

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Revised and approved at 11-21-19 mtg.*

October 24, 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Jacobs, Roger Lesiak, Kay Kintzley, Michael James Long, and Ann Rogers

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Diane Albino, Alan Cohn, Katie Cousins, Jain Elliott, Heather Kent, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Eric Nicholson, Patricia Van Esso, Dee Wirak

OTHERS PRESENT: Roberta Austin, Kehn “mambo” Gibson, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Christine Howe Harrison, Patty Marx, Etienne M. “Em” Smith, Licia Shultz (facilitator)

LOCATION: Grower’s Market

MEETING TIME: 7 p.m.

Intros, announcements, agenda items

Announcements

- Roger L. announced he is resigning from Elders committee so he can take advantage of a traveling opportunity. He will submit his letter of resignation to the board in time for the next board meeting. Thank you, Roger for your service to Elders.
- Roberta announced that her brother recently passed away.
- Elder’s Retreat, Alice’s.: Sat./Sun. Oct. 26/27
- Jon Pincus has been dealing with health issues. Any expressions of support communicated to Jon will be appreciated
- Next Elders Committee Meetings, Grower’s Market: Thursday, 11/21 and 01/23

Approval of September Meeting Minutes The minutes could not be approved due to lack of a quorum. With 14 committee members, a minimum of seven members need to be in attendance. This meeting was attended by only five members. Approval tabled to next meeting (it’s unclear if minutes can be approved at the upcoming retreat).

Agenda Items

- Educating Fair Family on end of life issues - Ann
- Thank you notes - Licia
- New Elders Applications - Patty
- Expressing an Elder Committee interest/Fair future - Em
- OCF Elections & Future fall retreats – mambo
- Agenda items for upcoming Elders Retreat – Licia

EDUCATING FAIR FAMILY ON END OF LIFE ISSUES – Ann B.

Ann expressed an interest in bringing end-of-life issues to Fair family. This was prompted by someone close who died and didn’t have a beneficiary listed on their bank account. The group suggested that we start with a discussion thread on the WonderfulOCFelders listserv. At some point ideas could be brought together to the Fair family at large.

THANK-YOU NOTES – Licia

Licia shared a graphic she’d like to use for the Thank-You notes we’ll be writing during the retreat. Everyone seemed to like them. Licia emphasized the importance of acknowledge contributions that individuals have made to Elders.

NEW ELDERS APPLICATIONS – Patty

Several new applications were passed around for review by attending committee members. *There were 5 applications and all 5 were vetted during the meeting.

ELDER COMMITTEE INTEREST/FAIR FUTURE – Em

Em expressed an interest in serving on the Elders Committee. There is a lot of important work done in committees, and the new board and ED will need a lot of support to be successful. There's a lot to do and committees can help.

Em would like to run for the board again at some point in the future. Primary platforms in order of importance are:

1. Reverence for the land – Path planning and skilled caretakers are essential.
2. Philanthropic (like Charter Membership). Build a Volunteer Club House – this is a scaled back version of the original community center plan that starts out smaller and evolves towards a center. We have people who would do this. As a site volunteer, Em says that crews need a place to have a sheltered meeting (i.e. warm place during cold months), a shower and a meal. In the old days it was pretty much just the Vegemantics out on site.
3. Freedom – Em stated diversity isn't the issue, it's inclusivity. In other words, rather than taking on the mantle of "white privilege", we should focus on equality. While the Fair at large welcomes everyone, there is bullying that goes on, as opposed to "white privilege".

Within the 3 points there were some discussions – there seemed to be a general agreement among the group that reverence for the land.

Mambo pointed out that white privilege is real and cited the example of how he can drive around in his beaten-up truck and law enforcement never bothers him, but if he was a person of color, it would likely be another story. Ann spoke about a woman of color in Corvallis who was maliciously hit by a car while riding her bike. She also related a story of how the OSU Beaver booster club back in the 1968-69 school year "paid off" football players of color to leave OSU by purchasing them vehicles as a "pay-off" for going away.

Em stated she'd like to bring more awareness and education to Fair family on these issues, and Ann stated that the diversity group is working towards getting a workshop on the schedule.

Em emphasized that the Elders Committee can get more involved in these issues, and through the power of committee work steer the BOD's agenda.

Chris mentioned that we should look at each board member's strengths in terms of approaching board members about Elder issues and concerns (which are not limited to just Elders).

OCF ELECTIONS & FUTURE FALL RETREATS – mambo

Mambo requested that Elders look at scheduling future fall retreats prior to OCF Elections. This would give candidates an opportunity to meet with Elders, state positions and answer questions. This happened a couple of years ago and those who were there (and at this meeting) agreed that it was productive.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR UPCOMING ELDERS RETREAT – Licia

(List from September Meeting):

- Elder budget discussion. ~~The budget needs to be submitted by Oct. 14, so this will essentially be a review of~~ what was submitted to the Budget Committee
- Capital Expenditures
- SLR Storage – now and future
- Soliciting donations from Elders to support Elder hospitality, Elder services, projects
- Events Subcommittee
- Discussion – What is the role of Elders in relationship to the Fair at large? What are we giving now and how can we continue to contribute? What is the impact of Elders on the Fair? How do we bring experience and wisdom to the younger generations?

- Discussion – How are Elders misrepresented at Fair? What are the talking points for handling misperceptions of Elders?
- Thank you's. Let's remember of all the people from the past year to whom we'd like to express our gratitude for volunteering for Elder related functions. We'll write Thank You notes, sign, and send to recipients.

Licia talked about the importance of retreats as a forum for deeper discussions. Freedom to speak doesn't necessarily have to relate to decision making. She asked, "How do we do that as a group without things becoming unruly?"

Michael James Long stated that what makes Elders work well is that we allow each person to express themselves – we are courteous with each other and show respect, even when we may not agree. Mambo expressed his appreciation for how everyone at the meeting held space even when strong, passionate opinions were expressed, and how that translated to a general sense of good will among the group.

Kay likes the round-robin discussion approach at retreats and feels that the facilitation that Licia provides creates a safe place to express ourselves, and keeps the conversations from falling apart.

Licia would like to see Saturday as the day we can get through the more concrete agenda items, spend time outdoors to have some fun, and then get into the bigger conversations.

Mambo suggested that for the bigger conversations that the scribe use a white board to write out major points so everyone can keep track.

Licia suggested that Sunday could be designated as a "Council of Elders" meeting, rather than a committee-oriented meeting to lay out a platform on how we could use the power of the committee to contribute to the fair.

It was mentioned that most retreat attendees don't stay or return for Sunday.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PASSED: No motions passed due to lack of quorum

TO DO LIST:

- Attend retreat, Saturday/Sunday Oct. 27/28 at Alice's
- Additional committee members needed to sign off on new Elders Applications that were passed around at this meeting.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Thursday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m. at Growers, Thursday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m. at Growers. No December meeting. There will be an Elder's Holiday party – Details TBD at retreat.