

Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors
Monday January 7, 2008, 7pm, EWEB Community Room

Present: Diane Albino, Danya Ariel, Katie Cousins, Paxton Hoag, Lara Howe, Jack Makarchek, Deane Morrow, Joseph Newton and Palmer Parker (alternates), Carl Taylor, Lawrence Taylor, Bear Wilner-Nugent.

Announcements

Barbara said there's a great opportunity for someone else to be the next Recording Secretary as she is retiring from the post after the Fair. She said it's a wonderful way to serve the Board and the membership. Send a letter of interest to the Board if you want to apply.

Bear said the annual meeting to approve the budget is Monday, January 28 at 7pm at Central Presbyterian Church.

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

Palmer encouraged volunteerism at Project Homeless Connect to be held at the Lane County Fairgrounds on Thursday, Feb. 7 from 9am-3pm. Info, donation, and volunteer sign up at www.homelessconnect.org.

Joseph and Paxton felt they should disclose that they have participated in tallying VQ survey results and have been paid by the Fair for their work. (*The Fair paid an established piece rate to all who worked on that project.*)

Approval of Minutes

Lara moved and Carl seconded to approve the minutes of the December 2007 Board meeting. The motion passed: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions (Lawrence and Paxton).

Member Input

Chris Browne (Elder) read a letter he wrote after talking with folks concerned about the status of their Vision Quest proposals. They hope project selections will be made "as soon as possible so that the projects chosen can begin positive planning."

Madge Hutchinson introduced herself as "new to the Family" since marrying her husband, Ethan (Pre-Post Security). She requested the Fair consider setting aside space for a "clean and sober campsite." She has been in recovery for 16 years and knows people who won't come to the Fair for fear of jeopardizing their recovery. She knows "something like this could take some time but the first step is to ask." Ethan said this is "an issue near and dear to my heart." His campground used to be "out in the boonies" but now feels like "a booming metropolis." He said he has "come to know a lot of people who would appreciate the option."

Staff and Officer Reports

General Manager: Leslie thanked Hilary for "pulling the VQ requests together." She said "we're closer than we were on putting projects in context" and told Chris they "don't mean to be ignoring" the proposals. She thanked Andyman for installing an energy-efficient dishwasher in the town kitchen and doing other kitchen repairs. She thanked Robin, Charlie Zennache and his daughter Katie Rose for organizing the upstairs office space so "we can now hold small meetings upstairs." She met with Lara Howe and Sue Kesey to "work through the Community Village food booth selection process to everyone's satisfaction." She said the "pass through partnership with Springfield Creamery on our Peach Power project" was completed and she deposited a check for \$6847 in

December. She said there was a delay on the installation of the OCF posters at Fifth Street Public Market but they should finally be in place by the end of January.

Administrative Assistant: norma started by wishing a happy birthday to Hilary on Jan. 11 and said Holiday Market was “great fun. We made \$940 selling shirts, sarongs, and other Fair commemorative items.” She thanked Robin, Leslie, Charlie, Chelsea, Katie Rose, and Katie Cousins who all helped staff the table. She worked on putting the endowment applications on the website. Grants are available for schools and non-profits in the Fern Ridge area. The Jill Heiman Vision Fund applications are also online and “by the time you read this, the craft applications will be online too.” She has been working on editing the Guidelines. Soon she’ll work on the databases for craft and food booth links. She also thanked Andyman for all his work on the kitchen and thanked Robin for helping put the kitchen back together.

Office Assistant: Robin said the phones are “ringing a lot more already. It’s a new year and the Fair is coming!”

Site Manager: Steve W. talked about the rain, saying “it’s raining now, it’s been raining a lot, and the site is flooded.” The Long Tom River gage on Tuesday Dec. 4 after the last Board meeting and “after several very stormy days, topped out at over 16 feet and site flooding occurs at 10 feet.” He said the flood that day was as high as he’s ever seen it, and that means “if you left anything in your booth or camp that could float, it’s now somewhere downstream.” He reported that Jeff Johnson aka Animal had his second eye operation and it was very successful. He thanked everyone who contributed. You can check the river gage at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv?14166500>.

Assistant Manager: Charlie said he “went out at year’s end and took readings on the new solar array. In the last six months with 1826 hours of daylight operation we have generated 971 kw hours of electricity, roughly equating to 1893 pounds of carbon offset.” (*applause and whistles*)

Treasurers: Hilary said budgets will be presented at the Jan. 19 Coordinators’ Potluck. The Board meeting to approve the budget will be Jan. 28 (7pm, Central Presbyterian Church). That meeting will start with questions and comments then proceed to a vote on the operating budgets. The Treasurers will present capital projects requests at the March Board meeting.

President: Jack wished everyone a Happy New Year and “great ’08.” He thanked the Board and said the Vision Quest effort was “a great platform to work off of.” He thinks a lot will be accomplished this year for “the benefit of the Fair and the community at large.” He talked about people “evolving to a higher quality state of mind” and how that can translate to “a change in regime.” He talked about the importance of the “get out the vote” effort and is proud the Fair is part of that. He was pleased to report that Monty’s recovery is going well. At Fair time “bring your friends and buy a ticket; sneaking in is not acceptable.”

Committee Reports

Elders Committee: Chris Browne read a report from the Dec. 20 meeting where they approved another application and briefly reviewed their budget request before devoting the rest of the evening to having a good time and enjoying a potluck.

Path Planning Committee: Chris Browne read a report from the Dec. 16 meeting that included reports on several current projects: they are learning available options for posting information on the OCF websites and plan to work with Site Management to accomplish this; they are gathering more recent maps of the grounds and latest information concerning zoning uses and restrictions; they took a walkabout on the Fair site; and they reviewed the LUMP manual and decided that “to accomplish any meaningful goals the Committee needs to work in concert with the LUMP Committee and any and all affected persons that future plans and changes will affect.” They

worked with Site Management to identify four areas of immediate concern due to flooding erosion. They elected Dennis Todd and Colleen Bauman to serve as co-chairs of the Committee. Anyone wishing more detailed accounts of their meetings may contact committee secretary Lara Howe. Their next meeting is at noon on January 20 at the Hub Yurt.

Peach Power Committee: Anna Scott said the Committee reviewed their proposed budget and draft plans for water conservation and energy efficiency projects. She talked about a concern from LUMP for planetary health. She said it's time "to be present, to have your feet on the ground." She said the toughest ideas to sell are efficiency and conservation and "it's not over, we've just begun." Their next meeting is Jan. 28 at 5pm at the town office.

Old Business

Consider Donation to Bringing Back the Bow

Deane moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board donate \$1000 from the Board donation budget to Bringing Back the Bow.

Background: Jack Holthaus, president of the organization, said Dewey County in North Dakota is "one of the poorest in the US" and that he and a group of other volunteers do this work because "languages and skills are being lost." He talked about the importance of the pride that is attached to "producing something lost in your culture." He showed pictures of the land where they teach others to make their own bows and said it's a "good opportunity to bring people together." Other skills taught are horseback riding and archery.

Peach Gallery: Hilary asked if they are a 501c3 (yes) and commented that the usual donation amount used to be \$500 and she noticed it's been increasing. She said, "If \$1000 is to be the new norm you can only give to half as many organizations." Anna Scott asked the Board to consider four questions: would this donation benefit cultural trusts in Oregon; what donations have already been made to local tribes; do native cultures in our area use this technology; and how does this relate to the OCF mission statement?

Board: Lawrence said it's "important not to be too parochial in our vision." He spoke of zen archery and the importance of language preservation and said "we have to start thinking of things differently." Deane voiced support and Joseph said, "Historic moments only come now and then, we have a chance to celebrate the Lakota Nation's declaration on December 20 of a complete break with the United States." Bear said he'd vote for it "by the barest of margins" but that he is also concerned about the donation size. **Lara suggested a friendly amendment to change the amount to \$500 and Bear seconded. The motion failed: 6 in favor (it takes 7) and 4 opposed (Deane, Diane, Jack, Lawrence).** Paxton said part of our mission statement is to help create magical events but "\$1000 is too much, especially for out of the area." Diane remarked that we gave money for the Chataugua trip to New Orleans and she supports the motion because it's about preserving arts and culture. Palmer asked Mr. Holthaus how he thought of asking the Fair for a donation and he talked about going to the Fair and meeting some people who suggested it. Carl said he'd be more comfortable with \$500 but it "seems like a good thing to do for the youth." Danya doesn't "mind the distance or the amount, just the two combined," better that the larger amounts go to local groups.

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

Appoint Main Stage Co-Coordinator

Bear moved and Carl seconded that the Board appoint Brian Keogh as Main Stage Co-Coordinator.

Background: Tia Christiansen resigned to take a full-time job as a general manager for a California arts festival.

Peach Gallery: Leslie thanked current Co-Coordinator David Paul and said, “We are so lucky and so excited to have Brian join him.”

Board: Lara thanked retiring Co-Coordinator Tia Christiansen. Palmer got a laugh when he told David, “You better not train Brian as well as you trained Tia.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor, 0 opposed.

Appointments to Personnel and Peach Power Committees

Paxton moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board appoint Anna Scott to the Personnel Committee. Lara moved and Palmer seconded that the Board appoint Anna Scott to the Peach Power Committee. *Background:* Anna was on both Committees when she was on the Board but needed to be re-appointed since her term ended.

Both motions passed: 10 in favor, 0 opposed.

Men’s Retreat

Katie moved and Jack seconded that the Board allocate \$3500 from the change line item in the 2007 budget for a Men’s Retreat to be held onsite May 17-18 for a maximum of 30 adult males and to be conducted by David Hatfield. *Background:* This discussion began at last month’s meeting and was tabled. Tonight Katie reworded the motion to include more details.

Peach Gallery: Hilary said “it’s 2008 and a new budget year” then repeated her concerns from last month about gender equity. She also asked, “Why are we paying? Why not ask participants to pay?” She said, “I’m not trying to say this isn’t valuable but I want it developed alongside a reciprocal female program.” Both Steve W. and Andy supported the workshop idea in theory but Steve said there would be operational expenses and asked where that money would come from if the amount suggested only covers the cost of the facilitator. Andy said he “could see things like this in the future but I’d rather see that amount of money put into bricks and mortar” for a space that could be rented out. He said, “We shouldn’t get in the habit of paying for people to hold events onsite.” Leslie supports the idea and remembered feminist consciousness-raising groups in the sixties and said the impact “is hard to grasp if you haven’t benefited from these types of groups.” She said it’s important to remember “it *is* the intention to repeat this for women and girls.” She talked about the benefit of bringing David in “to be a part of our community” and she described his workshops by saying “this is his *art*.” Anna “feels good about this” and said the membership asked for other events but she asked to hear from males on the Board. Charlie said it’s important “to keep having discussion and find ways to make this sort of thing happen. It addresses a cultural need that has been overlooked.”

Board: Carl said he’s not ready to spend \$3500 and May is “probably not a great time because the Fair is in clean-up mode.” Lawrence said men need more help than women (he paraphrased Margaret Mead who talked about the “cultural difficulty in figuring out what to do with the young men,”) but he agreed with “the practical concerns that have been raised.” Joseph said with “all the contemplative ability within our organization we should create a program out of our own structure.” Danya asked if this would be David’s program on our land or our program facilitated by David. He’d like participants to pay and suggested scholarships, noting “even Culture Jam pays.” He said it would be nice to have a men’s workshop followed by one for women, then something that brings the two groups together. Diane said, “If we’re trying to raise consciousness we need at least 300 participants to make a dent” and added that “we women used to sit around and talk and we

didn't need a facilitator." Palmer said change happens "one person at a time." Lara said these retreats can be "life-changing" but suggested Katie take into account what people said and "come back with a fuller proposal." Jack said the "message in my mind about being male is very confused. Most of my youth wasn't pretty. It would be a struggle for me to go to one of these, but a start is a start. It just happens that a woman Board member is making the proposal, one who is fiscally conservative, and somehow in my deep conflicted state I think that means something. It will take a leap of faith but I'm willing to take it." Katie said her intent was to "utilize the excess from the 2007 budget" and she wanted to make this retreat affordable for Fair family although a "nominal registration fee could be assessed to cover costs over and above the allocated amount." She also suggested that having an event for men "doesn't preclude similar events for women." She noted that it is "not the norm for men to come together and talk about what it means to be a man in our society." She thinks workshops like this could ultimately "make it more difficult to recruit men to kill each other. Nothing needs to be changed more profoundly than that."

The motion failed: 3 in favor, 7 opposed (Bear, Carl, Danya, Diane, Lara, Lawrence, Paxton).

Allow Internet Committee to Record Board Meetings

Joseph moved and Deane seconded that the Board authorize the Internet Committee to make audio tapes of the Board meetings and to experiment with those recordings towards the end of making such recordings available to the membership.

Peach Gallery: Steve W. said recording is one thing but it should be "a conscious decision when to go to broadcasting."

Board: Palmer asked if the Committee would consider putting a time limit on the experimentation and report back to the Board at the end of that time. Joseph said he'd consider anything. Carl asked for an explanation of "experimenting." Joseph said it involves figuring out how to make the recordings available, downloadable, and eventually how people could participate. Danya asked to have the motion read again and wanted to clarify that this motion only allows the Committee to record the meetings but that they would need to approach the Board again to actually broadcast them. Joseph and Deane said yes. Bear asked if they would incorporate that as a friendly amendment (yes) and said "**the new motion would include the requirement that the Board vote to authorize any publishing or website distribution of such recordings.**" Joseph and Deane said they don't see this motion as approval to broadcast but to "experiment and play" with the eventual goal being able to make the meetings more accessible to the membership. Deane said it's his goal to make it "so that folks can sit at home and listen to the meeting. Sure you can read the minutes, but it's not the same thing." Paxton said you have to "practice under real live conditions and see what works and what doesn't" and he figured the process could take 6-12 months. Bear said "the potential audience is probably low but transparency is important." Jack said the recordings "are entrusted to the Secretary and are available for the public to hear." He said the motion is unnecessary because "everything is in place" if the Internet Committee works with the Secretary. He said at Board meetings of some other organizations every board member has a microphone and an on/off switch, and added, "I would want the right to not be broadcast if I felt like it." Lara asked why they couldn't just practice and experiment with a recording of anything. Paxton said the "current recorder saves files in a proprietary format" and that they need to try several different formats and are "not ready to specify what equipment yet." Danya said since the Committee uses different technology than the Recording Secretary he doesn't see a problem with letting them experiment.

The motion passed: 10 in favor, 0 opposed.

Implementing Food Ballot Measure

Joseph moved and Deane seconded that the Board request feedback and input from the Food Committee, food vendors, and our crew kitchens on what we can do to move toward greater use of local and organic foods.

Peach Gallery: Anna said since the motion is “about something the membership already voted on, it seems redundant.” Leslie said the motion voted on by the membership stated food “sold at the Fair” as opposed to “served at the Fair” and wondered why this motion included the Fair’s own kitchens. Steve W. said a motion was passed years ago when Jim Sahr was a Board member that said all the Fair, not just food booths, should “think local first when making purchasing decisions. So we have a policy already.”

Board: Bear said this motion “could use more cooking before being served.” Lara doesn’t want “to put any more on our food vendors” because of all they have already done with recycling and durable flatware. Carl said a requirement to go organic could be very expensive. Bear said he doesn’t see this as a requirement; the motion only asks for feedback. Deane said people should be able to decide whether to pay more at an organic booth. Lawrence said it’s “a motion in search of a policy” although he would like for food booths to make available “the nature and source of their ingredients.” Joseph said it’s “basically just a motion to ask for information about how this would affect them.” Jack said ‘organic’ and ‘local’ are two separate things. He said, “Does local have priority even if it’s not organic? Truth in labeling would be nice but we can’t spring that on people overnight.” Paxton thinks of this more as “an educational measure and some food booths probably don’t even know this was voted on” by the membership.

The motion failed: 2 in favor, 8 opposed (Bear, Carl, Danya, Deane, Jack, Katie, Lara, Lawrence).

Consider Guidelines Amendments

These ten proposed Guidelines amendments will be voted on at the February meeting:

1. (replace paragraph in section 79 page 29) An approved method of wastewater disposal must be provided. Please check the condition of the dry-well in your booth. Inadequate or failed dry wells create unpleasant and unsanitary conditions. The construction desk at main camp has several designs for approved gray-water disposal and an approved methodology for renewal of disposal sumps. Approved gravel fill for sumps will be provided by the OCF. Check with Archaeology before you dig or renew a gray-water well.

2. (*addition in italics* to section 6 page 3) Most essential systems of this operation, including Booth Registration, VegManECs (vegetation management), Quartermaster, *Archaeology* and Construction, are located in Main Camp.

3. (*addition in italics* to section 44 page 16) No brush cutting *or digging* is allowed.

4. (replace paragraph in section 37 pages 13/14) The OCF property is the home of many important archaeological sites, some of which are protected by the laws of the State of Oregon. Because archaeological sites are non-renewable resources, ground disturbance on known archeological sites is prohibited without a state issued permit. Beyond the legal restrictions and supporting our Leave No Trace policy (post-holes can be traced for 5000 years), digging is controlled across the entire Oregon Country Fair property. All ground disturbing activities must be planned with the Site Manager and Archaeology Crew before such activity is begun. Violations may result in disciplinary action that may include probation, suspension, or expulsion. Replacement of existing in-ground structures (e.g. posts and gray water wells) requires consultation with the

Archaeology Crew. Such activities also require consultation with Construction (see Guidelines section 56 – General Construction Requirements and section 79- Sanitation).

5. (addition to section 3 page 2, section 5 page 3, possibly section 50 page 19) No one under the age of 18 is eligible to purchase or receive an SOP.

6. (addition to General Information between 17, Water and 18, Security) The first reads: Grid Electricity. Grid power from Emerald Peoples Utility District delivered to the Fair is for designated uses only. Connections to booths, camps and RVs will not be permitted.

7. (addition to “Camping at the Fair” section) Sound Amplification at the Fair. Because we camp so close together, amplified sound, whether live or recorded, projected beyond the intended audience creates problems for other Fair members. If you’re going to crank it up, please be sensitive to the surrounding impacts on live acoustic musicians, exhausted kids and parents trying to sleep, and fair workers with early morning shifts. Camphosts, Coordinators, booth reps and campers are encouraged to develop and negotiate neighborhood agreements before the Fair regarding sound levels and noise curfews.

8. (addition to section 22 page 7, section 50 page 19, section 5 page 3) Youth, 18 and under, found by fair leadership unsupervised or in unsafe situations will result in a 1-year suspension of the responsible adult listed with the youths pass. Further incidents involving youth and the same adult will result in a permanent suspension of the adult from the OCF.

9. (change *in italics* to inside front cover) The OCF depends on the work of hundreds of dedicated volunteers *whose work is supported* by six employees.

10. (addition to inside front cover, insert between paragraphs 2&3) We seek to carry out our purpose in ways that address the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. By attending to the long-term health and vitality – cultural, economic, environmental and social – of our community, we strive to sustain, celebrate and preserve, the past, present and future of our joyous event and happy family.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm. The next Board meeting is the annual meeting to approve the budget at 7pm, Monday, January 28 at Central Presbyterian Church. The next regular monthly Board meeting is Monday February 4, 2008 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; Toilets and Handwashing (Deane, tabled from December); Consider Guidelines Amendments; Consider Donation to Yachats Community Health Center (Joseph); Clarify Second Sabbatical/PPP (Jack); Adopt Vision Quest Report (Bear); as well as the following new business: Consider Donation to Community Veterinary Center (Jack). Dropped from the agenda: Community Village Food Booth Policy.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks her lucky stars she ran into Jen-lin at the 2003 Holiday Market and decided to apply to be the next Recording Secretary. I’ll be the Recording Secretary through the 2008 Fair but someone new will start in August. At that time, I will have had this job for four years and four months and it feels right to give someone else the opportunity. Someone out there reading, this is perfect for you. It’s a chance to be involved with the Fair year round and to work with a lot of wonderful people. It’s a chance to learn a great deal about the Fair as more than just a three-day event. Sure it takes some time, but probably not as much as most people think.. and besides, you get a rhythm to it. It helps if you’re organized, have good language skills, and have a computer/e-mail. If you’d like to apply, send a letter of interest to the Board. If you want to ask me a question, send me a letter through the office or e-mail me at farouthippie@msn.com.

