

5-23-13 ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Albino, Chris Browne, Alan Cohn, Katie Cousins, Peggy Day, Jain Elliott, Patricia Van Esso, Jim Goettler, Robert Jacobs, Michael James Long, Eric Nicholson and Dee Wirak (also note taker)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Don Doolin, Kay Kintzley, Roger Lesiak

OTHERS PRESENT: Hilary Anthony, Jerry Joffe, Sue Moore, Licia Shultz and Charlie Ruff

MINUTES-Motion to approve April minutes made and passed. Next elders committee meeting will be held on June 27. This will be a potluck meeting out at Kay's, 6-9 p.m.

CONCEPTUALLY SPEAKING -Charlie believes in and supports the elders, it is absolutely appropriate and he wants to keep it as a viable option. He is here tonight, along with Hilary, to seek feedback regarding the parameters; age 55 and 20 years of service. The spirit of elders was to honor those unable to work, to keep their place at the table. There has been a meteoric rise in the number of elders, lots of folks are eager for time off. Many are still capable at age 55, there has been a huge brain drain and loss of talent that makes transition a challenge. Intergenerational flow has not happened in reality. Physical space is limiting.

Hilary stated that the Virtual Sticker Booth would like to make actual projections for growth but the database lacks birth year information. Estimated space needs for a vehicle (270 sq ft) and tent (150 sq ft) project 1 acre is required for 100 people.

The growth created by the elder's program has been the most significant, factoring in the retiring elder, 75% companions and the new person to fill the position, it is outsizing the largest crew at the fair. Fifty five is a young age to be retiring, many are not. Internal growth continues; intergenerational issues remain. There's a need for balance.

Could the age be raised to 60+ if there was an effective safety valve mechanism in place for the person with mitigating circumstances that falls through the cracks at age 59? Elder input and ideas on the issue would like to be heard.

Open floor discussion (by topic)...solution does not appear to be simply raise the age or length of service; a gradual incremental increase (phased in every 2 years-add a year) may be less politically difficult however that doesn't make room for the next generation any sooner. Elders are not the problem, they're part of the solution. If there were a mechanism in place for post teens to fill positions opened by retiring elders, numbers onsite would not increase.

It is unfortunate that the elder pass has been taken advantage of; elder passes have been used to expand the population on site. How do you say, no you can't bring your grandchild? Elders are likely bringing the same companion, we're not adding new people and we've been coming since we created it and will die off eventually. We may be less interested in staying overnight. An extended elder day pass and late night bus to Eugene would reduce the need for camping space (in principle we all see the value in this option; Charlie agreed to pursue the idea). Can we collect numbers?

There are several different classes of service: entertainers-crew-staff-teens-elders-booth/crafters, no one single solution. Entertainers are used to getting roadie passes. There's the complexity of juried crafts, attachment to real estate, we need compassion to work with families, people don't want to be forced out of their booths but would appreciate the flexibility of taking a year or 2 off or part time positions. (New camping crew is available as of this year to assist if you can no longer camp at the booth).

Tenured members' concept, allow flexibility, simplify the rules. There is a difference between having elder status and using an elder pass. Calling it a party pass devalues it. Decreased cost of wristbands is some measure of recognition.

Staff may develop a proposal, expect to continue the dialog.

CAMP-Sue and Peggy have provided the foundation of a numbered mapping system. Archeology has approved the placement of numbered plaques to identify camp sites, 70 plaques have been made. Claimed sites so far: 56; 68 sites are marked out, cutoff at 80 sites maximum. A database of Elder camp is being maintained, it also lists the 2nd occupant if known. Procedure for getting your tent tags this year will be-bring your site's numbered plaque to the hospitality tent and exchange it there for your tent tag. Last work party will be Saturday, June 15 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., dirt is available.

DONATIONS-Elders have been generous in providing funding for fellow elders to obtain passes compassionately; \$1125 has been raised for the Elder fund. Fifteen elders and some of their caretakers have received scholarship to attend this year's fair, \$230 remains to be awarded.

TIMELINE-the 2000-2009 timeline subcommittee will need to meet but there may not be much notice. Jerry requested reminder calls be made to folks that have appropriate photos. Licia has written the article for the Peach Pit announcing the fourth installment will be onsite in the Still Living Room. It may be placed where the map had been.

MEET-N-GREET-Licia will send a notice to Alan to post on wonderfulelders regarding the Hawaiian theme of this year's Meet-n-Greet, Thursday, July 11, 7-9 p.m.

OLD TIMERS PICNIC-June 29, set up at 4:30, party starts at 6 p.m.

STILL LIVING ROOM-All shifts have been filled but one, a volunteer host is needed for 4-7 p.m. Saturday, July 13.

ZAK SCHWARTZ TRAINING-Refresher course is scheduled for June 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., newbies course from 1-4 p.m.

LPFM-The BOD approved to move forward. Subcommittee will meet to make a handout description. The Veneta and Elmira superintendents need to be contacted, probably after the fair. The names of shopkeepers or other folks we should be talking to in the Veneta area and letters of interest are needed now, funnel them to Michael James Long.

ADJOURNED.

