

**Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors' September Meeting  
September 12, 2011, 7:10pm on site at the Hub Yurt.**

**Board members present:** Diane Albino, Katie Cousins, Paxton Hoag, Jack Makarchek, Deane Morrow, Jon Pincus (alternate), Indigo Ronlov (facilitator), Anna Scott (alternate), Jon Silvermoon.  
**Absent:** John Chewie Burgess, Lara Howe, Lawrence LT Taylor.

**Agenda review**

**Old business:** Donation Requests consent calendar (Action Plan Eugene); Budget report; Altered task force formation (Jon S)

**Tabled business:** Health booth for staff and volunteers (Chewie); Policy on manufactured music (LT)

**New business:** Donation requests (Forest Restoration Partnership-Diane, Whiteaker Thanksgiving Dinner-Jon S); Budget report and revenue forecast; Appoint VegManEC co-coordinators Susan Bryan and Cindy Bardow (Chewie); Direct Personnel Committee to update GM job description and sunset the ED job description (Jon S); 2011 Green Ticket revenue directed to the Community Center green features fund (Indigo); \$200,000 reserved for the Community Center fund (Indigo)

**Announcements**

The OCF Directors candidate forum will be held on September 14th, 6pm, at the Vets Club, 1626 Willamette, Eugene. September 15th is the last day to register as a member in order to vote in the election. The election and Annual Meeting will be held on October 15th at the Knights of Pythias Hall, 420 West 12th, Eugene. (Jen-Lin Hodgden)

The candidates for this year's Board of Directors election are Bear Wilner-Nugent, David Walker, Lawrence Taylor, Ellen Singer, Michael Richards, Jon Pincus, Joseph Newton, Deane Morrow, Lucy Kingsley, Paxton Hoag and Saman Harnsongkram. (Jen-Lin)

The Personnel Committee is conducting staff evaluations. Comments may be submitted until October 10, 2011 by e-mail to "pc@oregoncountryfair.net" or by mail to "Attn: Personnel Committee, c/o Oregon Country Fair, 442 Lawrence Street, Eugene, OR, 97401." (Jen-Lin)

The 10th anniversary of the first monthly Interfaith Prayer Service is on October 11th. (Joseph Newton)

**Staff Reports**

Charlie, Tony, Andy and Robin were not at the meeting.

**Site Manager:** Steve Wisnovsky said the Teddy Bear Picnic, Evaluation Meeting, the Beaver Open, and two weddings took place on site since the August meeting; all went well, folks had a good time, no fires, no incidents. Congratulations to Danya and Aretta and to Jeff and Clair on their recent weddings. There is free hay out in the parking lots and free waste cooking oil at the Hub. The picnic takes a lot of preparation and volunteer help is really needed and appreciated. Night time security is becoming necessary; Steve noted with some sadness and disappointment that an incident of on-site vandalism on the picnic weekend has cost the Fair some money.

There are still Fair folk who need to clean up camps and winterize booths. It is also a beautiful time of year so come out and enjoy. Access is open now but the chains will go up when the rains start to come down. The Elmira High School Country Fair Invitational cross country meet will be Wednesday afternoon, October 19. Please tread lightly!

**Operations Manager:** (Charlie Ruff's report was read aloud by norma). Thank you for understanding the shortage of paid staff in attendance for tonight's meeting. While scheduling time off for staff gets more challenging every year, making sure people get some recovery time and a little taste of summer, after our very full event season, is extremely important. Late August and early September tend to be the first and only real opportunity to do that in our busy organizational calendar. I expect we will all be back in attendance in October.

As far as August goes, I can honestly say that this was a very full month for the OCF. For starters our amazing Youth Program was beautifully manifested once again in the form of Culture Jam. Going strong, in its tenth year, CJ continues to amaze me with its ability to change lives and empower not only the youth participants but the adult staff and volunteers who work so hard to build this community every year. My sincere, gratitude, thanks and admiration to Robin Bernardi who has gracefully and competently taken

on so much of the workload for the Jam. Thanks as well to Andy, Tony, Steve and Jeff for their caring support on site throughout the event. Many thanks to all of the volunteer staff including Danya Ariel and many others without whom the experience would just not be the same for the camp or the campers. Finally, a very special thank you to Leslie Scott, who continues to serve CJ as Camp Director and is still very much the heartbeat at the event's center after all these years.

On the heels of Culture Jam it was swiftly onto the Teddy Bears Picnic and the annual evaluation meeting. Thanks to norma sax, who did a wonderful job once again this year organizing and nurturing our yearly Fair Family appreciation event. The picnic was a smash success this year with high attendance, plenty of food, friends and wonderful music. Tremendous gratitude and thanks to all of the volunteer helpers who turned out in such amazing numbers and worked so hard to make the picnic possible.

A very special thank you goes to Jen-Lin Hodgden for facilitating the Open Space format of the evaluation meeting. I cannot remember a better turn out or livelier and more meaningful discussions at an evaluation meeting in my time on staff. You should all be seeing the report in the near future.

With hardly time to catch ones breath the following weekend the Fair was back in the Eugene Parade and Celebration for the first time in a couple of years. As you may recall, a line item was added to the general management budget last year to help create and foster a larger organizational process around our participation in the parade. No small endeavor it is to put together a parade entry to represent the Fair and the budget placeholder went to good use and was successful in starting to see that larger process take shape. Part of the idea was to create a piece of art that would be part of the Fair each year and then be relatively finished and ready to become our parade entry centerpiece well in advance of the parade. This is becoming more and more important as the Eugene Celebration keeps moving the parade up earlier and earlier (this year August 27th). Thanks in large part to the efforts of Jay Hogan, Andyman and Tony Clementi we had a very stylish entry centered around our new purple Fair Area Rapid Transit shuttle sometimes known as FART II) that took home the runner up prize ( a very ornate decorative ribbon) for best dressed entry. Thanks to all the folks that RSVP'd and joined us in representing the OCF in the parade and a very special thanks to Norma and Tony who helped make sure that we could celebrate and thank them with food and goodies.

A few other items of interest from August- I have been meeting with the PC regularly each month, which has lately been meeting twice a month to keep up with the workload on that horizon. This past month extensive work was done around employee evaluations and I think we have come up with a good process and time line for this year's evaluations. Additionally, the Joint Financial Planning and Budget Committee has already met for the season and has put together a revenue projection for 2012 and agreed upon a package of recommendations for the upcoming cycle.

Finally, I wanted to include an announcement for a community meeting about the Highway 126 corridor to Veneta that is coming up. I have been a participant representing the Fair in this process thus far but now they are seeking wider community input and participation and have urged me to invite the Fair Family to get involved and be heard. This is potentially very important for Fair and the Veneta/Elmira communities so please add your voice and be heard especially if you are one of the many folks longing for a better bike path alternative for Fairgoers.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 6, 6-8 pm at Elmira High School. The Oregon Department of Transportation invites you to participate in developing the Highway 126: Fern Ridge Corridor Plan. The plan will evaluate and identify improvements to the safety and function of Highway 126 between the cities of Veneta and Eugene. At the meeting, the Oregon Department of Transportation will share what we have learned so far, and the project team will ask for your help to get all the options on the table. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to [info@highway126.org](mailto:info@highway126.org). For more info: 541-345-5091. For a full project description, visit: <http://highway126.org/>

I want to say congratulations to our own Jeff Johnson and his partner Clair Prien who celebrated their union on site this past Labor Day weekend! I know you both are very happy and I am very happy for you both.

I want to send my sympathy and support to our dear Reese Prouty who is recovering from a serious car accident. We love you Reese and hope your recovery is swift.

**Administrative Assistant:** norma sax declared the picnic a great success, people had a really good time; there was a lot of work but more volunteer participation this year. Thanks to Jen-Lin for conducting the evaluation meeting; there was some great participation and the notes are being prepared for review at the Annual Meeting. The Vision Fund amount for this year, from donated food vouchers and cash, is

\$21,165 and will be given to the Literacy Council, Senior Meals, Willamette Family Center, Sponsors, and Pearl Buck Center. The amounts are a little less than last few years. New coordinator budget forms are going out soon to coordinators for preparation of their 2012-2013 budgets and they are due back by October 24th.

### **Committee Reports**

**Peach Power Committee (Anna):** The committee is working on a more comprehensive way to work with the budget committee and Board to get projects underway and the committee will be meeting twice this month - the last Monday (Sept 26th) and one other meeting before that to work on the Peach Power Fund plans. Anna thanked Sara Haimowitz for her work and Diane McWhorter from the Scribe Tribe for the minutes.

### **Member Input**

Martha Evans thanked the Board and Leslie Scott for supporting the Power of Hope training and the task force development of Culture Jam. The idea that 50 teens can build their own kind of world for a week, make agreements, and live within them, takes hold each year and the participants blossom. The gratitude is everywhere and seeds are planted for their future and the future of the Fair. Thank you, staff. Thank you, Danya Ariel, who served as the operations manager this year.

Jen-Lin Hodgden thanked the staff for preparations for the Evaluation Meeting; said there were new participants which was exciting; and said the shorter format (3 hours, not 4) worked well. A feedback report on the 2011 Fair will be ready for the Annual Meeting. Written feedback, submitted on the feedback form on the website, is still welcome.

Jen-Lin reported the Community Village has an opening for a new restaurant for the 2012 Fair. Applications are required for review by both the Food Committee and the Community Village.

Jen-Lin happily announced the marriage of Danya and Aretta (Ariel-Boggs) yesterday on the Fair site, saying thanks to the Family for all their love and support and for helping to raise our children.

Jon Pincus said the Culture Jam talent night show was creative, joyful, inspirational and mind-blowing.

Michael came from Portland to comment on the tabled "manufactured music" business item and said there should be no recorded music at the Fair because it is available outside the Fair all year long and our event should be dedicated to live performance.

Joseph Newton said the welcoming atmosphere on site in the days leading up to the Fair was wonderful.

Paxton Hoag said Lois has had three grandkids go to Culture Jam and each has returned glowing and saying it changed their lives.

Saman Harnsongkram said the next Food Committee meeting is coming up and he asked for feedback about the kind of food people want, specifics would help, and he hopes to be a bridge between the Board and the food vendors.

Diane Albino thanked the staff for their hard work for the picnic; everyone who was there could see the effort. She thanked Michael for coming down from Portland for the meeting.

Anna Scott declared her shameless promotion for food because she is eating so much while nursing her baby and that she recently found packages of Nearly Normal's sunburgers going on sale at the store. They are REALLY good and have changed her life.

### **Business**

**Recording secretary:** Bill Ganser said the Scribe Tribe is active and is getting back to work with the committees; the minutes are being posted on the Fair Family website. One donation request for "Action Plan Eugene" is on the Consent Calendar. There are new requests from "Forest Restoration Partnership" and "Whiteaker Thanksgiving Dinner." Donated amounts for this year total \$10,000 with \$3000 more requested and awaiting action.

**Consent Calendar:** The one item on the calendar is a Helios Resource Network program called "Action Plan Eugene" for neighborhood emergency response preparations. \$500 is requested for staff payments. Randy Prince said the program is for training and community self reliance. Eight volunteer meetings have been held so far, the city provides the materials and there are three field coordinators. Indigo asked how the money would be used. The donation would be used to pay the field coordinators

for their time. Samantha Chirillo said that the success of the program depends on door-to-door canvassing and on motivating the neighbors to take the time to attend the training.

Saman Harnsongkram suggested the organizers contact and use existing neighborhood organizations. Joseph Newton said this program is in line with local trends toward self reliance and self sufficiency. Steve Grumpy Gorham said this is probably a great program but does not seem to align with the Fair's goals and he indicated this donation was parochial in the way it was focused just on Eugene neighborhoods. Paco (crafter from Cave Junction) asked if the money was going to the people doing the organizing work. Randy Prince said it would be part of a funding goal of \$10,000 that would be used to pay two field coordinators and himself, as the executive coordinator, to organize the CERTs (Community Emergency Response Teams). Mark Pankratz asked if this was a non-profit and it was confirmed this is a project of Helios Resource Network. Jen-Lin suggested linking up with Fair volunteers. Martha Evans said neighborhood groups could help with funding and that this does not seem to be an appropriate use of Fair funding. Samantha Chirillo said she is finding a great sense of isolation and intimidation in the neighborhoods and this program helps bring people together and empowers them and in this way is consistent with Fair ideals. Diane Albino said we should support self reliant activities and pointed out the Fair donates to the Veneta schools but not Marcola schools. Jon Pincus remarked on the Fair's goals by pointing out the early Fair events were held to help support a Free School; White Bird, Growers Market and other community self-reliant efforts that work without the benefit of government are examples of this concept and this particular request is similar in a modern context; this work brings people together. Katie Cousins said this sounds like a very worthwhile effort but questioned if this request fits with the purposes of the OCF. Paxton quoted the Vision Action goals and noted the particular passage about fostering better communication, goal #7, as somewhat appropriate and he commented on the emergency response capacity of the Fair neighborhoods. Deane objected to this discussion not being within the Consent Calendar process. Anna agreed, saying it seems this request is off the Consent Calendar at this point. Anna asked this item be taken off the Consent Calendar. Anna said the challenge for CERT is community outreach and this effort could benefit from working within the volunteer population of the Fair rather than the fiduciary support of the Fair. She questioned the wisdom of using our available funding for this project instead of basic needs requests from other organizations that rely on the Fair's generosity; "no" on funds but "yes, yes, yes" on people power. Jon Silvermoon asked for their budget particulars and sources of funding. Randy said their goal is \$10,000 for the year, with money coming from EWEB, businesses, individuals and from grants. Jon said he has some difficulty in seeing how this request fits with the goals of the Fair.

**Diane moved, Jon P seconded, to donate \$500 to the Helios Resource Network Action Plan Eugene master neighborhood project. After final Board discussion, the motion passed 6-3 (Katie, Anna, Jon S opposed).** In an emergency this work does provide for basic needs (Diane). This project fits with the Fair's purpose; a Fair Family member recently told me about the program and about their participation and about the importance of the program (Jon P). Education in an urban environment and the development of neighbor communication is important; this is not a basic need but it does seem to be something that has dropped though the cracks (Jack).

**Budget Report:** Hilary Anthony reported the joint Financial Planning / Budget meeting discussed restricted funds and the endowment, and they recommend shifting a greater portion of the funds to the Oregon Community Foundation from traditional certificates of deposit. The current split is about half and half. The Peach Power fund spending process is becoming clearer and could be even more simplified in order to help the committee. The Peach Power funds come from the Green Ticket charge and the fund currently has about \$50,000. It is proposed this year's money, about \$45,000, be directed to the green features for the Community Center. It is also proposed the Board direct about \$200,000 toward the Community Center fund. The two-year budget preparation process is started and there will be meetings in October and November. October 24th is the due date for coordinators to return budget forms and that is an important deadline.

Grumpy commented on other general meeting discussions and suggested the Community Center committee try to get to a consensus with some sort of plan and a deadline, possibly 5 years, since it does appear we have the ability to finance the project at this time. Also, Paxton's humane project requires some permitting and some support. This year's event revenue was good in terms of attendance so our budget proposal has a modest increase to \$1,602,500. The committee recommends no admissions price increase but does propose to increase the public parking fee from \$8 to \$10 per day. Fair Family parking

stickers cost \$10 for volunteers and \$20 for booths. It is proposed to use one sticker design, but keep the same prices and increase the "troubleshooters" parking sticker price to \$20.

Grumpy said there will be proposed fee changes for next year. The Elders pass price will be reduced to \$45 from \$60 but will remain subject to the \$80 cost two weeks before the event. The Craft and Food booth price structure (a booth fee plus the fees for a minimum number of passes) will be changed to a higher booth fee but will no longer require a minimum number of passes. Craft booths will pay a \$150 booth fee, with the first four passes at \$60 and additional passes at \$65. The food booth fee will depend on the booth size which is determined by the total number of passes purchased. "Regular" food booth fee is \$200 with 6 passes at \$60 and up to 6 more at \$65. "Super" food booth fee is \$250 with 6 passes at \$60, 6 more at \$65 and up to 12 more at \$70. "Super Super" food booth fee is \$300 with 6 passes at \$60, 6 more at \$65, 12 more at \$70 and any additional at \$75. Strolling vendor fee is \$75 with 2 passes at \$60 and 2 additional at \$65. Food cart fee is \$85 with 3 passes at \$60 and 3 additional at \$65. The non-profit craft and food booth fee will go up \$25. In all cases, passes purchased two weeks or less before the event will be \$80. Indigo said this will be voted on at the next meeting.

Saman commented that the Food Committee will probably want to look into this fee structure since it is quite different and there may be some questions about registration and about many booth people who want family at the event. Indigo suggested people attend the meeting or send written comments. Jack asked about the projection process. Hilary said they looked at number of booths, the lowest level in each category, and considered the demonstrated need for the operation. Grumpy said this proposal should increase the budget line from \$340,000 to \$360,000. Indigo added the green ticket and Community Center fund items to next month's new business. Grumpy noted the Oregon Country Fair fees are known to be the lowest of comparable events. Deane asked if registration was consulted. Hilary and Grumpy said they already use Quickbooks and Charlie has spoken with the coordinators. Jon P said this new structure needs to be easy to understand.

Jon S and Hilary reviewed and discussed the budget reports in the packet to clarify financial details and information regarding food vouchers, credit card and charge account listings, sales of commemoratives, the yearly battery exchange program, impound fees, durables, photo ID income and the Green Ticket amounts.

**Indigo moved, Deane seconded, to approve the August 1, 2011 Board meeting minutes.** Jack noted the young man's name in his August closing commentary was Bennett, not Benny and asked for a correction. **The minutes, as amended, were adopted by a vote of 9-0.**

**Jon S moved, Jon P seconded, to form a task force to review current practices and develop recommendations concerning accommodating the needs of public and Fair Family alter-abled individuals. After discussion, the motion passed 9-0. Peach Gallery:** Grumpy suggested 4A and Traffic be involved and he wondered if the Front of the Fair task force should do this work. If the Barter Fair is moved, the entire Miss Piggy's area will probably be changed and will affect the parking and other 4A issues. Hilary said the 4A crew is great but are they not set up for the big picture analysis and advocacy and they need support and assistance to continue to carry out a better service. There are a lot of issues and this should be supported. Midge (4A coordinator) says the population is growing and the needs for camping, bathrooms and showers, in addition to parking, are increasing. This needs to be looked at in a helpful and supportive way to enable the crew to do their job. **Board:** This task force is sorely needed; traffic is just one important part; there are a lot of access issues and tough situations over all the campus (Jon P). There is some overlap with the planning for the front; there are more motorized personal vehicles and recharging stations are needed as one other example of need; directly affected people are needed to give their input; the intentions are positive but we need ideas and action (Jon S). There are a lot of issues beyond parking and he prefers a task force structure to a committee in this case (Paxton). This is good and we need information and on-the-ground research but this will require some volunteer energy (Indigo). Access for some people is a big thing to deal with and powered carts can help; I had the good fortune to help a person with a wheelchair on a day at the Fair and it really opened my eyes (Jack). A task force formation should include some idea of the number of people and some deadline for a report and a staff liaison; a clear direction is needed so the results are not disappointing; I ask to amend the motion to add something about the time component (Anna). There are deadlines related to Capital Project requests and crew budgets (Steve W). Deadlines will depend on the ideas and goals, budgetary or operational, of the task force but we could probably expect a preliminary report to the Board by March; the motion was not amended (Jon S). Passing this motion is a no-brainer (Deane). I, and another Fair Family person (Lark) who works with me in this field, conducted an accessibility survey

of the site; we looked at path widths and toilet access and other service items and found there were many areas that needed improvement; Charlie Ruff has the document and those results should be included as information in the work of this task force (Katie). I support this motion; this should be a sub-committee of a long range planning committee (Diane). I agree with Diane; the Front of the Fair group is not a committee; as for deadlines, they need to be established by the task force early in the process; this motion should just shove it off (Jon P). It is important to do this and it is the Board's responsibility to get the pieces to come together; 4A has a good idea of what is lacking; a task force to work along with a crew is a good way to go forward (Jack). I agree with Diane; we need a long range planning committee and this could be a subcommittee for the front would fit with Path Planning (Paxton).

#### **President's Peace**

I missed the picnic this year while my wife and I were travelling in Montana. We talked with a lot of people in the non-commercial areas we visited, and we (the Fair) are pretty well known. There were stories and recollections around campfires and in various places. This personalization makes it so much more rewarding- to know the sense of relevancy in places where people are still struggling against the mainstream, whether it is farmer's markets or people who are counter establishment. Our local urban involvement is still having a connection with people dealing with the wilderness and the environment in the way that we envision. While that experience was nice it was disconcerting to find there are fewer and fewer people getting off the beaten track; fewer are non-mainstream, are off grid, or are involved in rehabilitation work. We (the Fair) are just a shining thing; year after year after year we are able to be an off-beat, out-of-the -way kind of place your normal commercial traveler doesn't see and we excel at that and are recognized for that and it's important to carry that forward.

We are about to have an election; vote and make your voice a part of it; thanks to the candidates who help make this so relevant and to our youth and our elders; we are so fortunate; it's one of those stellar mixes.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm. The next meeting is October 3rd at 7pm at EWEB.

**Tentative agenda:** Consent Calendar (Forest Restoration Partnership-Diane, Whiteaker Thanksgiving Dinner-Jon S); Budget Report and revenue forecast (treasurer's); Health booth for staff and volunteers (Chewie); Policy on manufactured music (LT); Appoint VegManEC co-coordinators Susan Bryan and Cindy Bardow (Chewie); Direct Personnel Committee to update GM job description and sunset the ED job description (Jon S); 2011 Green Ticket revenue directed to the Community Center green features fund (Indigo); \$200,000 reserved for the Community Center fund (Indigo)