comes with youthful enthusiasm and wonderful experience.” Kira will replace outgoing Committee member Richard Rodriques who moved to Hawaii. Kira was at the meeting and said she is originally from Portland and has been going to the Fair for many years. She “loves Eugene” and is interning at DIVA (*Downtown Initiative for the Visual Arts*).

Board: Lara said she gets excited “every time our youth step up” and she thanked Kira for stepping up. Joseph also thanked Kira “and the other members of that Committee. Endowment is an important part of what we communicate to our neighbors and the community.” Danya dittoed Lara. Palmer is “glad we gave more than we budgeted to donate.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor; 0 opposed.

Consider Appointments to Path Planning Committee

Deane moved and Katie seconded that the Board appoint five new members to Path Planning Committee: Michael Richard, Tom Churchill, Dean Middleton, Colleen Bauman, and Sylvia Fireman.

Background: It took a few minutes to come up with all five names (*the motion started with three names*) but a bit of discussion ensued about one person who they thought had already been appointed but wasn’t, and someone else whose email didn’t get through, etc. (*You get the drift, but the end result of the discussion is the above motion.*)

Board: There was some discussion concerning the size of the Committee, and how many is too many. Palmer asked, “Is 25 too big? 50?” **Jack suggested a friendly amendment (accepted by Katie and Deane) putting a moratorium on any more new members after passing this motion.** Lara reminded everyone that you don’t need to be an appointed Committee member to work on a Committee. Joseph summed things up and said the Committee “will find the right balance.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor; 0 opposed.

Personnel Committee Groundskeeper Job Description

Lara moved and Jack seconded that the Personnel Committee create a permanent groundskeeper job description that matches the hours used by Steve Wisnovsky in his site support budget.

Board: Joseph said, “Long overdue.” Some nods and dittoes.

The motion passed: 10 in favor; 0 opposed.

Include TSA’s in PPP Manual

Jack moved and someone seconded that the Board increase employer contribution from 4% of gross pay to 7% of gross pay and include that in the PPP Manual.

Background: (*Note: The employer contribution is in the form of TSA’s (tax-sheltered annuities) and the PPP Manual stands for Personnel Policies and Procedures.*)

Board: Lara said, “I’m going to ditto Joseph. Long overdue.” Joseph added, “These people work so hard for us.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor; 0 opposed.

Employee Bonuses

Bear moved and Carl seconded that the Board award each employee \$500 net after withholding, prorated for part-time staff.

Board: Palmer said he’ll vote no because his understanding is that the step tables were “created not to have bonuses.” Bear said, “That’s the same comment you made last year.” Lara praised the employees and said, “This is such a little thing compared to what you give.”

The motion passed: 9 in favor; 1 opposed (Palmer “with regrets”).

Men’s Retreat

Katie moved and Jack seconded that the Board use \$3000 from the change line item for a two-day Men’s Retreat at the Fair site.

Background: Katie said this idea came out of David Hatfield’s recent empowerment workshop dealing with male youth. She said it’s difficult for men to mentor youth if they haven’t “processed their own stuff.” She “talked to some Fair guys” and chuckled when recounting that one of them said the idea “reeked of health.”

Peach Gallery: Hilary said her gut reaction is that the Fair “should be for all of us, not gender specific.” She could support donating money to a men’s program but would object to the Fair actually developing such a program or sponsoring one onsite unless there was similar attention paid to a women’s program. Leslie said while this workshop would be just for boys it is her hope that this is the beginning of Fair educational workshops. She would like to see one just for girls in the Spring, and then later “a gender conversation.” She said this “fits our educational mission” and she has heard men talk about the “tremendous need for this in our community.” Jon Pincus (Elder) likes the idea but agrees with Hilary not to have gender specific events onsite; he suggested maybe sponsoring it elsewhere.

Board: Carl wanted more details. “What will \$3000 get us? What will it take to put on the event?” Bear agreed. He has “no problem with gender specific but I’m uncomfortable giving \$3000 without more details.” Joseph would like to support the organization “but not necessarily take it on as our own event.” Diane asked how many people would be served for \$3000? Jack liked the idea, saying, “I think it’s great.” He said he’s “always intrigued by language” and the sound of men’s retreat “rolls off my tongue like I can hardly believe.” Palmer went to a men’s retreat at Breitenbush that was “well worth the expense.” He has been to others too and said, “Every time I go it always changes my life.” Deane said he sees nothing wrong with retreats whether they are for men, women, or kids but he’d “rather spend the money on toilets.” Danya said there’s “not enough information here for me to vote on this.” Bear yielded time back to the Peach Gallery.

Peach Gallery again: Leslie said the “genesis for David Hatfield’s workshop came straight out of Culture Jam.” She proposed tabling the motion and that she and Katie “flesh out the proposal.” Steve W. would like to know schedule and facilities expectations and said there’s usually “an exploration process ahead of time before voting.” (*Katie said two days in April or May, for about 30 men.*) Charlie said he’d be happy to work with Katie and Leslie. He said it was important to “educate men in emotional expression” and for men to “pass it on to male youth.” Hilary “understands there is a huge problem with masculinity” but said there is also “a huge problem with femininity.” She said, “We should commit to doing things equally, I don’t want to see it one-sided.”

Katie decided to table the motion until the January Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 7, 2008 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; Men's Retreat (Katie); Motion to Allow Internet Committee to Record Board Meetings (Joseph - formerly called Revisit Policy on Recording Meetings); as well as the following new business: Consider Donation to Yachats Community Health Center (Joseph); Consider Donation to Bringing Back the Bow (Deane); Appoint Main Stage Co-Coordinator; Consider Appointments to Personnel and Peach Power Committees; Community Village Food Booth Policy; Clarify Second Sabbatical/PPP (Jack); Consider Guidelines Amendments (*they will be read into the minutes in January and voted on in February*); Implementing Food Ballot Measure (Joseph); Adopt Vision Quest Report (Bear). Deane tabled his motion on Toilets and Handwashing until the February Board meeting.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Richard Dawkins ("The God Delusion") for the following quote: "Science flings open the narrow window through which we are accustomed to viewing the spectrum of possibilities...I genuinely don't know the answer, but I am thrilled to be alive at a time when humanity is pushing against the limits of understanding. Even better, we may eventually discover that there are no limits."