

October 1 & 2, 2011

Oregon Country Fair ELDERS COMMITTEE RETREAT MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Albino, Chris Browne, Alan Cohn, Katie Cousins, Robert Jacobs, Kay Kintzley, Roger Lesiak, Eric Nicholson, Patricia Van Esso and Dee Wirak (note taker)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Don Doolin, Michael James Long, David Peasley and Janet Tarver

OTHERS PRESENT: Isa Haverlan, Peggy Day Fitzgerald, Jerry Joffe, Jain Elliott, Lois Morford, Robert "Mouseman" McCarthy, Sue Moore, Paxton Hoag, Pegeen Zygaitis, Patty Marx, Barbara Jacobs, Michael Hilton "Granpuff", Jon Pincus and Licia Shultz (facilitator).

Licia reviewed the proposed and posted agenda: Elders camping, Still Living Room, Founding Members, Mailings, Budget needs, Gratitudes and Candidates. Spring Retreat was added as an item for discussion. All persons present introduced themselves highlighting what they had done for elders at the fair this year.

A message from Charlie Ruff, our BUM, was read. Due to a scheduling conflict, a BUM retreat this same weekend, he will be unable to attend. He welcomes invitations to any future Elders retreats.

ELDERS CAMP-Demand is outstripping available space. There was discussion around the Fair map and possibilities. Elders need to be vocal at OCF Camping Crew meetings to let our needs be known. **Chris will post any future meeting dates, time and location to the Elders Committee list.**

After five years as our Elder camp hostess, Kay has resigned from this position. Thanks to Kay for her service. **Sue Moore was nominated to serve as Elder camp hostess. There being no opposition, she accepts.** Mapping of the Elders camp is in process. Sue passed around Paul's cartographic representation of the Elder's camping location. Consider submitting names for walkway areas at the Elders spring retreat.

Camping subcommittee includes: Chris, Eric, Roger, Peggy and Sue.

FOUNDING MEMBERS- There is a finite number of individuals who were founders of the fair but who do not qualify for elder status who would like to be able to get a camping pass if so desired. Lengthy discussion led to this issue being **tabled** for now. We need more information. Later when Jon, who submitted this topic for discussion, was present he was asked to **submit these names to the Elders committee** for further discussion of this topic. Sandra B may also submit names.

GRATITUDES-Everyone was given the opportunity to express their gratitude to each other and for the fair. Many thanks.

BUDGET-Chris discussed the following budget request for the next two years. Operations funds will be depleted early this year. Additional funds for operations are primarily for increased mailings to include two newsletters and an annual membership

increase of approximately 80 members per year. Currently there are 600 approved Elders.

EXPENSE CATEGORY	ACTUAL 2011	2012	2013
Events	800	800	800
Geezer	300	300	300
Operations	1400+	2200	2500
TOTAL REQUEST	2500	3300	3600

This year we used 16 “Earned pass” positions. Based on need, our request will add two more for a total of **18 “earned” passes** for elders.

Trade passes have not previously been used by Elders but we propose use of this category of passes. Our request will include **4 non-elder, trade passes** be allotted for Elders committee to use at their discretion to support their work pre-during-post fair, possibly by post teens.

Chris will submit this 2012-13 budget request to the Budget committee by 10/23/11.

MAILINGS-There will be two newsletters that should be completed to accompany existing mailings-one to be mailed with the Letter of Intent that is sent to all Elders, end of January and the second to immediately follow the Spring retreat with the Pass request mailing. Newsletters should include a calendar of scheduled events and due dates as well as information about all “earned” pass positions available for Elders and who to contact.

Congratulations letter was re-done and read. We are no longer doing a Bell ringing ceremony. This year it worked well to pass out certificates to new elders during registration, 40 certificates were mailed following the fair.

STILL LIVING ROOM-Janet will not be available to be the coordinator for our booth next year, this position is open to be filled. The booth has established elders as a viable part of the fair. The site is temporary but will be available for our use in 2012. There is the possibility of having more space available. **Chris and Jain will contact Jay (Ambiance) to see if we could use any additional space for our booth.**

Memorial subcommittee: Roger, Kay, Licia, Janet and Shawn will consider suggestions to 1) make portofolio available to contain prior year’s memorial items posted by fair attendees, and 2) create more obvious signage for the memorial kiosk so it is not mistaken for a message board.

Because it is too early and there is not enough existing display space at our current location, a fourth timeline project will not be done for this fair.

Field trip to the Still Living Room site followed.

SPRING ELDERS RETREAT-Dates are set for March 31 & April 1, 2012 for an Elders’ Gathering/retreat. This will be a time to focus on finalizing our plans for the 2012 fair. The Events subcommittee will meet beforehand to consider how ways of increasing participation by elders.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE/BOD CANDIDATES- Question was discussed as proposed by Sandra who tried to Skype in but audio was never achieved-paraphrased from email-Should a nominating committee be created to actively recruit, qualify and/or nominate good candidate candidates for the BOD?

It seems unlikely that a candidate nominating committee that was exclusive would ever be accepted over the now current democratic process. Elders are free to identify good candidates, recruit and/or encourage them to run. Our fall retreats provide a good opportunity for elders to openly discuss, share our individual perspectives and possibly interview any and all candidates.

Candidates running for election to the BOD were all invited to attend Elders Council meeting at noon today. RSVP's were not required so some candidates could just show up (p.s. none besides the elders in attendance did).

The current Candidates Forum process allowed for input and informing candidates about elders issues with questions submitted via email and audience participation. Go to oregoncountryfairforum.org to see candidates' answers to posed questions.

The food was incredible! Entertainment was enjoyed and appreciated by all. Eric shared his talents on at least four instruments; Mouseman joined in for a very special listening opportunity.

CALENDAR-Spirit Walk, October 8 at dusk at the Yurt

Next Elders Committee meeting: 7 p.m OCF office, October 27, 2011