

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 3/6/00

PRESENT: Etienne Smith, Jim Newhall, MD, Charlie Zennache, Jim Sahr, Michele Sharpy, Marlene Monette-Showker, Lawrence Taylor, Jack Makarchek, Palmer Parker, Brad Lerch (arrived for the 2/7/00 Minutes approval) and Howard Galvin (alternate)

NOT: Charles Drew (alternate)

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mon. 4/3 Grievance Process workshop, OCF office, 5:15 pm
Sat. 5/6 Spring Fling, WOW Hall, 7pm
Sun. 5/7 Far Side Dedication, high-noon
Fri. 6/9 Main Camp opens full-time
Sun. 6/25 Crisis Intervention training. Meet in front of the Dragon. Refresher: 10am-12noon.
Newbies: 1-4pm.

On behalf of the Board, Palmer awarded the collection of artifacts from the recently titled Zenn Acres to Dennis Todd who submitted the winning entry. Charlie added he is honored to have a piece of the Fair named after him.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Michele moved, and Marlene seconded, the BoD approve the minutes of the January 31, 2000 BoD meeting.

Charlie corrected, "He is committed to ending any vestige of per diem by the end of next year." Leslie corrected the projected revenue calculations and expected gate. The Budget Committee planned for attendance totaling 13,000, 15,000, and 13,000. Ticket prices for those purchased in advance are: \$10, \$15, and \$10. Ticket prices for those purchased on the day of the event are: \$12, \$17, and \$12. A service charge of approximately \$1 will be added by Fastixx to all tickets. **The motion as amended passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.**

Marlene moved, and Howard seconded, the BoD approve the minutes of the February 7, 2000 BoD meeting.

Michele corrected that she abstained from the approval of the January 3, 2000 minutes because she was absent. She did not oppose their approval. Dr. Jim yielded time to Larry Thompson (**Bi-Mart employee or Teamster rep**). The minutes incorrectly stated presently employees are expected to work 12-hour days. This was true prior to the union election. Since the union was voted in this has not been allowed.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

MEMBER INPUT

Diane Albino, (Community Village) requested a Donation to an Earth Day Celebration 2000 be added to the agenda as New Business. An environmental fair to include LRAPA, BRING, and other local agencies is being planned for April 22. There will be entertainment and a parade. The Fair is also invited to display the law reform kiosk and information on OCF environmental activities.

STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager Leslie Scott announced the OCF is researching a long-term, permanent staging area for the buses. Neither Autzen Stadium nor the Lane County Fairgrounds is available this year. She is brainstorming possibilities for this year as well as a permanent solution with Lane Transit District (LTD).

We finally received our property tax refund (\$3,952.53) from our successful appeal on the property tax rating on the Fair site property. The appeal reduces future taxes on the property almost \$2,000/year.

The OCF and the City of Veneta have agreed to a survey for the land swap at a cost of approximately \$2,700. She thanked Jack and Dennis for meeting with the City and insuring additional requirements on the easements and boundary review. Leslie hopes to close in April!

The OCF has connected Forrest Larson with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) about putting conservation easements on his land. We will continue to pursue the purchase of an access easement from Forrest.

Leslie continues to explore shower expansion. Thanks to Marshall and Steve W for all the help researching this. More information and a proposal will be presented in April. She thanked the staff for spending an afternoon together reviewing the Guidelines for operational procedures and formatting to make them as coherent and usable as possible. The Endowment checks will be presented next Thursday. The Poster Committee has chosen a winner and the commemorative t-shirts have been ordered. Thanks to the Poster Committee for all their work. The Far Side camping permit obtained in '96 imposed a five-year limit. The permit is valid through 2000.

Leslie thanked all who attended the February Coordinators' Potluck. They had a good discussion about the Guidelines and distribution improvements.

Administrative Assistant norma thanked the staff for reviewing the Guidelines changes. Suggestions to reduce costs and improve distribution are appreciated. It is the Coordinators' responsibility to insure their crews have access to the Guidelines. Applications for craft and entertainment are flying out and in. Teen crew applications will be available April 1. Send a SASE envelope now for a quicker response. norma thanked Andy for his wonderful work in the bathroom and installing new kitchen cabinets. Thanks to Leila Snow, our new office fairy for swiftly filing OCF papers. Leila is taking the place of the wonderful Bella Wren to whom Leslie & norma are very grateful for years of dedicated hard work as our office fairy.

Site Manager Steve Wisnovsky announced that as we near the end of winter, the site conditions remain fairly good. We experienced little path erosion; 80-90% of the paths' grass remains from last fall. The bank erosion continues to be a significant problem. We are losing 3-5 feet of river bank in spots each year. The Fair side booths are now being moved inland to create pathway. The loss is visibly disheartening when the affected areas are compared to aerial photos from 1987. We know our presence & activity is accelerating the damage. Paths and meadows erode faster than trees and shrubs. Steve has begun the long and lengthy (three months) process of applying for a campground permit on Zenn Acres. The permit fee is \$1450 which is three times the permit cost for Dahinda's Acres. Lastly, the Flower Crew position has been filled. Thanks to all who expressed interest.

President Jack has been pondering the new opportunities presented to us through the Far Side and Crew Services expansion. We can show leadership in education and conservation to the community at large by working hand in hand with archaeology and wetlands mitigation. Thank you to everyone involved with creating the Far Side reality. Additionally, there is real momentum of support of crew services. Volunteers are requested to become involved in a constructive manner. We must develop a five-year implementation plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LUMP (Land Use Management Planning) Dennis Todd reported Allen Makinson of NRCS met with LUMP recently. They decided to forego pursuing a conservation easement for Fair

side property because there is no guarantee the OCF will be the final arbiter of compatible use. Restoration funds for Indian Creek are available, however. This would require a ten-year maintenance commitment. They are also considering a riparian zone easement along the Long Tom. This is the beginning of the greenway creation. Other lands on the Far Side are still eligible for wetlands easements.

Contact LUMP if you are interested in any of the spring work parties. They will be planting native plants and seeds on the Far Side and at the experimental wastewater uptake site.

JHVF (Jill Heiman Vision Fund) The committee will determine this year's grant recipient(s). The category approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting is "Environmental Protection & Recovery."

Crafts Dave Peek (crafter) clarified that the committee is strongly opposed to expansion into wooded areas.

Member Survey Seven folks attended the first meeting. Bill Lakey (Traffic) and Mitch Robinson (Security) were appointed co-chairpersons. They drafted the following mission statement. "The Survey Committee is charged with facilitating, collecting, and tabulating a biennial (once every two years) survey of the Oregon Country Fair Membership. The Survey Committee will report the results to the Board of Directors. All questions in accordance with the process shall be included on the survey. Look for a related article in the *Fair Family News (FFN)* in the next couple of months.

OLD BUSINESS

Palmer moved, and Jack seconded, the BoD contribute \$500 to this year's HIV Alliance River Walk.

Peach Gallery: Darnel Mandelblatt (HIV Alliance) announced a supportive decision tonight will insure the Fair's logo appears on the River Walk poster as a sponsor. The walk will be held on May 20, with a theme of "Step Up, Be Aware, Act". They are also in the middle of \$100 million "Here for Life" campaign. Darnel said pledge forms are available by calling 342-5088. She thanked Charis Ariel, Heidi Tipton, and Danya Ariel of "Lovin' Lizards" (all Fair family) that raised the most money as a non-corporate team, \$635. (*By the way, Lovin Lizards intends to beat their feat this year!*) Thumbs Up from the rest!

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Jim).

CAPITAL PROJECTS BUDGET

Michele moved, and Dr. Jim seconded, the BoD approve the 2000 Capital Projects Budget totaling \$38,638, later amended to \$39,838.

Peach Gallery: Hilary stated the Budget Committee (BC) received capital projects requests totaling \$71,000. Anne Rogers (Archaeology) pleaded their crew's full request be reinstated. The OCF would be a co-sponsor of this research with the UofO. The BC recommends \$2,000 be allocated to cover three accelerated radio-carbon tests and office expenses and postage. The project is not time-sensitive and could be pursued over a couple of years. They suggest Archaeology seek other matching grants/contributors to this very important project. Archaeology requested six tests at \$600 each.

BoD: Jim's friendly amendment to fully restore their request to \$4,480 was not accepted by Michele.

Jim moved, and Lawrence seconded, the BoD amend the CP budget and allocate \$4,480 for Archaeology Research.

Lawrence said this work connects us the past and future to the present.

Vote on the amendment failed: 6 in favor and 4 opposed (Marlene, Michele, Charlie & Palmer).

Michele rejected Palmer's friendly amendment to add \$1200 to the Arch. line item.

Lawrence moved, and Dr. Jim seconded, the BoD will increase the Archaeology line item above \$2000 with matching funds (friendly amendment by Charlie) up to \$1200 for a total of \$3,200.

Peach Gallery: Thumbs Up!

BoD: Michele said the BC did a good job, working hard to give as much as possible to all. Many items were cut and asked to seek creative alternatives. Marlene agreed that the Fair's financial constraints apply to all. Brad countered that a larger initial budget will create momentum and yield greater results as they reach out to others.

Vote on the amendment passed: 7 in favor and 3 opposed (Marlene, Michele and Palmer).

BoD: Palmer objected to the new process of forcing an unfriendly amendment. Charlie and Lawrence said this is approved parliamentary procedure. The BoD returned to discussing the whole Capital Projects budget. Steve W. clarified the Site mower line item pays off the lease which began last year. He has determined that it is not feasible to create a permanent roof over Jill's crossing. Instead, he requested \$600 for a temporary roof of PVC and plastic during the winter to protect the wood. He also proposed \$500 for a slip-in tank, hose & pump to be purchased at a government sale as an alternative to a new fire truck. Palmer approved of the utility vehicle line item on condition that we may use the design again. Andy Strickland (Caretaker) is collaborating with CAT (Center for Alternative Transportation). Palmer also supports the video upgrade line item on condition that OCF ownership of the videos is guaranteed before any money is spent. norma stated the copier line item is less than originally anticipated as she now intends to lease instead of purchase one. When Brad questioned the lower Kitchen line item, Hilary responded that Eric Nusbaum, (Kitchen Co-coord.) who is also a BC member approved this item. *Someone else quipped bacon is a separate item!*

The motion as amended for a total Capital Projects budget of \$39,838 passed: 8 in favor and 2 opposed (Michele & Palmer).

WETLANDS MITIGATION WITH BI-MART

Jim moved, and Palmer seconded, the BoD change the wording of the original motion approved 11/1/99 to: The Oregon Country Fair shall "explore" (~~enter into~~) an agreement with Terra Science to mitigate three and a half acres on land that will soon be owned by the Fair.

Peach Gallery: Hilary said the language is vague. Does this motion authorize the Fair's representatives to make a deal or not? Stefan Ostrach (Teamsters Union rep) hoped any specific agreement would return to the BoD for confirmation. He added that Terra Science is the agent for Bi-Mart. Dave Durant (White Bird) opposes working with Bi-Mart; an agreement would send a wrong message to the community and the membership. Randy Nowell (VegManEC) disagreed; wetlands mitigation benefits the OCF and the land.

BoD: Lawrence said he pondered this issue a lot during the past month. He concluded that karma follows money and this money feels greasy. Jim said he made this motion to unshackle the Fair's representatives and give them more authority. This way they may or may not enter into an agreement. He added that the word "explore" should include the intention that any specific offer would need BoD confirmation. This motion does not address the labor issue with Bi-Mart. Jack argued the BoD is reviewing this decision because it is about greasy money. The Teamsters have come to the OCF Board hoping to gain leverage against Bi-Mart. If there were no labor dispute, Jack cannot imagine the Teamsters or Bi-Mart employees opposing a new building and more jobs. The OCF is being played. Marlene agreed. She said

she wants to look beyond the next five years and past Bi-Mart's demise. The issue is the preservation of the land for future generations.

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Michele).

GUIDELINE PROCESS 2001

Marlene suggested the BoD hold a work shop on Consequences of Guidelines Infractions. She added that after speaking with the staff, it seems the current Guidelines revision process works. The BoD may want to consider adding another Office Crew position for Guidelines work in 2001.

LATE GUIDELINE PROPOSAL

Charlie moved, and Jim seconded, the following text be added to Section 30, second paragraph: (in bold) "... fire hazard. They are also large contributors to dust and are highly allergenic for some people. Use of these materials in campsites or on paths is prohibited. If you wish to use these materials ~~in your booth,~~ (deleted by friendly amendment) you must sign a site stewardship agreement form which is available at the Registration booth, Quartermaster, or your coordinator.

Background: The Site Stewardship Agreement states 1)I understand and agree that if I use hay, straw or wood shavings in my booth I must remove it or I will be assessed a \$50 cleanup fee with my next booth registration. I agree to rake and haul it off-site or to the OCF compost pile by July 31. Hay, straw and wood shavings are not permitted for use as groundcover in campsites. 2)I understand and agree that if I use a refrigerator in my booth or campsite I must agree to remove it by July 31 or I will be assessed a \$100 removal fee with my next booth registration. 3)I understand that chainsaws and other power equipment must be checked in at Quartermaster and a fire extinguisher and shovel must be present during use. **Absolutely no cutting of vegetation, living or dead, is permitted.** Please contact Quartermaster with any questions concerning vegetation tie-back or removal.

Peach Gallery: Leslie noted the consequence for refrigerators left on site already exists. Steve W. noted this agreement is workable. Hilary is concerned about a fair implementation by one crew. Anne noted this could be a VegManECs task. She suggested once forms are signed they be displayed so all present in the booth/campground are aware and to prevent further questioning by VegManECs. Arrow wanted this to apply to the entire Fair, not just the booths. Andy crafted this guideline to attach responsibility to actions. He said the majority of items pass through Main Camp on their way in and hopefully we won't have to collect any fees.

BoD: Charlie said, as a VegManEC, he is tired of picking up hay and straw. Palmer suggested the words "in your booth" be deleted and the entire text be reviewed by the grammar police. He advocated the burden of enforcement be placed upon the coordinators.

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Jack).

WOODED UNDERSTORY EXPANSION MORATORIUM

Marlene moved, and Dr. Jim seconded, the OCF implement a five-year moratorium on expansion into the wooded understory on the Fair site excluding the Far Side and Zenn Acres which will have increased camping.

Background: Marlene noted that as we loose our big trees and large branches we lose more of our heritage to pass on to the next generations.

Peach Gallery: Leslie noted that Operations supports it in principal but there are practical realities which must be confronted. The five-year period makes this proposal easier to live with. As the river bank erodes Path Planning is desperately seeking replacement booth space.

They would like to tie in a few areas to prevent sprawl. PP would ask the BoD to ask for a variance on the policy to move into the already camped-in areas within the Eight if the site experienced an unforeseen natural disaster. Dave opposed this motion. Dennis said LUMP identified sensitive areas and are trying to move away from the river bank. There is open space in Craft Lot. He would like this motion to be flexible enough to minimize impact on the woods if a logical connecting corridor should be placed between two areas. Steve W. noted the importance of this motion. However, we also need a moratorium on an increase in population.

BoD: Jack said this motion has potential; if we are forced to move then we must mitigate. Palmer wondered whether this motion is flexible to include operational exceptions, i.e., fire roads. Marlene said we must begin now before it is too late. Craft committee gave positive support to this concept when she posed the question to them. She would also support a rational flexibility as Dennis suggested. Charlie noted that it does not make sense to plant trees and shrubs on the river bank and then put the pathway on top. The motion was tabled for further consideration and refinement.

SENIOR DISCOUNT AGE CHANGE

Michele moved, and Charlie seconded, the OCF change the age of Senior Discount eligibility to 60.

Peach Gallery: Thumbs Up!

BoD: This will have little effect upon the revenue projection, yet.

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Brad).

FEE FOR WRISTBANDED 11 & 12-YEAR-OLDS

Michele moved, and Charlie seconded, wristbands for 11 and 12-year olds will cost \$25.

Background: Leslie said, in 1997, the OCF recognized that many young teens were coming to the Fair, entering the gate for free and staying overnight unsupervised. At that time Operations lowered the age to enter the Fair at no cost to 10 and required all Fair youth age 11 and up to be wristbanded. Thus, their parents or guardians and Fair affiliation may be easily accessed, if necessary. Teens age 13-18 may apply for Teen Crew or pay \$25 for their pass. It was stated then that wristbanded youth ages 11 & 12 would probably have to buy their pass, \$25, effective 1998. No action was taken in '98 or '99. The OCF cannot continue to provide services for our ever-increasing number of 11&12 year olds and their friends.

Peach Gallery: Randy said that this is a transitory burden. Parents must be responsible for their kids. Dave countered the irresponsible ones will just pretend their children are nine or ten-years old. Hilary understood the financial burden this puts on families. However, it will provide more accountability and may reduce the population. Many folks bring their children's' friends or a baby-sitter. We need to develop community within ourselves. Community Village has a Youth Booth with a babysitter's list. This policy applies to all Fair youth.

BoD: Marlene and Charlie disclosed they each have children affected by this policy. Marlene and Charlie opposed the extra burden on volunteers especially without any options for these lower ages to be on a working crew. Palmer quipped if all parents were as responsible as Dave he'd probably want to have kids. The reality is a lot of parents do a poor job watching, caring for their kids at the Fair. The Fair should not have to absorb the cost of families. Kids have a whole year to earn money to pay for their own pass by collecting bottles & cans, mowing & raking lawns and other odd jobs. Etienne appreciated the safety aspect but thought \$25 is too high. Lawrence added that children are not a personal amenity. We can all share

the joy and expense. Brad suggested all Fair kids should be wristbanded for safety and accountability. However, we should also lower the age at the gate even further.

The motion failed: 3 in favor and 7 opposed (Etienne, Dr. Jim, Charlie, Howard, Marlene, Lawrence, & Jack).

Palmer moved, and Michele seconded, wristbands for 11 and 12-year olds will cost \$15.

The motion failed: 5 in favor and 5 opposed (Brad, Lawrence, Marlene, Charlie and Etienne).

SOPS

Jack moved, and Lawrence seconded, the BoD increase the available number of SOPs to 75% of crew size to be phased in over the next three years. Thus, SOPs would increase 10% the first two years and 5% the last year.

Peach Gallery: Randy, Steve W., Bear and Anne all opposed this motion. The site cannot handle the increase. Steve G. calculated this would potentially add 700 - 800 more folks on site. That would mean adding many more porta-potties, loss of underbrush, extra cars, etc. Leslie said the current practice of SOPs is very different than the original concept. There are many working SOPs as well as many that are three or four steps removed from an active, participating Fair member. Hilary agreed; she said she would advocate to increase crew size before increasing the number of SOPs. Marshall reported he has received several e-mails from his crew leads requesting an increase in SOPs. How do we really achieve family status if folks are not allowed to bring their real family.

The meeting was extended by ten minutes: 8 in favor and 2 opposed (Palmer and Michele).

BoD: Dr. Jim noted the largest impact on the land is us. Jack countered that we have significantly increased our land base with the acquisition of the Far Side and Zenn Acres. We must use our resources creatively to be inclusive. He also agreed the SOP system is fairly corrupt from its original intention. This motion is part of our commitment to the crews. The issue of how to be as inclusive as possible for our youth and our elders is present.

The motion failed: 3 in favor and 7 opposed (Brad, Marlene, Michele, Charlie, Dr. Jim, Etienne & Palmer).

The next BoD meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 3, 2000, at EWEB, 7pm. The agenda, subject to change, will include Budget Issues: Operations Budget Amendments, Land Swap Costs, Purchase Larson Easement; Salary Ranges for Steps 1-7, 3-7, and 4-7 (Personnel); Leaves of Absence from Committees (Palmer); Wooded Understory Moratorium (Marlene); and Donations to Fiesta Latina and Earth Day Celebration.