

Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors' July Meeting June 26, 2011, 4:07pm on site at the Hub Yurt

Board members present: Diane Albino, John "Chewie" Burgess, Katie Cousins, Paxton Hoag, Lara Howe, Jack Makarchek, Deane Morrow, Jon Pincus (alternate), Indigo Ronlov (facilitator), Anna Scott (alternate), Jon Silvermoon, Lawrence "LT" Taylor. 31 Peach gallery, staff and officers were present.

Agenda Review

Old business: Budget update; Gratitude (Lara); Member Input. **New Business:** Office Assistant Sabbatical (Diane); September meeting date change. **Indigo moved, LT seconded, to move the September meeting agenda item from new to old business. The motion passed 10-0.**

Announcements

Fair management (BOD/Officers/BUMs) and volunteers will prepare and serve breakfast the morning of July 5th for pre-Fair volunteers. The Main Camp Kitchen crew will get a well deserved morning off. (Hilary Anthony)

The Teddy Bear picnic will be held on Aug 20th on the Fair site. (norma sax)

The Evaluation Meeting will be held on Aug 21st on the Fair site. (Charlie Ruff)

There are a few openings remaining for 17-18 year old boys on the Culture Jam registration list. (Robin Bernardi)

The Board of Director's election candidate forum will be held on Sept 14th, 6-8:30pm, at the Vet's Club in Eugene. A video will be available for on-line viewing following the event. (Kate "K8" Newhall)

The Fair will be represented at the Gay Pride event on Aug 13th in Alton Baker Park. Contact me for information or to help out. (Jain Elliott)

Donations

Recording Secretary's Report: There are no new donation requests since the last meeting. The consent calendar donation process will resume at the August meeting.

Staff Reports

Operations Manager: Charlie Ruff, noting that we are here on the Fair site preparing for another Fair, said thank you to each and every one of us who are helping to make this amazing thing happen. There is nothing like our Fair in the world. He reported on his recent half hour Q&A interview with Jefferson Public Radio and how the experience clarified his perspective on the Fair and made him realize how special our event really is and how proud and grateful he feels to be a part of making it happen. This family, this organism, comes together and our creation is manifest. We are on the eve of it happening, we are just going down the rabbit hole, soon we'll be there and then in a few days more we'll be on the back side of it. Enjoy all the moments, today, tomorrow and each second. We are seeing a growing trend, due to recent wetter spring weather that slows the beginning of pre-fair work and then ratchets up the intensity in the final days. The lots are in better shape than last year and some hay is already down. The 4th of July is shaping up in a joyous and positive sense with the way we are prepared this year. Crew coordinators are well informed and there will be security, parking controls and a managed, permitted show limited to our Fair Family members only as an expression of appreciation. Media day will be Wednesday before the

Fair from 10-2pm. The end product of our sign project has turned into a pretty and really nice piece of art that lets people in the community know we are here and when we hold the event. The registration process is wrapping up and went really well this year. This year's Peach Pit is out now and looks awesome and the Peach Pit crew did a wonderful job. The Front of the Fair stakeholders meeting went well yesterday, the views are getting heard, and it is a great start to our discussion and process as we rethink that part of the Fair. One more time, thank you all, and enjoy every minute.

Site Manager: Steve Wisnovsky reported we still have a lot of work to do in a short period of time. These wet springs make preparations a little more difficult and we may be bucking our last bale of hay in the last hours before the event. A whole lot of gratitude is due to all the people working to get ready and to all those who will be arriving soon to add their piece to the puzzle. There are just too many to name and thank; there is a whole lot of good creative work and care going on. A medical emergency response effort earlier today went very well with good communication and decisions on the part of our volunteers and the community professionals. Thank you, thank you, thank you, it will be another great Fair.

Administrative Assistant: norma sax offered a debt of gratitude to everyone, those working now and those who work year around. She thanked the Kitchen crew for doing a great job and staying on budget. She expressed her appreciation to her staff colleagues for their help and support and collaborative efforts. The office is running smoothly and has been crises free.

Office Assistant: Robin Bernardi expressed her gratitude, saying it is a privilege to work for this organization. Helping people with questions about the Fair and preparation for Culture Jam is ongoing at the town office. We have 30 staffers getting organized and its coming along well for Culture Jam.

Assistant Manager: Tony Clementi expressed his gratitude for the volunteers who interrupted their projects and immediately jumped in to help with the medical emergency earlier today. Tony pointed out that Charlie's "thousand spinning plates" analogy is kicking in now.

Charlie spoke up and he thanked Tony for his response earlier today and remarked on how lucky we are to have Tony's professional skill set with us.

Committee Reports

Jill Heiman Vision Fund: Members are reminded that food vouchers can be donated to the fund during and immediately after the Fair. (norma s)

Peach Power: Meetings are held each last Monday of the month at 6pm. On-line participation is expected to start soon and conference calling and in-person attendance still works. Donations of cash or physical things to the fund- are gladly accepted for specific projects. Responding to a query, Anna introduced Haydin Tyger Scott, who is doing very well in his first days on the Fair site and is accompanying his mother through a second day of meetings. Anna said thanks very much to the rest of the Board for their gift. (Anna Scott)

Community Center Committee: The next meeting is August 15th, 6pm at the town office. (Lara Howe)

Craft Committee: The next meeting is the second Wednesday in August at 6pm at the town office. (Lara Howe)

Officer Reports

Treasurer: Hilary noted that money is coming in, money is going out and when the dust settles there will be more to report. That's all.

Approval of minutes

Indigo moved, Jon S seconded, to adopt the June 6, 2011 minutes. The motion passed 10-0.

Old Business

Indigo moved, Paxton seconded, to hold the monthly OCF Board meeting for September on Monday the 12th on site. The motion passed 10-0.

Lara spoke on the subject of gratitude, several Board members seconded her statements, and the Board and all those present in the meeting circle expressed their approval by voting unanimously in favor. "It's been one hell of a year, with some rough times, for many friends too, and finding my gratitude has been a difficult thing. We see the way the world is and the way humans treat each other, treat the world, and treat the flora and the fauna. Then, thinking about all of you and the smiles and hugs and laughter - that's when hope starts bubbling to the top again. The time we share together is incredibly precious. There is something about this event that brings out the best in each and every one of us. I have learned so much about myself from being here. I beg you to bring your best, bring that thing that makes people laugh, be that person who brings us all hope. It's our times together that brings my strength back and when I find my smile again. There is so much I appreciate that I can't begin to name who or identify what you brought to me. This is what I mean by "be excellent to each other". This world has been a real bitch to a lot of our family, we said good bye to about 25 of our family members this year. We need each other more than ever and we need to feel and help what happens to each other out there in the outside world. So be excellent, be that moment that brightens someone's day."

Chewie commented on the theme "be excellent to each other". People's responses to each other differ, good and bad, but the fact is we are all here, all 13,000 plus volunteers and all 45,000 who attend, and every single one of us, no matter what, are all part of the big "WE" who are "US" and it's our little corner of a world where a lot is not so nice. When we are here, enjoying the time and the people and the activities, think about it and be aware of those who are gone. It's about appreciation for all the people, embracing those we have known for a long time, who we sort of know, and who we will get to know, and those we remember. The words "be excellent to each other" are printed on the back of this year's VegManEcs tee shirts and this is a matter of pride. My friend and co-coordinator Dahinda exemplifies this spirit of appreciation - we can all see how he lights up when he is with us. This theme is an important part of the adventure that is the Oregon Country Fair.

Member Input

Joseph Newton: Listen to the little bird up there; be grateful for our history and the span of life here. When you doubt, notice in your next breath, the incredible chemistry of nature.

Diane Albino: I am grateful for the way our staff and volunteers care for this place, for the generations of families and for all the multi-cultural aspects of our family.

Jain Elliott: I am grateful for the new kids at Community Village.

Chris Browne: For me it's about the place and the people here who can take a difficult task and make it work. Somehow we all pull together. I'm part of a wonderful family.

Jessica M: Everything I learn at the Fair I can take to the wider world and they are good and positive experiences.

Kyle: Recalling the recent passing of a crew member Richard, Kyle said he was very observant and often used the phrase "copy that" to underscore his understanding. It's a good phrase and we could make it part of our way to affirm our understanding with each other when we talk. He was well known in Portland and was a big part of the Fair. Copy that.

Deane Morrow: Humans have been convening here for thousands of years and we are not here by accident.

Elizabeth: Come share a cup of hot tea or coffee in our space at L86, or a bologna sandwich. I love all of you and am learning so much and hope to be involved here a very long time.

Kate Newhall: I appreciate the various projects, working with all the skilled and talented people who are here from all walks of life, how we meet up and the way we are compassionate about the things we do. It seems endless, and it's fun.

DUG: I feel an opening in my heart for this place. It's an honor to participate and the welcomes are warm.

Lois: I'm an Elder and the most important thing to me is the sense of family and continuity over all the years, families with new members and growing children, and the generations.

Mark Pankratz: I'm grateful for the time I can spend out here. I try to live the ideals of this community and appreciate how we practice being positive to become better people and take our ways out to the rest of the world.

Starla: I am grateful for the smiles and hugs we share here.

Timothy: I appreciate the community of family here, we're not just co-volunteers or neighbors, and now with second and third generations who are with me, this family thing is more than a cliché, its real.

Dick Stewart: I am very grateful for the countless years and how we walk the talk, such as micro-cleaning and recycling. It's been an incredible adventure and the times here are my high points.

Mckean: I'm Lois' grandchild and this is my 18th year here at the Fair, and I'm just turning 19 in a few days. This is my family and I know this neighborhood better than my neighborhood in Portland. I love coming here.

Rebecca: I'm loving all the babies out here, there is a bumper crop this year.

Kay: The gratitude at the Fair just goes out in spirals, we have heaven on earth for a few days, its more than an event, it's a lifestyle.

norma: I'm grateful for how we are all so grateful.

Anna: I am grateful for humanity and the earth, and for the energy focus we embody.

Steve: I'm grateful that a few of us can live a life of service to this community. It is rightful living and it carries me every day of the year. We are showing the dominate culture out there how to do it right, how to build community, how to appreciate each other and help each other. It's what we are about.

Lara: In this season, I will be so filled up with OCF lovin'. I'm going to take it back to my neighbors in town. Let's all be like a virus and spread these feelings all around.

Jack Makarchek: (without speaking, he circled and embraced and thanked each and every one) Thank you all for what I have heard this year about "herding cats". But you are not cats, ok, and I would never do that to a cat.

Hilary Anthony: I'm grateful for all the ways we are able to come to agreement.

Chewie Burgess: (also, nothing to say, he embraced each and every one)

Charlie Ruff: I'm grateful for arriving here 18 years ago and finding my home in life.

Bill Ganser: For me it's how this place is so real, so authentic. That is being shown to me, again, in what we are doing, here, right now. Thanks, everybody, for just being, in such a good way.

Indigo Ronlov: I'm grateful for how we do things differently. I'm grateful when this place has water on it and my four-year-old can come out here with me and walk through the puddles with tadpoles and dragonflies. I'm grateful this property and river are protected. This place feeds my spirit. The event makes it all possible. I'm grateful for the waters and the life they give. The world's waters are being affected in hard ways and it matters when we walk this land in gratitude.

Tony Clementi: I'm grateful for life, not just my own, all of yours. Loss is difficult and every second is a blessing and a gift. I'm grateful to be able to serve this family year around.

Robin Bernardi: I'm grateful for the love we generate and all the energy given to make this happen. Thanks for the water ritual that will open our event this year. It's been beautiful to see Charlie hit his stride in his role. He really cares about the whole, about all of us.

Katie Cousins: I have received so much from this family over the years and I'm grateful for the opportunity to give some of it back.

Jon Pincus: I am grateful for the incredible evolution of 40 years of this place and the family that has grown here. I am grateful for the new energy coming in. This place is a beacon for the whole world.

Dean Middleton: Twenty-four years my daughter was on my back in a pack and now this year she has a baby with her. I am really grateful for the generations of the Fair and the process of turnover and renewal.

Amelia: About 31 years ago I was a kid here. This is home to me, and I am grateful for the creative energy here. Its part of my family and we come together here. It's really special.

Ben: I'm grateful to have a place to come and enjoy. I represent Nearly Normal and have a letter for the Board. We are a food vendor and have an unresolved issue with the Food Committee. We are organic, we participate and we support the Fair. The Food Committee does not support our desire to sell sunburgers and has directed us to sell falafels. Their rationale was not sound or clear. Some of their comments (e.g. we are not creative) were unkind and misguided. Please review this decision, and the transparency and process of this committee.

Sasha: I'm grateful for all the firsts I experience at the Fair and how I feel like I've grown each year.

Fancisco: I'm grateful for the opportunity for us to all be here together.

Brad: I'm grateful to the people that started this Fair, and the idea we spend three days each year with each other being the way we should be to each other. Einstein said we can look at the world like nothing is a miracle and it's all science, or we can look at the world like each and every thing is a miracle. Of all the miracles in the universe we are particularly blessed to be here to share this one.

Paxton Hoag: I'm grateful for the land and the thousands of years of native American history on this site and for our 42 years here and for our family.

Anne: I camp at Alice's and I shake everybody's hand on security when I come in and thank them for what they do. I really enjoy doing that.

Lawrence Taylor: I work to help clean your six-packs and so I am really grateful for all of your digestive systems. I am most grateful for the ground that holds us and provides for us. The world is not that tough and the good, kind, decent parts of the world don't make the news so don't despair. Put your feet on the ground. Take your shoes off and get out on the path and feel the heart of being here.

Jon Silvermoon: I agree with all these sentiments, and more, so "copy that!"

David: Thanks to all you guys for making this happen, all your time and volunteering. I'm here to volunteer some time.

President's Peace

Notice this light breeze, it reminds me of the intimacy of what we are expressing, how we are sharing our breath and how we enter each other. The breeze is a beautiful reminder of who we are. (Jack)

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm. After adjournment, Board and members gathered to share some food provided by the Kitchen Crew and talk together. The next Board meeting is August 1st, 7pm at EWEB.

Consent Calendar donation requests for August: Sexual Assault Support Services (Chewie). **Tentative agenda for the August Board meeting:** Staff and committee reports; Office Assistant Sabbatical (Diane)