

Oregon Country Fair Elders Committee
September 22, 2011 meeting
7:05pm, town office

Member present: Kay, Jain, Katie, Patty, Patricia, Chris, Alan, Robert, Jon, Roger, Jerry, Sue, Michael, Janet, Diane, Eric, Licia (facilitator)

Janet announced she will be taking a leave of absence while she recovers. She sang lyrics by the Ramones "only 24 hours to go, I want to be sedated...." She reported she opened and closed the Still Living Room each day of the Fair this year, there were lots of visitors, lots of help, and it was a big success.

Agenda review: Licia reviewed the agenda: budget, applications, retreat plans, camping, camp map, archives, feed-back & debrief, meet & greet.

Applications: Patricia said there were 10 new approvals and she read their names. Chris said this brings the total number of Elders to 600. The next application deadline is March 1, 2012.

Budget: Chris reported the new budget packet will be for a two year plan. At the retreat the expenditures to date and the needs for next year will be reviewed. At the recent Financial Planning / Budget meeting, a request to reduce Elder pass cost from \$60 to \$30 was considered and the cost was reduced to \$45. This is subject to Board approval at the October meeting.

Camping: Kay reported the Elders camp had 40 campers in 2010 and had 77 this year. There may be room for 4 or 5 more campers if small footprints (10x10) are maintained. The camp received compliments from the wildlife and green space teams. At a recent meeting with other camp hosts and the Camping Crew, the idea of a designated parking lot area for vehicle campers was discussed and looks likely. Jon said there may be 5 - 7 camping spaces near Gypsy Way for mobility challenged campers. Kay said she is giving notice after 5 years as camp hostess. She complimented Sue for her assistance with hosting the camp this year.

Camp Map: Sue passed out a draft map of the Elders Camp. She said we could name the camp pathways and might want to have a contest.

Archives: Jerry is involved with the Oregon Country Fair archiving planning and said the Multnomah County Archivist is a Fair patron and is becoming involved in the process. An archive meeting is coming up that will involve Fair Family, Lane County and the University of Oregon. The archiving idea for the Fair and for other area and community history of the time has generated a lot of interest and support. The work involves collecting materials, identifying the sources, preservation and access and may include a museum. One group is working on the idea of converting the downtown Post Office into a museum.

Meet and Greet: Licia said the gathering was successful and a lot of fun. The band was awesome and the WOW Hall was a good venue. Kay has agreed to take over coordinating the event.

Feedback: It was reported that attempts by coordinators and reps to get older volunteers to go to the Elders for passes is still happening. There is still a need to make it clear that having Elder status is not the same as resigning from a crew and giving up a crew pass. It remains up

to the individual and retirement is not a forced situation. **Chris, Katie and Michael took the action to get some information into the Fair Family News regarding the policy.**

Coordinating and staffing the Still Living Room was discussed. The activity is very popular now and involves many different kinds of people (youth, patrons, etc.) All at the meeting agreed that the Still Living Room is positive and beneficial and is working well as a place for history and a place to gather. A support crew of young people to work for a coordinator would be a solution.

Retreat: Licia suggested focusing less on the meeting aspect of the retreat and more on the fun as a way to get more participants to come out. Many committee members commented on or suggested agenda items for the this weekend's retreat: an Elders "bash" on Saturday; project descriptions and leadership names on posters; newsletters in the "letter of intent" and in the "pass requirements" mailings; a picnic to go along with the Elders Council meeting on Sunday; make the December meeting a party at the WOW Hall; the need to fill some vacancies - Sue for camp host, Kay for Meet and Greet; what about Fair "founders" who do not otherwise qualify for Elder status; music by Eric; a short skit project; **Chris will gather materials and information for planning the two-year budget;** we are getting 50-80 new elders each year; invite BoD candidates for questions - after lunch on Sunday - it is a political opportunity for the candidates; the Elders are like a political action committee; **Robert took the action to contact the candidates and invite them;** future plans and use of Main Camp area and involvement with Path Planning.

Food for the retreat was discussed, money gathered, and a "fall classic" menu was made to include turkey and vegetables. A Sunday breakfast will also be prepared that will include eggs, toast, fruit, yogurt, sausage, juice, coffee. Licia and Patricia will gather the food. Eric will unlock Alice's on Friday.

The weekend retreat will begin at 10am on Saturday, October 1. The business agenda will include Camping, Old-timer, communication, budget, Still Living Room, the March retreat, and Plans for the Future. There should be time for more chatter and a more relaxed meeting atmosphere.

The spirit walk will be held on October 8; meet at the yurt at 7pm. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm. (scribe - Bill)