

**OREGON COUNTRY FAIR
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AUGUST 4, 2003**

PRESENT: David Helton, Brad Lerch, Bear Wilner, Charlie Zennache, Lawrence Taylor, aka LT, Charles Drew, Jack Makarchek, Diane Albino, Jim Newhall, aka Dr Jim (arrived during Treasurer's Report) and Jim Sahr (alternate).

NOT: David Liberty and Marlene Monette (alternate†– home, feeling ill)

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALENDAR

Jim Guthrie (Tree crew) announced that he stepped down from the Board in †'84. He is currently involved with a lawsuit with Sacred Heart. He has discovered that his phone and computer are tapped. Please be aware that any communications you may have with him via these methods are not private. He misses this connection and he would participate more, but he doesn't want to bring this heat down on his friends and Fair family. He advised that others check their computers for wire taps.

Randy Nowell (VegManECS) would like his†“electric mule” returned. He needs it for Burning Man.

Culture Jam begins this Friday, August 8. Fair families are invited to donate to the Culture Jam Scholarship Fund to ease the costs for some participants.

Andyman (Caretaker) has been commissioned by DEMI (Downtown Events Management Inc) to create a new prize for the Eugene Celebration parade.

Bear expressed gratitude to everyone who participated in the Open Space Evaluation meeting yesterday!

Charlie thanked everyone for a great Fair!

Sat 8/16 The Teddy Bear Picnic, open to Fair Family will be held at 3pm at Main Stage.

Tues 9/2 The rescheduled September Board meeting will be held at Alice's at 7pm.

Sat 9/13 The Trail's End Chili Challenge will be held at Veneta City Park, 11am-7pm. The Chili Herders will represent the OCF with Dragon's Breath Chili. Public tasting begins at 1pm.

Mon 9/15 A combined meeting for the Employee Evaluation (6:30-7:30) and Financial Planning (7:30-9:30) will be held at Alice's.

Sat 9/20 Eugene Celebration. Come join the OCF parade entry!

Sun 10/26 Mt Pisgah Mushroom Show ... Scarecrow contest, 10am-4pm

Mon 11/17 A Board work session to discuss Craft Issues will be held at 7pm. Location to be announced.

Annual Meeting/Board Elections

Mon 8/18 Board candidate statements and photos are due in the office. Statements may have a maximum of 300 words.

Thurs 9/11 Deadline to submit membership form to vote in 2003 Annual Meeting. Forms are available on-line. Make sure that your current address is on file to receive your meeting notice and/or absentee ballot.

Fri 9/26 Deadline to receive absentee ballot request in the office. This will allow only two weeks for two-way mailing. Requests for absentee ballots received after this date are not guaranteed.

Sat 10/11 The Annual Meeting will be held at the Knights of Pythias Hall at 420 W 12th, Eugene, OR, at 6:30pm.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Jim moved, and Bear seconded, that the minutes of the June 29, 2003 Board meeting be approved.

BoD: LT noted that he, not David L, made the comment regarding the Oregon Art Beat program about OCF Vaudeville.

The motion to approve the minutes as amended passed: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention (Charles).

MEMBER INPUT

Joseph appreciated the incredible response demonstrated by management, coordinators, and post-Fair crews to what proved to be an outbreak of the Norwalk virus. Once again, we show who we really are when faced with a crisis.

Rivka (Security) and Tim Carrehar (Artisan) are members of Friends of KRVM, a group that formed when the local radio station faced losing all funding from the 4J school district this past spring. They would like the Board to consider donating \$500 to Friends of KRVM so they may file for 501(c)(3) nonprofit statuses. They also seek sponsorship for the First Annual Benefest which will be held at the Ems Stadium on Sunday, 9/14. This will be a day long music event. Please help keep KRVM on the air. Individuals may also contribute money or volunteer at the Benefest and/or at the radio station. They may be contacted at www.friendsofKRVM.org.

STAFF ... OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager Leslie said that this was one of the sweetest, mellowest, and happiest of Fairs. It is not because of a drop in attendance (down approximately 4,000), but rather, it is due to the love and energy infused into the hard work by everyone before, during, and after the Fair. Thank you everyone. We have a fabulous management team, board, officers, staff, coordinators, and volunteers. It is with complete joy, honesty ... sincerity that she can say †“this was the best Fair ever!” She has received fabulous feedback about the Spoken Word program, now in its second year! She also had more media contact this year. The community and media's response to the Fair has been very positive!

The Evaluation Meeting was held yesterday. She liked holding it earlier while thoughts are fresher. It has seemed exhausting holding it after the picnic and it has detracted from those trying to clean up. Thirty people attended five different sessions. Notes from

the Evaluation Meeting will be published in a future FFN issue.

Feedback has been incredibly positive on the new camp hosts, tent tags, and pre/post Fair systems implemented this year. Many thanks go to Bear Wilner for his stunning job helping to create this new, huge and complex system and for implementing it so gently. (Bear said the thanks belong to his crew.) Leslie thanked Carl Taylor (Main Camp Co-Coord), the QuarterMasters, and Greeters were all wonderful with Pre-Fair. Thanks also to Gabe Skinner (Junk Yard Dog) for doing such a great job on the temporary pre-Fair parking sticker system. He was named Rookie of the Year.

Attendance was down about 10 percent. Current research shows that this is true for festivals all across the country. The Fair also had stiff competition as Phish played at the Gorge and the Dead were at Red Rocks. There was also some confusion when one radio syndicate incorrectly announced that the Fair, rather than the Fringe Festival, was cancelled. It does look as if we'll make budget. This is when conservative budgeting pays off. A clearer picture will be available next month when more revenue and expenses are posted.

The week after Fair was terrible; they were hit with an outbreak of Norwalk virus (aka Norovirus). Because the beginning symptoms closely resemble food poisoning and not knowing what the true cause was. Leslie shut down the kitchen on Thursday morning and contacted the state health department. Many thanks to Lara Howe, Brent Reindel, JAR Smith, Geri MacDonald (Recycling, DeCon, and Post-Fair Kitchen Coordinators, respectively), and Ande Grahn (Main Camp/Fair Central), Dr Jim, Jeya Ahrenson (Construction), and Paxton Hoag (Photo ID Coord) for their wonderful care of their crews while continuing to clean up the Fair. After testing blood and stool samples, the State Health Department diagnosed Norwalk virus. The State also gave a glowing review of the Kitchen's protocol. They have received reports of the Norwalk virus appearing at other festivals throughout the northwest. It also hit a family church camp up in Washington. This is one more opportunity to witness and express gratitude for our wonderful family. Thank you also to dear and wise Jack who supported and counseled her throughout the process.

Thank you to all who continue to give their wonderful energy and skill to Culture Jam's preparation. including the amazing site guys, Andyman, Animal, Tommy, Big Mike and Steve. Oso (Internal Security Co-Coord), Jim Richmond ... Bonnie Sorenson (Construction), Monte Matthews (Office-Site Co-Coord), Tim Wolden (Water Co-Coord), Beth Grafe (Construction Co-Coord), James Pruell, Al Joseph, and others are building a wonderful addition to the Cow Palace. Robin Bernardi is also working above and beyond the normal flow taking care of the administrative needs for Culture Jam.

Leslie will take a short vacation after Culture Jam and she will be back in the office on August 25.

Administrative Assistant Thank you to so many people to the whole Fair family, really, who put on, once again, the best Fair ever. Especially, thank you to my colleagues who work so hard, so above and beyond anybody's call of a duty. You make working fun.

Norma has been mired in aftermath † – lost in a world of boxes. Unpacking office stuff, sorting lost and found, sorting leftover commemorative items.

We have lots of shirts and posters left. Tons of bandanas. We have women's cut shirts, short and long sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, and posters. Hardly any size large of anything, but lots of others. She will put an order form on the web really soon and do a mass e-mail to let people know.

Norma will spend the next couple of weeks planning for the picnic. See you there!

Site Manager Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Steve Wisnovsky thanked all of the wonderful Fair folk who put our village together, and make it hum with positive energy. He thanked all those who worked on the rebuild of Jill's Crossing. Not only were the beams milled on site from our trees felled by the February † '02 windstorm, but Jack Makarchek, who among his many roles is also Construction Coordinator, found a source of recycled cedar decking, resawn from utility poles that were originally cut 50-75 years ago. Thank you, Michael Bishop (Traffic) who found and donated new bridge bolts, and thank you Leif Metzler and the crane truck, for a truly uplifting performance, and thank you, Charles Skinner and Construction Crew. Our job now is to protect this beautiful structure so that it lasts far longer than the old bridge (eleven years). It was amazing and gratifying to be part of this group, working together and finishing on schedule.

Fire danger on site is extreme. It was the third driest June on record, and July followed with zero precipitation. While Main Stage Meadow is greening up for the Picnic with continued irrigation, the site is very dry. This means, no fires, no open flames, pocket your cigarette butts or put them in ashtrays, and do not park cars in the tall grass in the shade. Hot exhaust pipes have been known to ignite grass fires. There are recent reports that glass jugs sitting on outside decks, focusing the sun's rays, are igniting fires. The site team is vigilant yet there are 375 acres to cover. Thank you, Tom Heneghan, for the continued loan of a fire truck. Be fire safe and speak up if you see a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation.

Come on out and enjoy the site. Help us clean up; there are unfortunately, a whole lot of Fair folk who need to revisit their camp, booth or work area and clean up after themselves. It will be green again when the rains return.

Treasurers Hilary Anthony thanked everyone for a great Fair. Putting the outbreak of Norwalk virus in perspective, she noted that Hepatitis A is following the String Cheese Incident tour. Vaccines were administered at the Horning's Hideout concert.

The drop in attendance means that we barely met our revenue projections. The figures will be more accurate next month when more of the numbers have been posted. However, we must find a way to cut back costs and/or increase revenue. During Hilary's eleven-year tenure as Treasurer, there have been only two small increases to booth fees and admission fees. It may be time to review the costs of running the Barter Fair and consider a registration fee for participants. The Fair is about to enter a new two-year budget cycle. It is time to prioritize our expenses. Hilary is amazed at the number of people responsible for handling money and she

appreciates their high level of integrity and responsibility. Thank you, also, to Leslie Chiaffone (Budget Committee) for her help with specific projects.

Hilary and Leslie invite Board members to join them in attending the TACS workshop called "Endowment and Planned Giving" on September 30, in Portland. We should also begin a conversation regarding what the Fair's plan and purpose for such a program beyond supplementing the event revenue.

Lastly, our outside accountant, Shirley Henderson, has completed the audit. The report will be available soon.

President Jack Makarchek is humbled by the collective energy of what it takes to put all of this together. He thanked the Board for allowing him to speak very bluntly sometimes and holding confidences. This simple act makes it easier to work together. This is true of all of his conversations with Leslie. They are honest, up front and heartfelt discussions of where we are and where we are going. This is as close to putting up an agenda as he gets.

The Norwalk virus brought to attention that we are an event, a community, where touching, kissing, and hugging are important. It is a wonderful offering and an eye-opening environment that contradict mainstream culture that tries to put barriers between us. This intimacy means that we accept a certain amount of risk.

Hallelujah, we made budget. However, he wishes we could do it with less money. We are called to examine how we can grow the quality of the event. He is optimistic that years from now, people will be drawn to the Spoken Word program as much as the music stages. People want to connect with and be inspired by other forward-thinking, community minded, creative individuals. Jack experienced a full spectrum of emotions, laughing and crying, while listening to the Eugene Poetry Slam. Culture Jam (CJ) opens in less than a month after the close of Fair. CJ is the Fair's outreach to youth, people of color, and minorities to join together in a creative collaboration of empowered expression. All of this is our vibrant future. Thank you to the officers, the Board, Leslie and the staff for working together to poise the OCF toward the future. We do not have to rethink or redefine the OCF. What we are doing is an honest, forward movement to better our community and our world. This is the reason for our success and why people continue to participate in the Fair and attend the event.

Thank you to all of the volunteers and everyone willing to take these risks every year and put on something that is unique and special, an incredible celebration.

OLD BUSINESS

SPONSORSHIP CHILI HERDERS

Jim moved, and Jack seconded, that the Board fund the Chili Herders for up to \$150.

Background: A small group of Fairies represents the Fair at the Trails End Chili Challenge. This year's event will be held on September 13, at Veneta City Park. Music includes Manzanita, the Bill Willy Bluz Band, and Shelley James Music Box.

Peach Gallery: Jud Stern-Carusone (Community Village Council and Chili Herder) thanked the Board for sponsoring the group last year. The Chili Herders have already begun creating a new, prizewinning, vegetarian recipe to be called Dragon's Breath Chili. The group tries to use as much local, organic produce as possible. The Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce sponsors the event to raise money for local, civic projects. Last year, the funds were allocated to the new youth park. The Chili Herders gave the plaque and recipe to the kitchen so last year's recipe for Cosmic Cowboy Chili may appear on next year's menu. Leslie ... Hilary wondered if funding could be drawn from the Board's Research ... Education line item -, i.e., chili research and public education!

BoD: LT This is a great activity and another fabulous Fair connection with our West Lane community. Charles — last year's second-place prize brought back \$200 which was then donated back to the community. It's a net gain!

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

That being the only piece of Old Business, Board members then set dates for the September Board meeting, Employee Evaluation, and September and November work sessions (Financial Planning and Craft Issues respectively). The group agreed upon Tuesday, September 2, for the Board meeting date. Although Diane and David H remember scheduling Monday, September 8, at an earlier meeting, the scribe can find no record of this decision.

David H advocated discussing Craft Issues at a fall work session to avoid any constraints from submitting changes to the Guidelines in December. The Board set Monday, November 17, for the Craft Issues work session.

The next Board meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, September 2, at 7pm, at Alice's Wonderland. The agenda, subject to change, will include Budget Issues, Alliance with Other Festivals, Events, and Venues Opposed to the Rave Act (Bear), Appoint Kitchen Coordinators (Bear), and Donation to Friends of KRVM and/or Benefest.

Minutes by Jen-Lin