

**Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors Meeting  
August 3, 2009; 7pm in the EWEB Community Room**

**Present:** Diane Albino, Danya Ariel, John "Chewie" Burgess (co-facilitator), Katie Cousins, Paxton Hoag, Jack Makarchek, Deane Morrow, Joseph Newton (alternate), Indigo Ronlov (co-facilitator), Anna Scott, Jon Silvermoon (alternate), Lawrence "LT" Taylor

**Agenda Review**

Grievance Crew creation was dropped (Jack); Charge the Executive Director to develop a framework for an organizational capabilities study was tabled (Joseph); an emergency budget request for rain damage repair (Steve, site manager) was placed under Budget Issues business.

**LT moved, Anna seconded, to move setting of the September Board meeting date from new business to old.** The motion passed 10-0.

Deane added three proposed motions about elder helper-friend passes to new business. Jon added Clarification of the Board motion establishing the Elder Pass to new business.

**Announcements**

Deadline for candidate statement publication for the 2009 Board election is August 31. Membership registration deadline in order to vote in the Board election is September 17. The Annual Meeting and Board election is on October 17, 6:30pm at the Knights of Pythias Hall. (Bill, Jen-Lin)

The Emerald Valley Time Exchange has been in operation for 6 months, has about 50 members and has exchanged over 400 hours. People are encouraged to contact [emeraldvalleytimeexchange.org](http://emeraldvalleytimeexchange.org) for activities such as child care, yard work, house cleaning and pet care. (Indigo)

The Teddy Bear picnic is August 22 and the Evaluation meeting is August 23 at the Fair site. (norma)

The OCF will not be entered in the Eugene Celebration parade this year. (norma)

An interfaith prayer and reflection service is held on the 11th of each month at the First Christian Church, 11th and Oak. (Joseph)

Nearby Nature is holding a garden grand opening celebration at Alton Baker Park on August 22, noon to 3pm. (Danya)

**Approval of Minutes**

**Katie moved, Diane seconded, to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2009 meeting of the Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors as submitted.** The motion passed 8-0 (Chewie and Indigo abstained)

**Member Input**

Jon Pincus (elder) asked why we won't have an entry in the Eugene Celebration parade this year. Norma and Steve said there was no response when the call went out for participants and organizers.

Kay Kintzley (elder camp host) introduced herself and said she knows almost everyone of you and loves almost every one of you. She said "I had a fantastic Fair and want to thank everybody because we are a huge family of volunteers and volunteerism is a dying art and there are many many worthy causes that pull at our hearts and pull at our time. Those in this room represent our family and we come with a happy heart and we come to be part of something really special. I want to thank all of you who made this Fair special for me and special for you and I want to remind you that one of the things that really counts for us is that we do call ourselves family and I want to remind everybody here to handle each other, all of us, with compassion, whether we are the elders, the people from Culture Jam, whether we are staff, some of us are easy to love and some of us are harder to love but in a family we love them all anyway. We do have strife every once in a while and that is really normal in a family but in order to keep this event that is dear to all of us going we have to have compassion with each other and think things through and not get to a point where we think it's all for them and it's none for us and that I work harder than they do and I put in more volunteer hours. If it weren't for the elders and not the elder's committee or the elders who have become elders but if it was not for the people who started this Fair that not one single one of us would be here and we are all here because we want to be here. I think that is really important. I saw a bumper sticker recently that said 'silence is the voice of complicity' and I don't like public speaking and sometimes I have kept my mouth closed because I didn't want to be the one to say something that might be hard to say or hard to hear. We all have one important thing here in common, that we love the Fair and we are here because we want to be here, not because anybody pays us to put in all these thousands of hard hours. They are hard hours, we play in the mud, we announce the birth of our new babies and we grieve over our family members who have died. It happens every day and everyday is precious and every Fair could be our last Fair. That's what I want to say and I want to thank you as a family member for all the work that you do and remind you to handle each other with compassion. Thank you."

Hilary Anthony (co-treasurer) said it almost seems like a long time ago now that the Fair happened; we all had remarkable experiences; and that everyone wants to acknowledge the volunteers who went above and beyond in the amazing roles that they took on to make the Fair come off as well as it did. She said she wants to give a big shout out to the entertainers, coming from her first hand experiences with the performers at Chela Mela, who were engaging, missing only one show on Sunday, and were singing in the rain. Many performers said they thought this was their best Fair. The White Album performance went off, in the rain, and was great. She said, while shouting out to the entertainers in particular, she does not in any way want to lessen the recognition for the efforts of all of our volunteers and our booth people.

Jen-Lin Hodgden (community village) offered her thoughts on the Elders policy saying we need to re-evaluate how the Elders process works and will work saying "there is a desire for elder status and passes and no one wants to stop coming or be left out of the family reunion. It's understandable that those who have given so much of their selves and their spirit want to keep participating as long as possible. The

Fair is a good, life-affirming elixir and we even talk of an elder's retirement home. We honor those who have come before and whose work and play has made it possible for us to work and play and to offer this experience to new family, like my granddaughter who came to her first Fair this year." She continued "With all of that, when the Elder Status pass proposal was first put forth, I was wary and I am still wary that we are setting policy without a known outcome. The point I want the Board to consider is the need for someone with actuarial experience to crunch the numbers and to determine our potential population 5, 10 and 20 years hence and to compare that to the carrying capacity of our land. The initial proposal did not include helpers and it seems right, if it is necessary, but there are some able bodied healthy folks requesting helpers. There are some able bodied healthy people using other campers to help bring in their children and grandchildren. My concern is the proposal was initially put forth to allow people who could no longer do their jobs to still come. The proposal was put forth to make space for teens who want to move into volunteer positions. If we are continuing to increase the number of people who camp on the land, and I don't want to exclude anyone and I want to be inclusive and have circles of energy, we need to be mindful and take a step back and crunch the numbers."

Paxton said he has just read Suzi Prozanski's new book about the Fair. He said it is done with respect and love and really tells the story of our traditions. He said he highly recommends it and to log into [suzipro.com](http://suzipro.com) for more information.

Suzanna DeFazio (booth rep) offered her thoughts. "Great fair, loved the cooperation and good cheer around Sunday's monsoon. Also, much gratitude for Pyrate's Cove. Excellent idea! That said, I want to address after dark amplification inside the fair. I have three questions, two requests, and a couple of suggestions."

"Did the Board ever officially allow amplified music at night, or did this just happen? I was at the meeting where the Board voted in the 2 a.m. rule, but I don't know how we ever got to the point where it was okay to amplify, other than the midnight show, in the first place? Unfortunately, discussion was shut off before I could speak at that meeting. Are we shooting ourselves in the foot by allowing electronic music to proliferate after hours? Don't late night concerts increase motivation for sneaking in, for wristband forgeries, and for resentment on the part of those who aren't on the 'inside.' Are we a village or are we a city? As much as I love Burning Man, I want to keep the 'country' in the Oregon Country Fair."

"I request the Board to initiate a process to survey our family to learn how we feel about electronic music at night. Based on the results of this survey, I request the Board to come up with an electronic music policy to be printed in next year's guidelines that addresses the needs of all participants. Unfortunately, midnight at main stage and 2 a.m. curfews elsewhere, do not offer relief to those of us who prefer a different vibe after hours."

"Can we figure out the percentages of fair family who want and don't want electronic amplification after hours and then designate quiet nights in accordance with those numbers? We could zone for amplified music outside and at some distance from the eight. We could pull the plug on Main Stage at dusk each night except Saturday."

Susanna concluded by saying "Thirty-five years ago we picked our spot at the top of the eight because it was so peaceful there. One of my deepest pleasures at the fair has been falling asleep Thursday night to the music of our neighbors. Hearing Karuna's voice is like sleeping in the arms of a luscious embrace. This Thursday the airwaves were dominated by Main Stage. We had fantastic musicians who camped with us this year who couldn't play because a band was plugged in at Main Stage. We couldn't even tell stories around the fire. When music is amplified, hearing it is mandatory! For me what's happened to the sound of the fair at night is to my ears what it would be to my eyes if the fair were to install high beam freeway-style spotlights all along the path at night. I want to know how many others share my longing to return home to the village."

Jon S., wearing his hat as Executive Director for Junction City/Harrisburg/Monroe Habitat for Humanity, thanked the board for the loan of radios for their recent event. He said they raised a couple of thousand dollars and the radios were very useful. Switching hats, he said this was his first Fair since his Board election last year and he had four things to mention. First, the elder issue was a concern but since it was on the agenda he would leave more till later. He asked what the contingency plan for rain was, and for the future, asked if and how we should prepare for similar rain. Regarding alter-abled access he said we need to look more carefully at what is provided and that we could improve. He also said that he talked with people in Crafts lot and found that many expressed a sense of resignation and powerlessness and felt that "they" were going to do what "they" wanted anyway. He said if crafts lot is developed, it should be done so it is seen as "we" and not "us and them."

Chewie said he very kindly hopes to keep discussion within a 3 minute time limit tonight.

LT thanked Susanna for her spotlight remark and mentioned the intrusive presence of unshielded Coleman lanterns.

Parker commented on the rain and the response and said it reminded him a lot of the mud year. He said our response, by both paid and unpaid people, was awesome. Main camp, Sunday night, was like a WWII military campaign camp with tired people, all huddled, and Charlie Ruff saying "we'll do this over here, and we'll do that over there..." and boom - go do it! Folks responded and it was awesome stuff.

Joseph commented on the amplified music restriction and noted he really enjoyed the late night acoustic sounds this year, finding he was staying up even later than usual. He said he saw some great electric artists playing some great acoustic music.

Chewie shared his experience with a Sunday night Crafts Lot amplified performance that went on to about 2:15am, well beyond the midnight deadline. Some began to question the policy guideline at about 1am. When the performance was finished, the performers asked him what he thought about that. Chewie said he responded saying "not much" and that he felt they knew just what they were doing by not respected the policy. He said he intends to revisit the policy and will bring it up.

### **Staff and Officer Reports**

**Executive Director:** Marcus said this was an excellent and amazing first Fair experience and he noted the amazing crews, BUM team and volunteers and said thanks to absolutely everybody. He apologized for not providing a written report to the Board this month having seriously underestimated the amount of work that is required after the Fair. He reported the Exit Poll team completed 696 surveys (about 12 questions each) and they are all entered into a database. He said an e-mail survey will also go out to all those, about 4000, who purchased their tickets on-line. He said the Get Out The Vote team focused on membership registration this year and he introduced Brett Rowlett (GOTV co-coordinator) for a report. Brett said they weren't ready for Sunday (wet forms) but they registered about 1615 new members and have 74 "unsure / update" forms. The voter registration count was 331. This is the fifth year for voter registration and past years have averaged 800-1200. This year's number is lower because there was no pre-fair work and Sunday was a problem. The crew is planning data entry parties on August 10 in Eugene and August 12 in Portland. Brett concluded by saying they are looking for volunteer help and it will be "fun with laptops!"

**Operations Manager:** Charlie said "Thank you, thank you, thank you!" and he noted the power of the collective that came through for him on so many levels. He said, for a year where the intention was to avoid a lot of changes, we did change a lot of things and some very successfully. What we went through on Sunday was simply amazing and, unlike a normal day with reports of some things not working, Sunday showed those things that did work and it showed the family coming together and everyone out there trying to do the same thing. He said a huge thanks goes out to the public, to the folks who came out and paid the admission. The Sunday pre-sale concluded on Saturday night with about 11,000 tickets for Sunday and then about 1150 more tickets sold on Sunday, even with the rain starting at 11:31am. He said he thought the parking lot events were awesome; Friday night's Fire Opera was really amazing and a spectacle; and the White Album was just great - a nice performance at that point late on Sunday. This was the Fair's best ticket sales year in the last 10 with 47317 paid attendees and even Sunday had 12573 attendees. Someone asked and Charlie said that 3742 three-day tickets were sold this year. Charlie said the quality of the Sunday experience was amazing; "the lightning cracking and some of the things I saw I'll never forget, especially the emotional feel. Saturday night on the path had a whole new feel, and was wonderfully different." He said there were some wrist-band malfunctions but overall the new bands were very successful; the incident list was very small compared to last year; and there were almost no counterfeit wristband attempts. The pre-fair White Bird experiment went very well and the medical response to incidents was really down, including Sunday. The LTD service bus service cost has skyrocketed in the past so an attempt was made to manage it differently. A contract was made for a maximum of 610 hours and we came in at 556 hours which is a good savings. Charlie said he thought he was tired on Saturday night but noted that was nothing by the time Monday came. He mentioned the sound agreement policy and sees a need to figure out something better but that it generally worked with one noted exception. The site took a beating and the Monday closure of the eight was a hardship but it was the safe and the right thing to do. Sunday was one of those great moments and it was uplifting and

helped us to see that we are "us" and to see who we are. He said we don't know what will come next year but "starting now - it's pre-fair".

**Administrative Assistant:** norma said "thanks to Charlie" and she lead the applause, noting this was his first year of running the event and he did a great job, a golden job, of making this the best Fair ever. She also said thanks to everyone else, all of them shining, her incredible colleagues, and all the volunteers and booth people and entertainers. norma reminded everyone that August 22 is the Teddy Bear Picnic and Ramblin Rose will play with music possibly starting at 2pm. The band that played at the spring fling, KEF, will also perform. The picnic will have the usual suspects of chicken, corn, vegi-burgers, potluck and lots of fun. The picnic is a participatory event, so she asked for people to please contact her and offer to help Wally and Rebecca with grilling, serving and greeting. For the Labor Day parade, our family will take a break, so watch and cheer on the others. There will be a table this weekend at the Gay Pride event, organized with the help of Jane Elliott, and table staff volunteers are needed. norma finished by saying how happy she is with the way we have honored Woodstock this year!

**Site Manager:** Steve said going into the Fair this year, the state of the turf was great, the best most resilient turf in 12 years. Now about 75% of the path grass is gone but the meadows - Main Stage, Chela Mela and Dragon Plaza - were core plugged on July 14th and are in good shape. Main Stage has been regularly irrigated and is greening up in time for the picnic. The paths are another matter and the decisions and response on Sunday will be discussed at the appropriate times. This year was the best of Fairs and the worst of Fairs in some ways. The best ever in the sense of community and spirit and creativity; starting from the first weekend of main camp it was inclusive and stronger each weekend and no corrective lectures were required. Things happened the way they should have happened and people took care of business and each other and there was great medical coverage with White Bird' help, and special thanks to Ande' Graahn (Main Camp EMT, Fair Central). Our safety record is magic and we have found ways to keep each other safe. We put out a lot of great art this year and that made an impact. This was the worst of Fairs this year for clean-up and while folks responded well to the delayed move-out process, the level of little trash remnants is high and it's still out there on the property. Unfortunately, it is "us" and not the public that is leaving the trash behind so we still have a major task to improve our own clean-up. Expect more lectures and more appeals.

Steve said thank you to Andy Strickland (caretaker) and Jeff Johnson (groundskeeper) who have been there every day pre-fair and post-fair and he also thanked the site crew for all their work pre-fair and for their Sunday response. He said all the sand stockpiled on site was used, then the crew went to town for two more loads of sand, and then went for a third load, and finally they resorted to putting out straw which was not the preferred solution. In some places the straw is too thick and needs to be picked up. Steve repeated his thanks to Shane Harvey and the site crew and thanked Mark Doyle (site crew's equipment operator) who took care of the roads. The buses never slowed down and the roads were fine. The parking lots on the Fair Side held up but Far Side was another matter and that was somewhat self-inflicted. Steve thanked the Beaver Open folks, the hacky-sackers who rent the site for their event on

Labor Day weekend, who were on-site August 1st and 2nd to help out with preparations for Culture Jam. About 30 or more came in to work and they accomplished almost everything needed and they want to do more. Steve said they are a great group of folks, in their third or fourth generation as an organization, are family oriented and they really know how to have fun. Steve said he wanted to thank Sallie Edmonds (BUM Team) who was the organizing force behind the two events in Pyrate's Cove and who worked out all the details and really pulled it off. Steve gave a special thanks to Charlie Ruff, who showed a mastery of detail and at the same time held on to the big picture, with no missteps, and positive the whole way.

Steve finished by telling a story about a friend, on Sunday evening, who was crossing the bridge to Far Side, and saw a person struggling on the ground in the mud trying to get up. She put out a hand but that didn't work and then she realized why. The person had made a raincoat out of a big garbage bag - but he didn't make armholes! It took several other people to help him get him on his feet.

Steve said there is plenty of free hay in the parking lot, it's not very good feed but is good bedding.

"Thank you all, it was a great Fair."

**Office Assistant:** Robin said while many Fair people are catching up on sleep, the Culture Jam people are beginning to lose it but are very excited. The event has 52 youths coming in this Saturday and 15 youths were turned away due to capacity limits. This is the 8th year. Thanks go out to the site crew, Andy, Steve, Charlie and their push to get ready. Andyman, as usual, went above and beyond with the touches that make the event beautiful and magical. The Beaver Open folks help is invaluable, 30 happy people arriving to help get things ready. Leslie Scott is wound in and wound up and ready to go. Norma especially is supportive and appreciated in the way she covers for some of Robin's regular duties. On another item, Robin expressed thanks to the Lost and Found work by volunteers Jesse and Jared who get the information and just take care of it. She said "Culture Jam is ready to go, it's very excited, an incredible program, and a community of Love." Deane asked if the board is still invited to dinner at open mic night. Robin said "yes, the e-mail will be coming and it's on the 13th."

**Treasurer:** Hilary said the audit folks asked recently "what's this 'rainy day' account for?" She said it's always been fun, in the past, to say it was literally for a 'rainy' day. The last time it rained during the event the fund was really needed. It seems remarkable that this year, with a rainy day of this magnitude, we seem to have a very successful financial result. The balance sheet has cash accounts rearranged with respect to liquidity so they are more "operational". The Siuslaw Community Center Fund account was reconciled at \$650 and is all dedicated donations. The Fixed Assets have been rearranged because the naming system was hard to follow considering original names and new names so what is now showing is Event Structures, referring to fences and flood plain structures, and Improvements, referring to such things as culverts and roads and non-event infrastructure. The goal for reconciling is September 30 because expenses related to the event need to get in and we can't reimburse prior years expenses. She also noted there are really good people on the cash handling side doing the cash management for the Fair. Hilary finished up by saying her favorite quote, over the radios, was from Charlie on Sunday

when the rain was pouring down and he said "remember we are all in this together, be patient and be kind."

Grumpy went over three financial charts and noted they are only approximate at this point. The first chart shows attendance by day and by total for each year since 2000. He noted this year's total attendance was the highest of the last 10 years with highs Friday and Saturday and the advance sales saving Sunday which was down just a bit. The second chart shows revenue, expenses, and excess revenue for the years 2001 to 2009. This year's revenue is ahead of projections. Expenses will probably go up as they are received and reported because the report only shows projections at this time. Grumpy indicated we might be able to report an overall \$50,000 gain at the annual meeting. The last chart shows total revenue from 1993-2009 with this year as the highest over that period. Grumpy also said that Commemorative Sales are being reviewed now because the figure is about twice the revenue of past years. Katie asked if there was an explanation for an item on the budget report, page 9, that showed an over budget expense for wristband crew supplies. She wondered if wristband costs were being charged to the wrong place. Grumpy said he would need to check that. Katie said the \$14000 figure for wristband crew supplies may be in error. Hilary noted the new wristbands were very expensive and that may be the explanation and Grumpy confirmed that saying the wristband cost of about \$12000 wasn't known during budgeting so that is the likely explanation for the difference. Katie also asked for the headings to be corrected on page 10 to reflect our management changes.

**President:** Jack said this year's story starts with transition and expectation and a lot of retrospection as we went through changes. He said a lot of people are to be thanked for quite a year; everybody stepped up to pick up the slack and enabled the changes. He said questions seemed to have resolved themselves beyond expectations. He said when we came to the pre-event, it was a spectacular time and we got through more changes, safely, and we came into the event all feeling pretty good, noting there were a lot of happy faces starting the event. Then we came to the crescendo at the end, the lighting and thunder and people having fun in the rain and that put an explanation point onto a special year! Jack said he personally can't extend words to explain his gratitude, about having so much fun in a spectacular manner, and then even shutting down the "8" on Monday. If anybody had any reservations as to what our capabilities are, spiritually and fun-wise, this year is our witness that we definitely have what it takes. "Thank you all, very very much."

**Recording Secretary:** Bill gave a summary of the Board donation request work over the annual cycle from the 2008 to the 2009 Fairs. There were 24 requests and 3 were turned down for criteria issues and 1 was withdrawn. Of the 20 that were given donations, 7 were for \$1000 or more. A request from the Eugene Peace Choir is on old business and two new requests have just arrived.

### **Committee Reports**

**Elders:** Chris Browne gave the committee report after he said this was the best Fair; that he has never been so tired but it was a good tired and the event was remarkable.

The Committee met at the OCF town office. This meeting was very well attended with eleven Committee members present and one on line. There were also four board members in attendance along with eight additional guests and one guest on line. The Executive Director sat in on this meeting as well.

The first order of business was a review of all the activities that the Elders had a hand in at this year's fair. The Elders are to be complemented on the fact that everything that they set out to do for this fair was done successfully. The Old Timer's Picnic was held by the History Booth across DeSpain Lane this year. More room available as there were seventy-two attendee's and every one had a very nice time and the food was excellent yet again. The Meet and Greet was held at Alice's fire pit and there were seventy plus people enjoying that event as well. This year's Bell Ringing Ceremony was held in the Still Living Room with eighty-three new Elders being welcomed into the group. Many of the new Elders could not attend the ceremony due to pre fair duties, so the Committee will look at different time options in the future to allow more people to attend the ceremony. The Still Living Room project was very well received by both the Fair Family and the Public. All of the building projects associated with the project were completed on time and installed in the area for everyone's enjoyment. Major kudos' go to all the different people that helped put this project together. This was truly a family project and the family came thru with flying colors. The Elders Camp area was very well used this year with fifty six tent tags issued. Everyone had a great time with no major problems. The Hospitality Center was very well received and got plenty of use. The Facilities were shared with 4A and Alter-Abled and everyone got along very well, helping each other as needed. Even the Geezer Pleaser got a good work out transporting not only Elders but anyone needing a ride within the designated areas of travel.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to discussing the problems that occurred with this year's Elder passes. Due to the increasing numbers of approved Elders, along with their needs and desires, several problems have come to the forefront and need to be worked out. This report is not the place to air the details, but anyone wanting to have more information can request a copy of the minutes of this meeting from the Elder's Committee Recording Secretary. It is the Committee's intention to work with all parties concerned and reach an acceptable solution to these problems. The next regular Elder's Committee meeting will be held at the town office on August 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm.

**Personnel:** Anna reported the committee is working with the Board on the probationary evaluation process for the Executive Director. They are taking questions for the evaluation and completed forms can be delivered or sent by mail to the Oregon Country Fair Personnel Committee, 442 Lawrence Street, Eugene OR 97402. 5pm on August 31st is the deadline. Information will be in the Fair Family News. E-mail responses are not being accepted.

**Community Center:** Indigo reported that Steve provided information to the committee from a meeting with ORENCO about gray water handling; Thom Lanfear (elder) has reviewed the land inventory and reported that permits for the project should not be a problem; there was discussion about a field trip to see similar structures; the wish list process is being formulated and a timeline is being prepared.

## Old Business

### Budget issues

**Joseph moved, LT seconded, to add \$5000 to the site manager budget for repair of damage from the rain.**

**Peach Gallery:** Grumpy suggested use of the Restoration and Recovery budget line item. Steve said the Contingency or Path Maintenance lines could also be used. Steve went on to give a breakdown of the situation and said there was damage to Far Side City of Veneta property and he and Charlie have met with the City of Veneta and with Forrest Larson, neighbor and former owner. They came up with a recovery plan and Forrest has already done the tilling and grading. Seeding will be done in September in time for germination and the estimated cost is \$800 to \$1000.

The other \$4000 will be used to recover existing damaged turf and to break up the adobe pads (straw and mud mixtures) and then till, re-grade, and place seed and soil amendments. There is path damage and there is rutting in the center of Trotters and the South Park road. The lots need to be tilled up, re-graded and re-established. The goal is to have the soil prepared and all the seed purchased and in the ground by the beginning of September to take advantage of the fall rains and growing season. If this is not done now, the adobe surface won't last through the winter. The material will get loosened and swept away in the floods and the channeling will create gully's that will need filling in the spring. If grass can be established and can survive into spring it will have a better start into summer growth than a spring planting.

Grass is the best bet against the dust that comes from the winter flood fine silt deposits, and grass gives a binding biological action. It is also Fair Policy, from years past, to work toward "barefoot and friendly grass covered paths". The years of work have been disrupted but our knowledge and experience is solid and can be applied to the recovery.

Jon P asked if there is any need for work parties. Steve said people can help rake up accumulations of hay and straw on the path but it's mostly tractor work and seed spreading. Chewie said the VegManECs will be out a lot to help.

**Board:** Katie said this is a very appropriate use of the Rainy Day fund but is concerned that \$5000 is not enough. Steve said he has made the surface area estimates and thinks we need about 800 lbs of grass seed for the paths and 400 lbs of pasture mix seed for the lots. LT said he noticed the grass pre-fair and it was impressive and it was barefoot friendly. To that point he mentioned a concern about the sharp gravel around the sauna and said that will be a discussion for another day. Jon S asked if these plans have been discussed with the Archaeology crew. Steve said according to DJ Rogers (Archaeology crew co-coordinator), work down to about 12" is not a concern and the intention is only to work down at most to about 5" deep. Jon wondered if the sub-surface exposure in certain places is an opportunity for some survey work. Steve said DJ is aware of that and is giving advice and will remember the conversations. Anna said she is impressed with the plan and the quick mid-July preparation. She said she has a concern about allocations for tractor fuel, for our site staff time and for possible ongoing work.

She said her e-mail comments were in earnest about placement decisions, about where the river historically leaves or takes away path material and that allocations for these areas could be reconsidered. She said the draft plan is a start but we have a lot of experience and could do more complete planning and number crunching. Chewie has been involved in the grass issues for 20 years and has a lot of concern about the floods and thinks it will be horrible. He said this is an opportunity to do some really constructive path maintenance and he expressed his faith in the staff's abilities and believes we need to move forward and deal with the problems on the Far Side like the footpath. He said we need to do this right and should provide a funding cushion that might not be used but will be there if needed. Chewie said that as a VegManEC coordinator and volunteer at the Fair that he will do all he can to make this work. Jack asked about the seed that will be used. Steve said Chad Miebach (lot crew), a seed researcher, has been a source of good advice for years on seed choices. The blend needs to be sun tolerant, shade tolerant, drought tolerant and flood tolerant and able to be hammered in the middle of the growing season and come back somehow. It will be a mix of perennial rye, Kentucky bluegrass and fescues with an over-seed of clover. Jack asked if these will be Willamette Valley seeds and if there is another source. Steve indicated local sourcing is likely. Jack said the local grass industry is not a friend based on their past history in the valley and our support for this industry should be questioned. Perpetuation of this industry is to the detriment of truck farmers, small farmers, crop farmers and residents. Joseph said we clearly need to do this work. He said before the Fair this year he was thinking the hardpan needs to be aerated. He said he is concerned about this discussion of full tilling which involves breaking of existing root systems and that aeration techniques may be more appropriate to leave root systems intact. Paxton said he thinks the cost estimate is just fine and Steve's past estimates have been accurate. He agreed about looking for an alternative seed source and noted that Astoria was a major grass production region in 1910's and 1920's. Grass seed is a local commodity but it has a notorious lobbying group and reputation. Paxton said he likes the schedule to get the seed in by the end of August in order to take advantage of the fall season. Deane said some of the places in the path, like the giant mud hole in front of Odyssey, are just packed down. He wondered if we could experiment with aerating and bringing in extra loads to raise the path level to kind of a hill instead of a hole to just help the water roll off. Anna asked for a friendly amendment to increase the funds to \$8000. Steve said we could make it available but we don't need to spend it. Hilary raised a hand to comment. LT pondered and said since Steve did not ask for it he would not accept the friendly amendment and he yielded to Steve. Steve said there is still some reconciling to do and he thinks there are still some funds available in the regular budgets and that the \$5000 will be enough. Steve continued, saying core plugging is used and there are some stretches of the path that are crowned and only have a light layer of straw. He said he has a nearby source of free well-composted horse manure and will use it depending on soil tests. In puddle areas there may be some testing with a drainage technique that involves auguring in a post hole and putting in some geotech and rock to create a drain for the "perched" water table. Jack said, to pitch in on this tangent about path mounding, it will affect the booths and fencing. These ideas need to be

discussed for the long term and the affects of flooding and channeling, of no absorption and no vegetation all need to be considered.

The motion passed 10-0.

### **Donation requests**

**Deane moved, Jack seconded, to donate \$500 to the Eugene Peace Choir.** Kathleen Piper spoke for the group saying thank you to all. As a choir, they accept all comers and provide scholarships for those who need help. They pay for space and the scholarship demand has quadrupled. The Choir performs for the community and at events. They hold an annual workshop on Civil Rights Movement songs that draws a lot of folks from all around the community. They also trade their repertoire with others, recently sending song material to the Peace Choir in Fairbanks, AK.

**Board:** Paxton said thanks for singing out for peace. LT said "Eugene, Peace, Choir; these are three great words, three great ideas that go great together."

The motion passed 10-0.

### **Select meeting date**

**Katie moved, Chewie seconded, to hold the September Board meeting on September 14th.**

The motion passed 10-0.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm. The next regular Board meeting will be held on September 14th at 7pm on the Fair property.

Tentative Agenda and New Business: Charge ED to develop a framework for an Organizational Capacities Study (Joseph); Consider donation to the Downtown Initiative for the Visual Arts (DIVA); Consider donation to the Northwest Institute for Community Energy (NICE); three proposed motions- 1) The number of elder helper-friend passes is limited to 3/4 of the number of elder passes sold, 2) The elder helper pass will be called elder helper-friend pass and can be used any way the elder chooses without a need to ask what kind of help the elder needs or wants, and 3) Elder helper-friend passes are different than elder passes and do not count against the number of elder passes (Deane); Elder Pass Board motion clarification (Jon).