

**Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors**  
**Monday February 4, 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.

**Agenda Review**

*Tonight's meeting was a little different in structure so the minutes will be too. The annual Board meeting to approve the budget was scheduled for Jan. 28 but was canceled due to snow. So the budget discussion was folded into tonight's meeting and most of the regular agenda was tabled until March. We didn't have the usual reports from committees, staff, and officers. Other than one donation request and member input, the agenda was limited to approving the budget and considering the Guidelines revisions.*

*And, dear readers, in case you missed it in last month's minutes, let me repeat one of January's announcements for you: 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.*

**Approval of Minutes**

Joseph moved and Lawrence seconded to approve the minutes of the January 2008 Board meeting. The motion passed: 10 in favor, 0 opposed.

**Member Input**

Reggie Soto (Traffic Crew) suggested a plan to eliminate the "space problem" by having "our side" of the river be for Fair Family only and have buses and the public enter and park on the Far Side. He suggested building bridges across the river. Joseph invited him to attend a LUMP meeting.

John Flanery (Community Village) said he initiated the food ballot measure on last October's ballot. He wants the Board to act on the issue. He said there is a process for the Board to get input from the membership and that "if there's a process you should listen to it." He suggested a good place to start would be to gather information by asking food booths to figure out how much money they spend on organic/non-organic, local/non-local foods.

**Leslie Read a Letter**

**General Manager:** *(Leslie read a letter she delivered to the Board earlier in the day. As soon as she started reading, the room got real quiet.)* She said, "There is a great peace that comes in knowing when in one's life it is time to make a change, even when that change brings with it a sense of enormous loss and uncertainty. There is a place in one's heart and soul that speaks only when we are still enough to hear, a place of great wisdom and authenticity. It is rare that I quiet myself enough to listen to that voice, but it has been whispering to me ceaselessly for some months now though I have managed to silence its counsel. Events of recent weeks, both outrageously affirming and deeply painful, have turned that voice from a whisper to a roar. I am ready to move on and away from what has been the greatest joy, the greatest challenge, and ultimately the greatest teacher of my life, the community known as the Oregon Country Fair. I am moving toward a life that prioritizes

family and friends long neglected, a life that is calling to me to reclaim its self, to laugh and sing, and dance and swim, to care for my health and to feed my spirit; to a life that explores a different kind of work with a different group of colleagues, and in support of a shared vision with my life partner Charlie. I am committed to being fully present during this time of change, to facilitating as smooth a transition as possible, and am genuinely excited by the opportunities it presents in both my life and the Fair's. It has been the deepest honor and privilege to serve you, to work along side you, to walk the talk with you, and to help fling a few new doors open along the way. May we always and forever say YES! YES! YES! to one another and to this achingly beautiful world. I love you, no matter where this life takes us, Across the Universe.

*(As you can imagine, Leslie got hugs and a standing ovation. This is not an immediate departure. She will stay with us through the 2008 Fair and help to transition in her replacement.)*

### **Site and Committee Reports**

*Although no other reports were on the agenda, Chris Browne turned in two written reports from the Elders Committee and Path Planning, and Steve turned in a written site report so here's a summary of those.* Steve reported, "January was an active weather month on the Fair site. We experienced several more floods, a week-long cold snap with nighttime temps into the teens, then several snowy days (estimated total 6-8"). Thanks to the efforts of AndyMan, Jeff Johnson and "Parrot" Mike, we saved the roof tarp structures over the screenhouse at Alice's and over Jill's Crossing from collapse under the snowload. Thanks also to the dedicated Fair volunteers who came out for the Highway Pickup on Jan. 20. We welcome visitors: the floodplain is closed to vehicles, park at the Hub or the Warehouse, kneeboots recommended, canoes are available if the site is flooded, call 541-935-7846 for info."

Chris reported: When the Elders met in January they discussed "the process for Elders to phase out of their current work locations" while remaining active in the Fair. They are compiling a list of "possible interim jobs that should address the needs of Elders in the future." Their next meeting is at the town office on Feb. 28 at 7pm. At the January meeting of Path Planning several topics were discussed including the need to work with Booth Registration "to help address the problems with booths lost due to flooding and the need to develop more one-year-only booths." They looked at scale models of "light weight movable structures to allow more juried crafters a chance to display their crafts." They learned about land use restrictions and said all Fair property bought before 1989 falls under a non-conforming land use permit and is broken down into five operational zones: operations, camping, open spaces, activity, and parking. Their next meeting is at the Hub Yurt on Feb. 17 at noon.

### **Approve the 2008 Budget**

**Jack moved and Palmer seconded that the Board accept the 2008 Crew budgets of \$567,432 as proposed by the Treasurers and Budget Committee.**

**Jack moved and Carl seconded that the Board accept the 2008 Board of Directors budget of \$85,050 as proposed by the Treasurers and Budget Committee.**

**Jack moved and Bear seconded that the Board accept the 2008 General Manager budget of \$539,930 as proposed by the Treasurers and Budget Committee.**

**Jack moved and Paxton seconded that the Board accept the 2008 Site Manager budget of \$71,500 as proposed by the Treasurers and Budget Committee.**

**Jack moved and Palmer seconded that the Board accept the 2008 Administrative Assistant budget of \$31,450 as proposed by the Treasurers and Budget Committee.**

**Jack moved and Carl seconded that the Board accept the 2008 Culture Jam budget of \$37,650 as proposed by the Treasurers and Budget Committee.**

**Bear moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board accept the 2008 miscellaneous property expenses budget of \$5,000 as proposed by the Treasurers and Budget Committee.**

*Background:* The total 2008 budget proposed was \$1,388,012 but the Board added \$3,000 so the final total budget approved by the Board was \$1,391,012. It includes 14 pages of line items detailing the vast array of expenditures from Admissions to Zenn Acres, from property taxes and postage, to toilets and tree equipment, to food vouchers and first aid. The additional \$3,000 added during discussion is for the 'toilets' line item #37 in the GM budget, changing it from the proposed \$60,000 to the approved \$63,000.

*Board and Peach Gallery:* (There was discussion between each motion, but for the minutes I'm consolidating, so here's just a sampling of the comments.) Palmer thanked the Treasurers and Budget Committee for all their work and said he wouldn't have the patience for that kind of detail. Steve suggested that the Board and Budget Committee consider basing the cost of vehicle stickers on the size of the vehicle, charging more for the RVs that "more and more Fair folk are using, and that are creating parking space problems in Crafts Lot and the Far Side." He also said the mystery of why toilet paper disappeared last year and why some porta-potties were overloaded, is that campers (*that means us, folks*) are pooping in buckets in their camps and booths, then transporting those buckets and dumping the contents in porta-potties, making "the norovirus implications staggering." He said there are appropriate devices at REI but he would accept people using them only on a pack it in pack it out basis, and "leaving those buckets behind after the Fair for Recycling and Site Staff to find and deal with is totally unacceptable." Paxton said our surveys indicate the public wait longer for toilets than anything else. Palmer suggested more signs encouraging people to knock on doors, many long lines can speed up that way. Leslie said Culture Jam goes to eight days this year, "true to the Power of Hope model" on which CJ is based. Joseph asked how we could "expand the capacity of CJ because it's so valuable." Bear drew applause when he nodded to Danya and said now we have a Culture Jam alumnus on the Board. Grumpy said the budget is 'in the red' but that could change next month if the Board approves less than the proposed \$50,000 in capital projects expenditures which is on the agenda for the March meeting.

**All the motions passed: 10 in favor, 0 opposed** (*in the case of the GM budget, it was the amended motion with the additional \$3,000 that passed.*)

### **Consider Donation to Yachats Community Health Clinic**

**Joseph moved and Lara seconded that the Board donate \$500 from the Board donation budget to the Yachats Community Health Clinic.**

*Background:* Caroline Baumann made the trek from Yachats to speak to the Board about the work of the "non-profit independent health clinic." She talked about the connection between Yachats and the Fair, the fact that many craftspeople live there and the Board often holds its yearly retreat there. The clinic's letter to the Board described the work they do, "providing medical care and health education to residents of all ages in the medically underserved rural area of Yachats and nearby communities.... We strive to provide the most comprehensive health care possible to all of our patients so they do not have to travel great distances to obtain basic medical services. A growing segment of our population is elderly. The difficult winter months can result in road closures on Highway 101, which is our lifeline." Donations to the clinic can be sent to P.O. Box 271, Yachats OR 97498.

*Peach Gallery:* Leslie said the clinic is “an amazing resource that serves a wide area of the coast.” Barbara said it’s “a wonderful thing that the clinic accepts new patients regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.”

*Board:* Joseph said it’s important that the clinic serves the poor, and Deane thanked Caroline for the clinic’s work.

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

### **Consider Guidelines Amendments**

These ten proposed Guidelines amendments were announced last month and scheduled for discussion and voting tonight:

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. **Bear moved and Lara seconded to approve guideline amendment #1.** Joseph and Lara both spoke of the importance of impressing upon people the need to always get permission before digging. Grumpy suggested adding *and Quartermaster* after the word Archaeology; this was accepted as a friendly amendment. **The amended motion passed: 10 in favor, 0 opposed**

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. **Lara moved and Joseph seconded to approve guideline amendment #2. The motion passed: 10 in favor, 0 opposed**

3. (*addition in italics* to section 44 page 16) No brush cutting *or digging* is allowed. **Lawrence moved and Lara seconded to approve guideline amendment #3. The motion passed: 10 in favor, 0 opposed**

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). **Lara moved and Carl seconded to approve guideline amendment #4.** Grumpy didn’t see a reason to replace what’s already in the Guidelines, saying the one that’s there “says it better and shorter.” Steve said this gives an “explanation of the archaeological reasons for our ‘no digging’ rules.” Jack said we need “enforcement language, something like multiple violations warrant probation.” Carl said it’s necessary to give the Archaeology Crew “the teeth they need to do their job.” Diane suggested “kicking this back” to DJ and Virgil and tabling until March. Lara and Danya agreed. **The motion was tabled.**

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. **Bear moved and someone seconded to approve guideline amendment #5.** Bear suggested changing it to read “**No one who will be under 18 during the 3-day event is eligible to purchase or receive an SOP**” which was accepted. Leslie said there should be no unattached minors, that anyone under 18 should have a teen pass rather than a significant other pass, and that this is “necessary for risk management.” Peggy Kay Fitzgerald (Internet Committee) asked how this would affect married minors such as an 18-year-old husband bringing his 17-year-old wife. Leslie said there is a process for talking to your Coordinator about being “the exception to the rule.” **The amended motion passed: 10 in favor, 0 opposed.**

6. (addition to General Information between 17, Water and 18, Security) 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. **Bear moved and Lawrence seconded to approve guideline amendment #6.** There was a bit of discussion and **they decided to add the word ‘unauthorized’ before the word ‘connections’.** Randy Nowell (Veg-Man-Ec) asked about Alter-Able and Elder campgrounds and Steve said that’s “part of designated uses.” Steve talked about someone in an RV plugging into the Hub shop building and tripping all the circuit breakers, including the Main Camp Kitchen walk-in cooler, and said “We have to control this.” Paxton said there are alter-abled people who need to plug into the solar wagon (Steve said that’s authorized) and that one of the vision quest proposals was for “electric Fair vehicles powered by the solar array and allowing other people to plug in as well.” **The amended motion passed: 9 in favor, 1 opposed (Paxton).**

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. **Bear moved and Joseph seconded to approve guideline amendment #7.** Grumpy questioned the phrase ‘projected beyond the intended audience’ and got a laugh when he said, “If I’m an asshole I’ll argue my intended audience is the whole Fair.” Bear said, “You’ve persuaded me” and accepted deleting that phrase. Jonathan Serphim (Pre-Fair Kitchen) said most of the Fair should be acoustic but that we need to find a place where amplified music is allowed. Andy said the phrase ‘if you’re going to crank it up’ invites people to do so and said we need to preserve our acoustic ability. Steve said the revision relates to campers, not entertainers. Jack said he “has a hard time with this.” Lawrence supports “the pastoral feel” and said we need “alternatives to the industrial world.” Joseph said maybe a few words need changing but that Steve, on behalf of the Management Team, has asked for something like this for several years. Paxton said Fair acoustic musicians are sometimes drowned out by Crew parties. Diane supports omitting ‘intended audience’ and said she liked it better before the Spirit Tower and the Front Porch became amplified. Jonathan Seraphim said the drums used to go Thursday – Sunday non-stop and “we don’t come to the Fair for a good night’s sleep.” **The amended motion passed: 8 in favor, 2 opposed (Carl, Jack)**

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. **Lara moved and Danya seconded to approve guideline amendment #8.** Lara authored this amendment and feels it is necessary

because of reports received by the Board from the BUMS. They kicked around word changes a bit and decided on the following: **Youth, 17 and under, determined by Fair management to be in unsafe situations or in violations of the Guidelines will result in a 1-year suspension of the responsible adult listed with the youth's pass. Further incidents involving youth and the same adult will result in a permanent suspension of the adult from the OCF.**" Joseph supports the idea but thinks it's already covered in the Guidelines. Lawrence said, "Hard cases make bad law." He said different levels of supervision are necessary for different ages and it "looks like policy with operational details attached." Jack said it misses the point because underage drinking is a issue and this skirts it without actually mentioning it. Bear disagreed with Lawrence and thinks it's all policy and said we need flexibility and shouldn't have a "one penalty fits all" policy. Diane thinks people need to get the message that they are responsible for the youth they bring. Grumpy agreed. Leslie said this "is about safety and legality" and suggested "nailing this language down so it's very clear." norma said it's important to not only put this language in the Guidelines but also on the form that is signed by the adult applying for the youth pass. **The amended motion was tabled.**

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. *(The Board determined this is not a change that requires a vote.)*

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. **Lawrence moved and Katie seconded to approve guideline amendment #10.** Bear said he likes the sentiment but it "rehashes the statement of intent." Palmer said it has "too many words and sounds like the beginning of a Star Trek episode." Jack and Grumpy agreed. Katie said even she didn't particularly support the revision but seconded "to move the conversation along." Bear interpreted this as a withdrawal of her second, declared **the motion failed for lack of a second**, and adjourned the meeting. (Revision #16 was submitted as a rewritten and amended version of revision #10.)

### Six More Revisions

Six more Guidelines revisions came in too late for last month's minutes. Here they are, to be discussed and voted on in March:

11. (section 56, third paragraph, addition in italics) Do not use *pressure treated* lumber or lumber treated with penta or creosote – both substances are highly toxic. (deletion in italics) *Copper naphthanate may be used as a preservative.*

12. (section 56, eighth paragraph, addition in italics) walls dismantled, properly stored *and tied down*; also, change 'property' to 'properly'.

13. (section 58, second paragraph, addition in italics) The OCF does not permit *visible pressure treated materials*, plywood, lattice...

14. (section 59, second paragraph, addition in italics) *Stairs are discouraged but if used must also be removable.* All ladders *or stairs* must be removed from the site *or fastened* to the lofts.

15. (section 59, third paragraph) Remove word 'either' so sentence reads: All posts for lofts shall be on pier pads *with* straps. Delete the words 'or pressure treated' from second sentence.

16. (inside front cover under statement of intent or new section under stewardship) Part of living authentically is to become ever more mindful of our impact on the planet. The OCF is committee to restoring and sustaining the health of our natural ecosystems, our local economies, and

the well being of all the communities we are a part of. By continuing to reduce, reuse and recycle, as well as advancing new strategies to realize our vision, we can create healthy communities while exploring new paths to stepping more lightly on the earth. By working to balance our cultural, economic, environmental, and social needs, we celebrate both our incredible diversity and our most fundamental shared values.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm. The next Board meeting is Monday March 3, 2008 at 7pm at the EWEB Training Center. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues – Capital Projects Requests; Consider Donation to Community Veterinary Center (Jack); Consider Donation for Climate Impact Study (Jack); Consider Donation to Idlewild Festival (Joseph); Consider Donation to Take Back Our America (Bear); Set November 2008 meeting date; Clarify Second Sabbatical/PPP (Jack); Adopt Vision Quest Report (Bear); Groundskeeper Job Description; Elders Committee Appointments (Deane); Consider Guidelines Revisions numbers 4, 8, and 11-16. Dropped from the agenda: Deane's motion on Toilets and Handwashing because his concerns were dealt with during budget discussions.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Leslie Scott for the following quote (*from the 2003 Peach Pit*): "It is an incredible gift, this coming together once a year on the banks of the Long Tom, to rejuvenate the spirit, open the heart, awaken the imagination. The days of the Fair are both a respite from, and an antidote to, the pandemic social, ecological and political stresses of our communities and our planet. .... We don't pretend to have answers. Our job is to fling open the doors of perception and walk with you into the questions: Can we dream more, inspire the life of a child, fight for wonder and a world of creativity? ..... As the poet Rumi says, 'There's a community of the spirit here, join it and feel the delight of walking in the noisy street *and being the noise*' .... Come be the change, make the noise, join us."