

**Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors' Meeting
September 10, 2012, 7:00pm on site at the yurt**

Directors present: Diane Albino, John 'Chewie' Burgess, Saman Harnsongkram, Paxton Hoag, Lucy Kingsley (alternate, voting for Bear), Jack Makarchek (president), Deane Morrow, Indigo Ronlov (vice-president & facilitator), Anna Scott (alternate), Jon Silvermoon, Lawrence 'LT' Taylor; and not present: Bear Wilner-Nugent. **Peach Gallery present:** about 15 members plus staff (Steve, norma, Robin), and officers (Grumpy, Hilary, Bill).

Agenda review

Old business: Secretary's report on donation consent calendar; Treasurer's report and budget business; Appoint Kirk Shultz to the Community Center Committee (Anna); Live streaming Board meetings (Jon)

New business: donation request from SMART (Chewie); Appoint Recycling Crew co-coordinators Amy Hand and Nick Badovinac (Chewie); Donate \$10,000 to Oregon Yes on 80 campaign (Jon); Donate \$500 to Colorado Yes on 64 campaign (Jon); Membership for volunteering SO's (Deane).

Tabled business: Bosco House donation request (Indigo).

Announcements

Conversations on the Forest, hosted by Lane County Commissioner Rob Handy, invites OCF Staff, Board, and Family to attend a free, one-of-a-kind workshop on Sunday, Sept. 30; the workshop will focus on the fundamentals of timber harvest, the economics of it, and the forest remaining. This workshop will teach basic forest measurement concepts and how to make measurements to estimate distance, area, tree age, site quality, and basal area, using a homemade device. Calculating timber volume in board feet per acre will also be covered. Roy Keene, former timber cruiser and workshop instructor, received a \$500 grant from the OCF Board in 2011 on behalf of Public Interest Forestry, now Our Forests, to raise public awareness about what's happening in the Long Tom Forest. In July, Roy Keene and Conversations on the Forest led a field trip with a group of 30 people, including Fair Family. The Eugene Weekly reported on the field trip; it was also broadcast on Lane County Community TV Channel 29. Workshop space is limited. Anyone interested in attending this workshop on Sunday, Sept. 30, should RSVP to Samantha at phone number 541-543-1253. Conversations on the Forest will continue indoors at Cozmic in Eugene the 1st Mondays of Oct. and Nov., 6:00-7:30 PM. Find information from previous Conversations at conversationsontheforest.org. (Jon P)

The Occupier newsletter was passed out. (Jain)

I have just experienced a cardio incident. I am not dying. I am fine. It seems to have started at the Fair where I was misdiagnosed with walking pneumonia. I had a unique experience and the doctors can't say just exactly what happened. I am here now and hope all of us can embrace each other for what we are - everyone is important to every other one of us; if I die I hope you are all at the party in Hell with me! (Chewie)

The 11th anniversary Interfaith Prayer Service is being held Sept 11th at the First Christian Church at 11th and Oak; all are welcome. (Joseph)

The workshop that Jon Pincus mentioned a few minutes ago is important because the BLM is preparing to restart some logging in the Mohawk and Long Tom regions and the old growth is threatened. (Diane)

I have posted videos of the 2012 Fair on YouTube and they can be found by searching for "OCF2012". (Paxton)

The first highway pick-up after the Fair, originally set for August 12th and rescheduled for September 9, was just completed and the load was heavy; many thanks to the participants for the help. The next pick-up is Oct 21 and the load should be lighter. (Steve)

Staff Reports

General Manager (Charlie): norma reported that Charlie and Andyman are away from the area on a bike trip; Charlie sends his greetings.

Administrative Assistant (norma): A million thank-you's for the help at the picnic; it was really wonderful! A good time was had by all and it seems to have been the biggest one ever; all 500 paper plates were used. The picnic was followed the next day by the evaluation meeting and the Barter Fair discussion; the weekend after that we were in the Eugene Celebration Parade. Our parade entry was

lovely and we had a lot of fun thanks to the efforts of Charlie, Andy and Tony. We are still paying some of the final bills for the 2012 event.

Office Assistant (Robin): We just finished the 11th Culture Jam and it was as deep and profound and amazing as ever; we changed the trajectories of some lives; we had 53 youth and 25 staff for nine days and seven of the staff members are CJ graduates. We also had 3 facilitators and 32 volunteers who helped in the kitchen, serving three meals each day from an organic menu which was a revelation for some of the youth. The kitchen program featured seven guest chefs (Dave, Ned, Brian, KC, Sherry, David, and for Wednesday brunch, we had Charlie and Tony). Beth Hoyt was the donation manager again, the facilities were set up by our site staff with the help of the Beaver Open people; John Duran in the kitchen put in hundreds of hours; Dale & Alana managed the kitchen beautifully, special thanks to Andyman for all he does for this program; thanks to all. The City of Eugene provided some equipment for water activities; Craig Lafollette continues to care for our Marimbas; a big piece of the funding came from the Lovell Foundation; and from Linda Reymers with the Endowment Committee. OCF can be really proud of this life-giving event, the love at the core, respect for young people and the power of their dreams; it's from the heart of the Fair.

Site Manager (Steve): We have had a very busy schedule rounding off the late summer activities; we got through those without any fires and without any major accidents. It is very dry on site, no rainfall since July 20, the fire danger is extreme. Please visit but be very careful. We need a good rainfall to soak the site. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out at the picnic; it works well because lots of people help out. The Beaver Open (hacky sack) folks celebrated their 32nd annual gathering on Labor Day weekend on the Fair site (the 8th Beaver Open here at the OCF). Back on July 28th, about 25 of them volunteered to help with Culture Jam preparations; site and Culture Jam are very appreciative of the Beaver clan contributions. The post-Fair cleanup of the site is coming along slowly and the Red Tag Crew is helping by sending out little reminders.

Committee Reports

The Jill Heiman Vision Fund (norma): Members met to count the funds from this year's Fair. There were 944 food vouchers and over \$5000 in cash. With the Fair's matching funds, each of the four recipients will get \$6121.36. They are White Bird, Planned Parenthood, Lane Coalition for Active Youth and Fern Ridge Gleaners.

Elections Committee (Jen-Lin): The Election Notice was mailed this last weekend. If you don't receive it you can e-mail 'elections@oregoncountryfair.org' to update your name or address. New members must be registered by September 20th in order to vote at the October 20th Annual Meeting held at the Knights of Pythias, 420 West 12th in Eugene, starting at 6:30pm. A candidate forum will be held on Sunday, September 23rd, 3pm, at the Knights of Pythias Hall. The forum will be taped and put on-line. Absentee ballots will be mailed on Sept 16 and Sept 30. The absentee ballots cost almost \$2 dollars each and they require a lot of volunteer time to prepare, assemble and mail so do your part and PLEASE VOTE!

The 13 candidates for the six Board positions are Casey Marks Fife, Diane Albino, Ellen Singer, Indigo Ronlov, Jack Makarchek, John 'Chewie' Burgess, Jon Pincus, Jon Silvermoon, Kirk Shultz, Marcus Hinz, Michael 'Roveg' Richard, Paul Simon, and Sue Theolass.

Peach Power Committee (Anna): The committee will meet on Tuesday, September 25th. Last month the committee prepared the Peach Power Priority Planning List and is taking comments in preparation for the Budget process. "Let's spend a million bucks on alternative energy!!! All in favor say AYE!"

Barter Fair meeting (Jen-Lin): The session after the picnic was attended by a lot of folks and a task group is working on exploring the possibilities. The minutes will be put on-line. For task force information or comments you can e-mail Spirit at 'ocfspirit@gmail.com'.

Board Donations

Secretary's report: The donation request consent calendar was reviewed. \$11,500 has been donated so far this year. **The four requests on tonight's donation consent calendar, \$500 each, are Healthy Democracy Fund, Eugene Peace Choir, Bosco House and CLDC Winnemem Wintu.** Indigo asked to table the Bosco House item until next month. Other Board members asked that the CLDC item be discussed separately. One new request, from SMART, for \$1000 for expenses of reading mentoring with children was received; Chewie offered to sponsor. The consent calendar (two items) passed 10-0.

Chewie moved, LT seconded, to donate \$500 to the Winnemem Wintu tribe. After discussion the motion passed 10-0. Background: an e-mail inquiry was received before the Fair but due to timing and communication confusion the request was received a few weeks ago; the request is from the Civil

Liberties Defense Center on behalf of the tribe. **Peach Gallery:** Do we know what happened and if it was successful (Grumpy)? There are some legal issues that resulted during a traditional rite of passage on a river in the Shasta area (Joseph). Is this to a non-profit (Grumpy)? Yes, the request is through the Civil Liberties Defense Center (Chewie). **Board:** This is part of an effort by a lot of people to bring back a native presence to the Northern California / Southern Oregon area; this is a regional activity and is about respect for native culture and for women (Chewie). I will support this but we need a report on the details; I am disappointed that we didn't get a report (LT). What was the action (Jack)? Grumpy, reading from an on-line news report, said the tribe wanted to close the river for a traditional swim across for young women coming of age, the Forest Service first refused and then provided a closure, the public was threatening, the Forest Service was challenging and when the chief used a watercraft as part of the event the chief was cited for violating the closure (Grumpy). We are considering supporting a political struggle's legal fees and I question that use of our donation funds in this way; we are interested in the outcome (Anna). Jon asked that the motion should be changed to indicate the funds are going to the Civil Liberties Defense Center for uses associated with the Winnemem Wintu action; (Chewie and LT agreed); the request is not to give to the tribe but to the Civil Liberties Defense Center and not for legal fees but for transportation and costs of doing trainings; we have a history of funding events after they occur (stated in a way that expressed disapproval of that practice) but I will support this (Jon). Anna asked for a friendly amendment to provide funds for the 2013 event. Chewie and LT did not agree. Paxton suggested the following language for the motion: "We move to donate \$500 to the Civil Liberties Defense Center in support of actions related to the Winnemem Wintu tribe". We should not get into the habit of donating to past events but, with regard to the issues at hand for this native group and understanding their challenges, our support is vital (Indigo). Is this event on-going (Deane)? This was necessary this year because of the age of the new chief; it will probably not happen again anytime soon (Jain). There is no reason not to do this because of poor timing; we didn't support this request properly (Chewie). The outgoing chief was arrested for using a watercraft, as part of the event, on a closed river; I'll support this for just that reason (Jack).

The motion: to donate \$500 to the Civil Liberties Defense Center for support of actions related to the Winnemem Wintu tribe. The motion passed 10-0.

Confirm Minutes

Indigo moved, Saman seconded, to confirm the minutes from the August 6, 2012 Board meeting. Indigo asked for a correction: "The 12th and last gathering is in Nepal and it ends the circle for the 13 Grandmothers - two of them are from Nepal" should state "two of them are from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota" **The minutes as corrected were confirmed 9-0-1 (Chewie abstained).**

Old Business

Treasurer's report: Hilary said the Financial Planning and Budget Committee joint meeting will be held on September 19, 6pm, at the Creamery. The meeting agenda will include an interim financial statement review, drafting a revenue projection, considering committee schedules and discussion of pending large expenses like Craft's Lot and the Community Center. September 30 is the deadline for crew expenses and financial statements will be presented at the Annual Meeting. The dust is still settling and reconciliations are underway. The 990 review is about finished for 2011 and it will be reviewed in preparation for the retreat. Deane asked if the joint Financial and Budget meeting can be accessed on the internet. Hilary said policy and resources are not clear; it's possible if someone will take the responsibility and the task. Grumpy added that we are a volunteer organization and a volunteer would be accommodated.

Anna moved, Indigo seconded, to appoint Kirk Shultz to the Community Center Committee. After discussion, the motion passed 8-2 (Chewie, Jon opposed). **Peach Gallery:** The committee has had some resignations; more and more work is coming up; Kirk shows interest and helps so please approve this (Hilary). **Board:** The committee has consensus in support of this appointment ; as Board liaison, I think he is a good fit (Anna). I love Kirk; he is an asset to the Fair that is beyond description; I will vote against this appointment because he already has too much influence on what happens at the Fair (Chewie). How many are on the committee now (Diane)? Thom, Charlie, Hilary, Indigo, Anna, Jon S, Andyman, Steve W, Chewie, and Dahinda; Tony and norma attend the meetings; Suzanne, Katie and Lara have all dropped off so there is room within the 13 member limit (Hilary). The motion passed.

Budget Business Item: Jon moved, Diane seconded, to increase the Health Savings Account contribution up to the level of the medical deduction. Peach Gallery: The Personnel Committee

recommends the HSA funding of \$1500 be increased by \$1000 to match the \$2500 deductible in the current medical plan; the HSA money can be used for wellness care that is not available under the current plan like in the past; this will be a \$6000 cost increase (Jen-Lin). This is for the medical plan only and does not consider the separate dental or vision plans; for an HSA this contribution provides a tax benefit; the funds can be used for wellness care as well as traditional medical services; the motion would be clearer if we just state the amount of the increase (Hilary). We should do what we can for good care (Jon P).

Board: Not having health insurance, I am doubly insistent on providing it for our employees (LT).

Having just incurred over \$100,000 in medical debt the last eight days, I'm wondering if we are going to get some long-term care benefit established (Chewie)? Anything the employee does not use in a given year is rolled over so the account can build up (Hilary). Do we use the same insurance company each year or a different one (Saman)? We check others but it has been the same for the last three years (norma). Charlie says this pre-tax way is a financially smart and efficient approach (Jen-Lin). The concept of an HSA is that it turns into a savings account if it is not used so it can build like a retirement fund; this is just about adding more money, it's not about creating a new plan or benefit item (Jack). Is there a maximum that can be contributed to an HSA (Jon)? It's age dependent but is about \$3000 for people under 50 (Hilary). Jon said he wants to change the motion to say "always make the HSA contribution match the medical deductible or the maximum allowable contribution, whichever is less."

Diane agreed. **Peach Gallery:** This concept was discussed at the Personnel Committee meeting but each year the health insurance and deductible can change; the renewal date occurs during the budget process so each year's Board makes the decision (Jen-Lin). I suggest we not do this amendment, it's not responsible to make a commitment like this when there is uncertainty each year about the plan (Grumpy). **Board:** Simply stated, with this increase the employee's health costs would be covered 100%; they won't have to pay anything and if they don't use it, they get to keep it (Deane). The employee will still have some expenses for health care (Hilary). The Board should support the committee's recommendation and not something else (Anna). Because we don't have a wellness program, the money in an HSA can be used for non-traditional healing or, on the other hand, the money can be used for the deductible in the traditional medical plan; we should do this for just this year and not attach it to the deductible (Jack). The change to the motion was for longer than 1 year and I did not understand that so I withdraw my agreement (Diane). I don't agree with the suggestion that it's a bad thing to use our money for the care of our employees; I support the original motion and do not want to bind future Boards (LT). I think we should establish the principle of supporting our employees fully in this way; but I will rephrase the motion to say "for this year increase the HSA contribution from \$1500 to \$2500 per qualifying employee" (Jon). Diane agreed. **Peach Gallery:** A year ago, I had some money in my account, used some of it for various things and then had some sudden significant expenses against my deductible and with the insurance exceptions and other limits, I had a large bill to pay; this change really helps (Robin). The amount will need to be pro-rated for someone working less than full time (Hilary). I support our employees but I want to point out there are a lot of people who do a lot of things for this organization; our employees are our asset (Chewie). The motion: for this year to increase the Health Savings Account contribution from \$1500 to \$2500 per qualifying employee. The motion passed 9-0-1 (Chewie abstained).

Jon moved, Deane seconded, that it is the goal of the OCF Board that Fair members at remote locations have an opportunity to participate in Board meetings by means of live streaming of meetings or another appropriate means. To that end the Board directs staff to work with interested parties to develop a plan for Board adoption in January 2013 and to include: 1) selection of appropriate means, 2) effect on meeting location, 3) analysis of budgetary impact, and 4) meeting and participation protocols.

Peach Gallery: Thank you Jon, for presenting a motion that is written down for all to read unlike the two previous motions tonight; we could reduce confusion and save time if the Board required that motions be written out for all to see during the discussion (Bill). Are there any volunteers for this motion; can we make the adoption date February so I can be at the meeting (Grumpy)? (Jon and Deane agreed to February). This is past due, we need interactive participation and not just live streaming (Joseph). I support the motion and encourage you to pass it (Jon P). In the past there has been concern about the Board's ability to exercise restraint and self-censorship (Jen-Lin). As the Board's Recording Secretary I am an 'interested party' (Bill). The technology exists and this should be easy; there are tools and programs to make this work if the connections are good; we need to start and it will become easy (Casey). **Board:** This motion is simply to establish this as a goal of the Board; if there are no interested parties, the staff won't work on it at all; this could be phased in over time (Jon). Go To Meeting could be a solution and we have time before the budget process to plan for the resources; it's easy to implement now; we just need people (Paxton). Does this mean a Board member could participate in the meeting and vote on-line (Saman)? That would probably require changing the by-laws (Jon). I agree with Paxton, even if it is just

to hear the meeting while sitting at home; we need to turn this over to Charlie and Tony. I remember when the Board stopped a member from streaming a meeting on a computer a few years ago (Deane). Some of this has been done before; the staff works with interested parties all the time. This motion only seems useful to provide a platform for the Board to have dialogue; even if there are no interested parties, the staff should still give a report (Anna). We can presume the existence of interested parties; they pop up. Regarding concerns, there used to be Board people who had a phobia about being recorded and some people have a fear about somebody telling a drug joke; jokes are not the same as actual drug transactions (LT). I am interested in seeing what can happen but ask that the motion be changed from 'Board adoption' to 'Board consideration' (Indigo). (Jon and Deane agreed). I have a real concern about live streaming; not because I care about what I say, but I care about what others will say; this seems to be coming from a small group of people who want it to happen. I am ok with putting the meetings out to the public but having the interaction part will just make it more difficult; bringing this technology into a two-way conversation is very forward thinking and should be viewed as a 3 or 4 year plan. It's a great motion to explore (Chewie). For more volunteer participation, we need to reach out and this will do that. In the motion please add the phrase 'and Recording Secretary' after 'interested parties' (Paxton). (Jon and Deane agreed). We can't force participation; the technology is out there. During filming of Board meetings some years ago we had to make a separate motion at each of the five meetings so it would be allowed; if participation is the reason, it is worth the effort, so let's do it and see the outcome; I'll vote for this (Jack). We don't need to wait; it is a resource issue. We support technology and this will mean less travel and will save time for people. We don't need to wait any longer to just do an investigation (Anna). Streaming versus live participation will have an impact on the length of the meeting (Diane). **The motion, with friendly amendments: it is the goal of the OCF Board that Fair members at remote locations have an opportunity to participate in Board meetings by means of live streaming of meetings or another appropriate means. To that end the Board directs staff to work with interested parties and the recording secretary to develop a plan for Board consideration in February 2013 and to include: 1) selection of appropriate means, 2) effect on meeting location, 3) analysis of budgetary impact, and 4) meeting and participation protocols. The motion passed 10-0.**

Member Input

William Wright, with Cathy Coulson Keegan (booth rep, Touch the Earth #386): I want to address commercially recorded amplified music.

Our Bylaws state that we are here for the promotion and preservation of the work of individual artists, musicians and performers, displayed in a traditional fair setting. Our Guidelines and Vision Quest Goals also support our own living talent. So why are we sanctioning amplified canned music with permits. Michael Jackson has overwhelmed the Abbey Rode neighborhood on Saturday night in recent years, making anything else impossible. We can no longer hear Main Stage. We no longer have strolling musicians coming into our candle lit booth. For years Cathy and I have enjoyed creating some ambiance for people passing by the back of the Eight or coming in to chat, but now because of the huge footprint of commercially recorded music, we cannot carry on a conversation.

I think it is time and I am asking the Board to address policy on this issue: The Country Fair is not the place for commercially recorded amplified music.

We do need a dance stage with live musicians and I'm sure the fair will have no problem finding the talent.

Jen-Lin: Thanks to the participants at the evaluation meeting the day after the picnic. We talked about goals, possible changes, time and place, and a long list of topics, one of which was long range planning.

Jon P: The picnic was the one of the most fun in a long time. We were supported by several food booth reps helping out, most of them long time Fair Family.

Anna: Thank you; I will not be on the Board next cycle as I take time for personal growth ideas and dedicate time for my committee work (Peach Power, Community Center, Budget, Personnel). I'm growing!

LT: I want to amplify what Bill Wright had to say about their sensible and sensitive air space being senselessly mauled by amplified recorded music. It's heart breaking and tragic; dismal and despair are other words that also come to mind.

Deane: Booth members are members of the Fair and can just show up and not work and still be counted as a member. Why can't a hardworking SOP be a member?

Robin: Sharing my medical cost issues earlier tonight does not mean I am unappreciative of what the Fair does for the staff; I am so fortunate and it means a lot.

Indigo: Among all the thanks you gave for Culture Jam participants we need to include you Robin, so thank you so much for all you do for Culture Jam and making it happen! If you get a ballot in the mail for the Board election, please vote.

Chewie: The last two months of my life were really interesting; I went to Vermont, saw family and participated in their political process; and while wearing an OCF shirt, a woman asked me if I knew Gretchen, and said "She is my best friend, we grew up together!"; I felt really connected, I value all of you at the Fair, and I value our long reach whether you are here or not here.

Cathy: Thanks to all for Culture Jam; one of our booth fairy children qualified and went, and afterward, when I asked him if he was changing he said "Oh no Cathy, I have changed, from my most essential self, because I realize how big and important a part I can be in the world."

LT: Regarding membership qualification, the categories are volunteers, workers, performers, booth participants or elders, and because 'workers' are eligible, all working SO's should apply for membership.

Joseph: It was a phenomenal accomplishment to go forward with the OM circle; it was big and meaningful this year; do more.

Jen-Lin: At one time in the past there was a Board motion deciding SO's do not qualify as members.

Hilary: The words 'worker' and 'volunteer' have a distinction for our non-profit organization; we do not want food vouchers to be mistaken as payment for work.

Deane: I'd like a new business item to consider volunteer SO's for membership.

Jon P: I'm glad to see that item on the agenda.

Jack: The original meaning of 'worker' was for a person in a food booth who gets paid.

LT: I suggest inserting 'working SOs' after 'volunteers' in the by-laws.

Grumpy: Be very careful what you wish for; who will decide who is working, or who is just paying to come to the party; come to a budget meeting to see how this all plays out and what it is all about; if someone really wants to be a member and vote they will find a way.

Hilary: What is a 'working SO'; we need a standard and some minimal expectations. This is already a struggle on the budget committee due to all the different standards for volunteers on the various crews.

Jack: This has been discussed before; we shouldn't just immediately make it so; we know an SO has a vested interest in the Fair and, by the true definition, as someone holding down the home front for a volunteer, an SO should be a member; this is not a difficult leap.

President's Peace

I get to Culture Jam almost every year, and I try to go when the activities are in play. A striking thing about Culture Jam is how people actually give us their children 'in trust' for an experience in this world, a real self-experience outside the virtual world, and we should be very, very proud of this. I hope all future boards, as all past Boards have been, are supportive of Culture Jam. Seeing young people interact with empathy and breaking down so many notions is phenomenal. A friend has a child with some problems and they could not believe how much compassion and concern was evident in the behavior of the participants, unlike what they see in schools and even in families. It is so amazing to see young people taking care of ones with special attributes. This year I was very humbled when I was called out for the good work of our past Boards. This year was particularly moving. It is one of our great things.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm. The next regular meeting is October 1st, 7pm at EWEB.

Tentative agenda for October

Approve minutes from the September 10th Board meeting

Donation requests (Bosco House, SMART)

Treasurer's report and Budget items

Appoint Recycle Crew co-coordinators Amy Hand and Nick Badovinac (Chewie)

Donate \$10,000 to the Oregon Yes on 80 campaign (Jon)

Donate \$500 to the Colorado Yes on 64 campaign (Jon)

Membership for volunteering SO's (Deane): The motion is to change the Bylaws in Article V. Membership, Sec 2 Eligibility and Admission, by adding "SO" after "booth participant".