

**Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors' Meeting
August 06, 2012, 7:00pm at EWEB**

Directors present: Diane Albino, John 'Chewie' Burgess, Saman Harnsongkram, Paxton Hoag, Jack Makarchek (president), Deane Morrow, Indigo Ronlov (vice-president & facilitator), Anna Scott (alternate), Jon Silvermoon, Lawrence 'LT' Taylor, Bear Wilner-Nugent. **not present:** Lucy Kingsley.

Peach Gallery present: 25 members plus staff (Tony, Steve, norma, Charlie), and officers (Grumpy, Bill).

Agenda review

Old business: Secretary's report; Treasurer's report and budget business; Meeting facilitation protocols (Jon)

New business: Appoint Kirk Shultz to the Community Center Committee (Anna); Live streaming Board meetings (Jon); donation requests from Eugene Peace Choir and Bosco House.

Dropped business: Eugene Celebration support; Member and Volunteer Relations staff person (Jon)

Announcements

A Hiroshima commemoration event is being held tonight across the river. (Jain)

The Gay Pride event is scheduled for this Saturday from noon to 7pm in Alton Baker Park. (Jain)

The Occupy newsletter will be forwarded when it is available. (Jain)

Rick Ingram, City Administrator for the City of Veneta, introduced the Veneta Mayor pro-tem, Sandra Larson, who is filling in for Sharon Hobart who has stepped down. On behalf of the council, she expressed thanks to the Fair and affiliated contributors for supporting Veneta's 50th anniversary celebration (Peachy the Dragon, Samba Ja, Sugar Beets) and to Springfield Creamery who put the ice cream on the birthday cake. In addition, she thanked the Fair Family for all the ongoing support the Fair provides for programs in the Veneta and Fern Ridge area. (Sandra)

The City of Veneta and the Fair have developed a good relationship as evidenced by the recent property acquisition and by the pre-Fair one-on-one program with the area campground operators. The level of external trouble was significantly reduced this year even though a reduced number of Lane County sheriff deputies was on hand for the event. Credit goes to the OCF staff. (Rick)

When the time comes to discuss the Barter Fair changes, the people of Veneta are interested in holding a discussion about moving the Barter Fair to a location in or near Veneta. The potential exists for some closer ties between Veneta and the Fair with this Monday event. (Rick)

The Stillpoint Farms Mother Earth Festival is on Saturday, August 25th, 10am. It is a fundraiser for the 13 Indigenous Grandmothers. (Gina)

The next OCF highway pickup (originally scheduled for August 26th) will be on Sunday, September 9th. (Joseph)

The schedule change is due to the unexpected absence of a number of key regular participants. We have been doing the highway pickup for about 20 years now; this is the post-Fair pickup and, if we can get enough help, we will try to cover both Highway 126 and Suttle Road. Meet around 10am at the WareHouse or catch up at the Highway 126 Maplegate ramp. Let's hope for good weather and a big turnout! Spread the word. Thanks. (Steve)

I regret that I must resign from the Community Center Committee due to my schedule. (Bear)

On Sunday, Aug 19th, the 2012 evaluation meeting will be held from 10-11am to discuss the evaluation process and the first workshop on the Barter Fair changes will be held from 11-3pm. Meet at the firepit at Alice's Wonderland. (Jen-Lin)

Four of our Fair Family members have passed away since our last announcement. They are Lee Reichlin (Vaudeville), Milli White (Traffic), Dave Durant (White Bird, Water Crew) and Abbott Sayre (Community Village). (norma)

Staff Reports

General Manager (Charlie R): Hello Everyone, I think it only appropriate to start my August BOD report by saying "simply the best Fair ever"! That was my experience and I heard it time and again on the path during the Fair. I am still hearing it several weeks afterward. I am also truly amazed at the amount of work we were able to accomplish in the face of tragedy, severe weather both before and

throughout the entirety of Main Camp, and the sizable project workload we took on going into the cycle. Nothing short of incredible and I must express my deepest gratitude to everyone who pulled together to make it all happen. This was a Main Camp like no other I can remember so thank you all from the bottom of my heart!

We had a great year at the box office seeing paid attendance of 15,293 on Friday, 17,673 on Saturday and 13,387 on Sunday for a total of 46,353 guests. Most notably was our increase in 3-day ticket purchasers for an all time high of 4,528. That is up more than 600 from our previous best of 3,926 in 2011. This is by far our best year since the 40th anniversary when we sold only slightly higher at 47,493.

I think that the New Kids loop was a resounding success and am looking forward to the process of giving it a permanent name. Now that folks have experienced the space for a Fair cycle, I am thinking that some type of process where folks can submit an entry or suggestion for a name and we can have the BOD vote on and select the finalist. More will come on this one.

As far as BOD comments on the New Kids loop at the July meeting go, I would like to say that I think our OCF crews did tremendous work in difficult and challenging conditions and created a greatly functional space for families and kids of all ages. The comments, prior to the loop being even close to finished, that the outcome should reflect what the BOD approved, struck me as insensitive, premature and ill timed, at best. The BOD approved a concept and our amazing volunteers then brought that concept to life. I trust our operational crews to work together to make sound and thoughtful decisions and work together to manifest them. I was at meetings every Sunday afternoon throughout most of May and all of June, that were open to all and that brought together stakeholders and the operations crews to make agreements and decisions on the project. No project like this is ever exactly like what any of us individually envision it to be but rather that of the amalgam of the collective that does the actual work. The finished product is not out of proportion to the concept and our crews did an incredible job, despite conditions that turned that site into a quagmire and with the challenges of extremely limited human resources. My thanks go out to all of you for being able to pull off such a positive outcome in such a difficult environment.

Post fair went very smoothly and despite some traffic snags on Monday the site was fairly well cleared by Monday evening. We are still in process on the results from the survey of Craft Lot but will hopefully have a more complete picture soon.

In the larger community the Fair received significant kudos for our outreach and leadership with the neighborhood campgrounds and local authorities on the issues resulting from diminished County level funding. In particular, the grave concerns that came out of the cuts with the Lane County Sheriff's office. By and large things went very well both inside and outside the Fair and many improvements were made by our neighbors who were operating campgrounds.

Additionally, OCF participation in the Veneta 50th birthday celebration on July 21st was a smash success. We were a huge presence and were greatly appreciated by our home community and neighbors. The Fair work with Samba Ja, Risk of Change and Peachi the Dragon to create an opening processional parade to get things started Fair style. We also made it possible for the feature musical act, the Sugar Beets, to close the show with the last performance. We even helped sweeten things up and partnered with the Springfield Creamery to provide ice cream to go with one very large 50th birthday cake. Thank you so much to all who participated on behalf of the Fair, we were well represented.

Things still haven't slowed down from a staff perspective yet either. On the heels of the Veneta celebration we shifted full force into preparing the site for Culture Jam. With help from the folks from the Beaver Open and other OCF volunteers we had things looking spiffy as camp started on Saturday. This amazing and life changing program the OCF makes possible will run through next weekend at which point will transition the site yet again.

Up next is the Teddy Bear's picnic on Saturday the 18th and the annual evaluation meeting, which this year will focus most of its time on discussing the future of the Barter Fair, takes place the following day. After we clean that up it will be time for the Eugene Celebration and yes we will be in the parade again this year, featuring the Bluesky Rainbow Bridge Calendar. Next up on the horizon after that will be the Joint Budget & Financial Planning meeting scheduled for September 19th. Just like that we are back into the pre fair cycle.

Administrative Assistant (norma): In Charlie's mentions of gratitude he left out one very key person, and that is Charlie, so thank you very much. The picnic is on the 18th and Sheldon has agreed to be our Griller-in-Chief. He has help but we can still use more volunteers with grilling and at the potluck

tables. The Vision Fund committee will be meeting on August 20th to count the food voucher and cash donations and we expect to do well. We send a big thanks to Ninkasi for the fundraiser they held that raised about \$800 for the Vision Fund!

Site Manager (Steve W): I agree with Charlie's sentiments about what we do collectively each year. I want to mention and say particular thanks to the Main Camp crews who put forth a huge effort at crunch time - Construction, VegManEC's, QM, Tree and Site Crews pull it all together and the site looked pretty good given the mess we started with and the conditions we faced. Again, kudos to the Main Camp Kitchen - it takes a lot of coffee and bacon and consistently great meals to make this Fair happen.

With the weather damage last winter, there is a lot of firewood available on the site so if Fair Family people need some firewood, and can show they are well equipped and safe, we can help show folks where to find it. Please call the site phone, 541-935-7846, to make arrangements. This firewood is not for commercial sale but only for private use of Fair Family members.

Booth clean-up has a few problems. Some booths leave during the week right after the Fair and then come back to finish up but by that time the Recycle Crew is finished. Some booths have left mystery black plastic bags of trash in front of the booth, there is no one to pick them up and they get torn and scattered by the critters leaving a big mess. After the Tuesday following the Fair, folks need to take their trash and recycling to either of the two on-site landfill dumpsters and recycling kiosks, one at the WareHouse and one in front of Main Camp, or take it home.

I thought it was another great event. I've been doing this for a long time and we just keep knocking it out of the park. Thanks and 'hat's off' to all the coordinators and volunteers who do such a great job.

Assistant Manager (Tony C): All the feedback I have heard from the random corners of the Fair says this year went really smooth and everything went right, one of the best in a long time. We owe it to the dedication of the crews, the good weather and the love and spirit, it was emotional and spiritual and there was a colossal load of work that got tackled; this was one of the greatest Fairs and it came out of one of the messiest sites. We still need to finish putting things up and away for the winter.

This is my second year on the Culture Jam staff and I have been able to witness and see the wisdom of this amazing program. We owe a big thanks to Robin, Leslie and Andy for making it happen each year.

Budget season is coming up and we have time to be proactive about next year's capital project needs in order to take advantage of opportunities and make good decisions. The Board election is coming up so please participate. The web project continues but on scaled down basis for the membership part and the database part; our goal is to have a new back office and new public facing page on the website. Paxton asked about a poster put up at the Fair seeking website assistance. Tony responded that we are looking for volunteer help with web page and interface design experience; there will be a notice in the Fair Family News and we hope to find someone from within the family.

Committee Reports

Elections Committee reports there are six Board seats open for this election. Candidate statements are due by August 26th; statement guidelines are on the internet and should be completed carefully. New members must be registered by September 20th in order to vote at the October 20th annual meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held at Knights of Pythias, 420 West 12th in Eugene. The plans for a candidate forum are pending. (Jen-Lin) Deane said he appreciates finding out who will the candidates are soon after the statement deadline.

Community Center Committee will meet on August 20th, 6pm at the office in town at 442 Lawrence. (Anna)

Peach Power Committee will meet on August 27th at the office in town. Thanks go to the volunteers on the ground doing projects like the bike rack that emerged at the Fair, the successful Lantern Crew support (shout out to Paxton), and the solar dragon work. The committee will continue to promote the telecommunication uses that reduce travel footprints; 'Go-To-Meeting' will be available. We need project coordinators for renewable energy projects. Experience can be gained with associated land use planning. (Anna)

Path Planning meetings start again in September; we'll be working on the planning and details for Crafts Lot and the project will be rich and wonderful. (Kirk)

Board Donations

Secretary's report: The donation request report was reviewed. There are six requests on the donation consent calendar and the amounts add up to \$6000. They are: Stove Team International, repeat request, for staff support (\$1000); Tamarack Wellness Center, repeat request, for therapeutic pool repairs (\$1500); Healthy Democracy Fund, new request, for Citizen Initiative Review group expenses (\$500); Eugene Sunday Streets, new request, for event expenses (\$500); Stillpoint Farms Women's Festival, repeat request, for keynote speaker honorarium (\$500); Cheyenne Elders Council, new request, for recycling and showers (\$1500); and Siuslaw Area Women's Center, new request, for facility expenses (\$500).

A notification was sent to the requesting organization regarding support for Special Olympics expenses to let them know that there was no Board sponsor and they would not receive a donation. A request received from Reach Out Ministries was not complete and has no contact information.

Two new requests have been received: Eugene Peace Choir, repeat request, for performance expenses (\$500, Deane will sponsor); and Bosco House, new request, for facility expenses (\$500, Indigo will sponsor).

Donations Consent Calendar action: Board members took three requests off the consent calendar for separate discussion: Stove Team International; Healthy Democracy Fund; and Cheyenne Elders Council. **The remaining calendar was considered and after discussion was passed 10-0.** **Public Input:** Leslie, as president of the Tamarack Wellness Center Board, said the facility serves many people who have only limited or no access to health care. The pool is heated, contains salt, is UV treated instead of chlorinated, and is used for treatment of pain and for mobility disabilities. The two pool heaters failed recently and because they are so important, one was repaired with a loan from their deferred maintenance reserves. The requested funds will be used to help repay the loan for the first heater and to fix the other heater. The funds that are given by the Fair will be matched by the members of the Tamarack board. Gina, representing Stillpoint Farms Women's Festival expressed their thanks for past years support and said this year's money will help pay the travel expenses of Grandmother Rita who is travelling from Alaska. **Peach Gallery:** The calendar amount is smaller now so is probably within the budget (Joseph). A lot of people avail themselves of Tamarack, it's a great program and we should support it (Sue). The Sunday Streets project is not clear (Brad). Bear and Chewie responded that it is a community building exercise; on Sept 8th certain streets are closed to vehicles and used for pedestrian access to special events and street fair activities; the budget is about \$40,000. The calendar was passed.

Indigo moved, Chewie seconded, to donate \$1000 to Stove Team International. After discussion, the motion passed 10-0. **Public Input:** Elly, administrator representing the organization, said the organization promotes formation of manufacturing facilities that produce cooking stoves in areas of the world where open fires are normally used. The stoves are more efficient than open fires and help prevent smoke related health issues and greenhouse gases. The organization is locally owned in Eugene and is staffed by volunteers with the exception of one paid administrator. There are six factories working in Central America, and they have produced about 25,000 stoves. They estimate that about 125,000 people have benefited. Plans for 3 new locations (in Mexico and Dominican Republic) are underway plus the organization has received multiple requests from Africa. **Peach Gallery:** These issues are huge, this work is applauded; the stoves are beneficial; please support this (Kirk). We gave \$500 last year, I suggest we reduce this year's requested amount; this is money for an administrator and might become a repeat request; a more specific and local project is preferred (Grumpy). This is a core issue for the world, we had a good year so help them (Joseph). **Board:** This is an appropriate technology at a critical time and it's a needed product (Paxton). What is the manufacturing cost and the consumer cost (Chewie)? The product costs about \$45 and sells for \$50; local factory construction funding is provided by Rotary and other foreign and local clubs (Elly). If we give \$1000 to fund a position, will we see the same request next year; I prefer giving for a specific and time defined need (Jon)? There are other ways to help, such as helping fund an upcoming health study about blood pressure and respiratory illness from campfire smoke so the answer is 'no' (Elly). We appreciate that our world class event can support a big picture problem, like cooking fire smoke, and we need to understand what an administrator can do on the world stage; the return on a staffer could be much better than the return on simply covering a production cost margin; we need to be more involved with the intellectual side (Jack). This is about personal capital and about bringing economic power to the issue; it takes personal energy to take a project further (Anna). Involvement of all the other partners is an important aspect and this will

benefit women who not only cook but also gather the firewood (Diane). The wood should not be wasted and there are aesthetic issues; this is about real people and real lives (LT). The motion passed.

Chewie said he has not been able to find out any information about the Healthy Democracy Fund so the request is tabled for a month.

Indigo moved, LT seconded, to donate \$1500 to the Center for Sacred Studies for use by Cheyenne Elders Council. After discussion the motion passed 9-1 (Jon opposed).

Indigo said the event was held in July and the money will be used to reimburse the cost of recycling and propane powered showers (solar could not be arranged) at the 11th gathering of the 13 Indigenous Grandmothers. The Center for Sacred Studies paid the costs for the recycling and showers in hopes they would be reimbursed. **Peach Gallery:** Grumpy asked about the Center for Sacred Studies and where they are located. Indigo said the Center for Sacred Studies is the sponsoring organization for the 13 Indigenous Grandmothers and is located in northern California. \$1000 is too much; the event is not local and we should look closer to home; we had a good year but cannot judge our capacity to give until we finish the accounting; we give a lot of money and need to be careful and more particular about the worth of the request (Grumpy). We should feel honored to participate; in a native perspective, local is viewed as more universal; this is within our values and past funding patterns; trust our vice-president who attended the event (Jon P). The Grandmothers are from around the world and have a different perspective about 'local'; Grandmother Aggie is appreciative of the Earth; support the Grandmother's Council and participate in it (Casey). **Board:** Grandmother Aggie is from southern Oregon and the other grandmothers are from around the world, including Japan and Africa (Indigo). The 13 Indigenous Grandmothers bring good energy into the world with their annual gathering; we should give to this excellent cause; at the same time I appreciate Grumpy's pragmatism (Chewie). The consent donation process needs some work for amounts greater than \$500; for example, we can send out Requests for Proposals that highlight the programs we can all support; we have the capability to handle giving larger amounts of money, like for this request, in another way as demonstrated by the giving levels of our Vision Fund Committee and the Endowment Committee; I would support this motion if I were voting (Anna). We are discussing a donation, not a process (Jack). What are we responsible for; we cut the plan up into pieces and put lines on it; what is 'only local'; localization can look back at those who travelled here and to those who were involved with the people on the way here, like the Cheyenne; help them help us (LT). What was the cost breakdown for recycling and propane showers (Jon)? It was about half and half and the total was more than the requested amount (Indigo). A few months ago, when the request was submitted, we would have provided funds for the recycling and solar showers as specified; the actual result was spending for recycling and for propane showers; this was not the original request and considering they asked for something without knowing it was possible does not reflect good planning for a funding request. **I move to amend the motion to only give \$750 for recycling (Jon). There was no second.** We have a wonderful design for portable showers and should export our technology (Paxton). This is a cultural thing; this request is tied to culture and to the interwoveness of how the spirit operates; we westerners, in our sense of appreciation of the spirits, wonder how to tap in to the whole indigenous tie and we either wonder or believe that the spirits are more powerful than what westerners give to the planet; we have the ability to do things with money; I am always conscious of what I say about another's beliefs, especially if those beliefs are much, much older than mine; we give as a gift and it's in the giving; with the spirits, you either believe or question; this taps in to my belief and I feel appreciative to be allowed to be a part and to have the luxury to give (Jack). This is a no-brainer and we are very honored; it would be cool if the Grandmothers could come and meet at our Fair which has been a place where people have gathered for thousands of years (Deane). Our Hub showers are a combination of solar with propane assist, the rest of our showers are all propane (Steve). The 12th and last gathering is in Nepal and it ends the circle for the 13 Grandmothers - two of them are from Nepal; they have intention to lay down prayers and help heal the trauma of the indigenous peoples all across the world; we can assist in this kind of prayer, its tremendous and important (Indigo). I would support this today but agree with Jon that if you expect one thing and then go to the OCF for reimbursement of something else then what is the process (Saman). The motion passed.

Approve Minutes

Indigo moved, Saman seconded, to approve the minutes from the July 1, 2012 Board meeting. The minutes were approved 9-0-1 (Bear abstained, Anna voted in place of Deane who was out of the room).

Old Business

Treasurer's report: Grumpy presented a financial summary and noted that admissions revenue was 118% of the budget projection. Paid admissions were over budget all three days and is great news compared to some years when one of the three days comes in below budget. Some crew expenditures are over budget due to the pre-Fair preparations ordeal. In summary, it looks like we went over budget by about \$200,000 in revenue and over budget by about \$30,000 in expenses. Jon noted that paid parking income was way under budget and wondered why. Norma said the number is low because the accounting was not finished and Grumpy added that the parking lots were as full as ever. Saman noticed the pass sales figure was higher than the budget and wondered if extra passes were being sold and the camping population increased. Grumpy and Jack explained the pass levels (camping population) are set by crew size and booth allocations and other Board decisions and that the difference in the sales figure compared to the budget is simply a result of a conservative budget estimate. The camping population growth and the strains on the land, toilets and parking is a problem (Saman). Jon asked if a breakdown of the pass sales could be provided, showing the proportions that come from vehicle stickers and S.O.'s. Charlie said it is possible, with some work, to figure it out. Jack pointed out conservative budgeting is our method and does not mean that we are increasing the camping population. Grumpy added the conservative budget method, in a good year, provides extra income that makes special projects possible and that is how the Fair has become financially stable and has grown.

Jon asked if the 'restricted' Community Center fund level has changed. Charlie pointed out that there are two funds for the Community Center called 'restricted' and 'dedicated' and that the dedicated funds cannot be used for another purpose. Jon noted we do not have a donor development plan and asked if we send thank-you letters when funds arrive that are dedicated for the Community Center purpose. Norma said we do send thank-you letters.

Jon moved, Deane seconded, that the facilitator of a Board meeting should 1) maintain order, keep discussion progressing towards a decision, and decide procedural matters; 2) reflect proposals, amendments, seconds, etc., to the entire Board, as these things occur, in order to formally track the status of a proposal under consideration; 3) determine relevance of what is being said by the topic under consideration and the stage of the conversation about it; and, as appropriate, deem a comment irrelevant and declare the speaker "out of order," thus silencing them; and 4) relinquish facilitation to someone else during deliberations on a topic if the person facilitating desires to participate in the substantive discussion or decision-making including making and seconding motions.

After discussion Jon withdrew the motion. **Peach Gallery:** These guidelines don't seem to be needed but it doesn't make much difference (Joseph). There is value in having guidelines for process; facilitation training, simple meeting rules, and a code of ethics for the Board could be helpful (Tony). Agreeing with what has already been said, the Board retreat might be a better place for having this discussion (Grumpy). The relevance of this motion is not clear since our meeting discussions often involve walking for a country mile and speaking in metaphors (Brad). There does not seem to be a demonstrated need for this motion; the retreat is a better place for this discussion; facilitation is a responsibility of the president (Steve). It is important that the Board members respect the facilitator and that all Board members be responsible for the discussion (Jen-Lin). Guidelines are 'ok' but could just lead to procedure arguments (Chris). The point of most interest is the one about relinquishing control and it is pretty vague about how to do it (Casey). **Board:** As a past facilitator, I oppose this motion; the bylaws (Article 9, section 5) say the president shall preside or delegate a facilitator; this motion would improperly alter the by-laws; in the Oregon and federal court system the chief justice participates while presiding; this motion is un-necessary and disrespects the integrity of the facilitator (Bear). These directions are the basic rules of facilitation; training would be helpful (Paxton). We should discuss this at the retreat; it should be noted the bylaws also say 'the president shall be the principle executive officer of the Fair subject to the control of the directors'; there does not seem a separation of power issue here; it is the purview of any member of the board to raise a point of order during discussion (LT). We are where we are due to changes that we agree upon; I am subject to the Board and honoring each Board member has been our guiding rule for a long time; it should be said that setting up arbitrary rules to control a Board member does not honor their position; we operate loosely and we get a tremendous amount done in a civil way; the facilitator is not a personality and we got here, to the way we now operate, through a process of evolution with some very large agendas (Jack). Facilitation is defined as the act of making

easy, or easier (Anna). I agree with Jack that this is not about a person; and nobody gets told their comments are out of order; standardizing is not the way we work; I don't see the point of the facilitator relinquishing control; the way we conduct our meetings makes us work well (Chewie). This is a discussion for the retreat; the facilitator could momentarily pass the gavel, then take it back, and I think that is a normal thing (Diane). There is no reason not to trust the facilitator but it might be beneficial to pass the gavel; we could use a non-member facilitator; it's good to have the discussion like this, in a meeting, in order to get the member input that we would not hear at the retreat (Deane). A policy making Board facilitator is qualitatively different than a court justice and this board is more legislative than judicial; the point about relinquishing control when participating in a discussion is critical and should be adopted because I have noticed a tendency toward dialogue and other ways that further a point of view in favor of the facilitator's motion; this motion does not have the votes to pass; we can discuss this at the retreat; I withdraw the motion (Jon).

Member Input

The New Kids Loop was not crowded and provided a great place for people to rest and chill out. (Joseph)

The Board should not reject donation requests because they are used for staff support; we are a non-profit and have a large paid staff. The Board should consider guidelines about smoking next to the paths. (Jon P)

Thanks for a incredible pre-fair, it was an epic Homeresque odyssey; I am grateful for my involvement with the New Kids Loop and for being part of it; the stories are written on the faces of the builders. (Kirk)

Last July's meeting commentary was appalling, with all the voices chiming in about what was going down about construction projects on site, and it was insensitive and demoralizing for the crews and volunteers. Board members have a right to unleash their concerns but should also try to find the proper time and place for criticisms and open discussion. I had a great Fair and this was a positive meeting tonight but leaders should lead with love, compassion and open hearts (Brad)

The 4th of July fireworks were great and the bonfire was a great addition and I hope it gets extended into future celebrations, thank you very much. (Deane)

At an earlier meeting I spoke in support of keeping the Barter Fair in Miss Piggy's until a new plan was in place. The Board voted to shut it down in 2012. Only one Board member (Jon Silvermoon) was in support of keeping it. At this year's Barter Fair I was given a questionnaire to be returned to the Monday Market Committee. What is Monday Market? Has Barter Fair been renamed, and if so, by whom? Who is on the committee? Does it include Board members? Where will vendors who have camped in Miss Piggy's go? Where will the next Barter Fair be? Another renaming I am concerned about is "Gypsy Way". The only thing I ever heard about this was in a speech by a Board candidate who wanted it changed because 'gypsy' is a derogatory word. To me it represents a free spirit, music and dancing. I am aware some ant to call this 'Pony Way' as a tribute to its past use and to Dena, the pony lady who this wilderness pony ride area. I was not pleased to see this area looking like a clear-cut and built in a way that was oblivious to guidelines about the treatment of the land. This change is not a tribute to Dena. She was unhappy to be removed and she fought to keep it wilderness and I believe she would be devastated to see it now. I was equally displeased to see this used as a smoking area, which I believe has been stopped. (Judy)

Feedback can be sent to the Fair Office until the end of August. Thanks Construction, for the lovely new sticker booth, for including us in the process, it is festive and great! (Jen-Lin)

Thanks staff! You work so hard - a job like this is 24/7, 13 months a year. We need to love and support the staff and also the volunteers and I appreciate all of you. (Sara)

Thank you Sara and Brad for your comments about last month's meeting. I apologize for missing the July meeting and would have voiced my support for the staff and the work that took place. Also, thanks and appreciation is due for Amy Hand, our new Recycling coordinator; it's a very hard job and she performed with flying colors. (Bear)

I started the conversation in July. I felt really bad that my comments were hurtful; I was trying to address the process and my personal chagrin with the devastation of the understory which I promised would not happen. No one should hang for it, there were best intentions, there were many meetings and conversations and still the process broke down. We have what we ended up with and I'll get over it but I could not let it pass. I feel badly and apologize to staff, coordinators and the Fair Family but I couldn't let it go. I feel really badly but am still sick about what happened. (Chewie)

Smoking at the New Kids Loop was very bad and some mothers reported feeling kind of sick. Donation reform is needed, with guidelines and priorities, and with an understanding that our family is from all over the world. (Dan)

I am a Path Planning Committee member and am running for the Board. Regarding naming of the New Kid's Loop, the term 'gypsy' can be used in a derogatory way but it's not used that way here and I am not concerned; the people who live there should decide on the name. (Michael)

At the request of a member, Jon asked that the following letter be written into the minutes:

Dear Board of Directors and all the wonderful people who put the fair and the Barter Fair together:

Like many people I love the Barter Fair because it's a Global Marketplace. Year after year many people seek me out to buy my beautiful vintage clothing and jewelry from around the world. This is fun and a great validation for what I've been doing for twenty years. I should think it's the same for most if not all the vendors at this sale.

I exchange my goods for cash and I barter with people who ask me to, if they have something I want or need. No one should be expected to barter just to barter, if they don't want or need it.

I really appreciate driving into Miss Piggy on Wednesday morning and securing a selling/camping space. PLEASE UNDERSTAND: IT'S VERY IMPORTANT FOR VENDORS TO CAMP WITH THEIR STUFF, PARK THEIR VEHICLE, AND HAVE SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND EARLY MONDAY MORNING TO GET ORGANIZED. IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO HAVE A CHOICE AS TO THE SIZE OF ONE'S VENDING AREA. FOR SOME, A 10X10 SPACE IS NOT ENOUGH.

Please take this into consideration when making decisions regarding spatial design of where ever the new Barter Fair will be located. Maybe a possible location could be where the Dr. Bronner's showers are now, in a parking lot across from the fence surrounding Miss Piggy. I suggest this area because there seemed to be a lot of un-used space there and because the Dr. Bronner's people were extremely loud; day and night, yelling and screaming, bright lights and a rave that hardly ended before the next go round of yelling, etc. They need to be out in the back 40 somewhere.

I know many people on the board are up-tight about imports sold at the Barter Fair. Please take into consideration almost everything we buy comes from somewhere else: your computer, your shoes, and the shirt on your back. Some of our food is imported as well.

There are people within the fair itself who have their "crafts" manufactured in foreign countries. They are imported, yet no one seems to notice, certainly not to care, and yet y'all come down heavy on the Barter Fair because I think the buy and sell concept of making money to make ends meet is a concept, a life style you do not grasp, or care to. It's as valid a life style as anybody else's.

Unfortunately I'll be out of town and un-able to attend the work session regarding the Barter Fair on the 19th. If a committee is formed for further action, I'd like to be on it and can be reached at the address below.

Volunteer for 25 years at the History Booth, Elder and Barter Fair Vendor, Sheila Showalter.

Lois' daughter, at the older child care facility, said they could take every kid this year and that was because the load was relieved by the new facility. I apologize to the staff and coordinators for the comments made at the last meeting, I was definitely insensitive and everyone was working hard and it was a very successful project. (Paxton)

Thank you, Chewie and Paxton. My feelings about the under-story are the same but I spoke poorly about the New Kids Loop project. As far as 'gypsy' being a derogatory term to some, 'Hippie' is too. (Diane)

President's Peace

Last meeting, we were in a process of trying to work through some horrendous circumstances and it all comes down to those of us here; in a sense, I let down my fellow staff and coordinators by not stepping up; I worked with Charlie and Kirk on the project, and the decisions did not appear to be beyond the intentions. The discussions, on the ground, were interesting and, parsing on that level, are what we turn over to our volunteers to enjoy; I was speechless at the meeting and I did the only thing I could do and that was to reach out and embrace as my way to end that meeting. It's 10:01pm. Thanks everybody.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting is September 10th, on site.

Tentative agenda for August

20120806 OCF Board minutes II

Approve minutes from the August 6th Board meeting
Secretary's report on donation requests (Healthy Democracy Fund, Eugene Peace Choir, Bosco House)
Treasurer's report and Budget items
Appoint Kirk Shultz to the Community Center Committee (Anna);
Live streaming of Board meetings (Jon)