

ELDER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (pending final approval at next EC meeting)

June 27, 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Albino, Katie Cousins, Jain Elliott, Robert Jacobs, Kay Kintzley, Roger Lesiak, Eric Nicholson, and Patricia Van Esso

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Alan Cohn, Heather Kent, Michael James Long, Robert "Mouseman" McCarthy, Dee Wirak

OTHERS PRESENT: Fran Rosenthal, Sue Barnhart, Rick Valley, Peggy Day Fitzgerald, Annemarie Hirsch, Lois Inmann, Chris Howe (Harrison), Kehn "mambo" Gibson, Steve Barnes, Suzanne Philips, Jerry Joffe, Licia Shultz (facilitator), Leroy Culley, Roberta Austin, Jon Pincus, Jerry Shultz, Larry Lynch, Carolyn Gsell (scribe)

LOCATION: Kay's home in Pleasant Hill

MEETING TIME: 7 p.m.

Intros, agenda items gathered, announcements and thank you's...

Announcements & Thank you's

- Licia expressed thanks to Ann Bennett Rogers and Katie Cousins for facilitating the last two meetings so she could take a couple of months off
- Mentions – Anita Sweeten and Shem (Laurie Bleckman) are elders who recently passed. There will be a remembrance gathering for Anita at Phoenix Rising on Weds. before fair at 5:30 pm.
- Licia offered advice on communicating with each other. Slow down and listen! No matter what the other person's position, listen! It's not always necessary to respond with your point of view. A simple "Thank you" is usually all that is needed if you have truly listened with focused attention. The fair has been in turmoil because people don't feel heard. Elders can help heal this by listening.
- Jon P. reminded us we have a new Executive Director, and this is a great opportunity to help the new ED learn from us about the fair – history, what we're about, etc.
- See Jon P. after the meeting for 4th of July wristbands. If you know of anyone who wishes to be onsite for the 4th and hasn't been able to obtain a wristband, encourage them to contact Jon by email elders6419@gmail.com. Jon will gladly facilitate them getting their wristband for the 4th.
- Mambo relayed that Spirit Leatherwood is available by phone tonight to discuss any issues that come up during this meeting. He also showed appreciation for the scribe's May meeting notes.
- Annemarie reported that Bennett Rogers is restoring the memorial kiosk for the SLR. Ani Sinclair will manage the kiosk during the fair.
- Lois – The tree has finally been removed off her house. Lois's home and land suffered severe damage after the last Snowmageddon.
- Jain was grateful that Marcia contributed the piece for this year's SLR to the Peach Pit.
- Kay has a friend in New Mexico who missed applying for Elder status this year. He will apply next year but in the meantime is looking for a pass. He will pay money and in addition is offering work services in exchange. Kay thanked everyone for coming out to her home for tonight's meeting.
- Peggy will assist Annemarie with Elder Camp host duties this year.
- (Discussed during Elder Camp report) Jerry mentioned to keep in mind there is minimal cellular bandwidth at the fair, and most of it is allocated to paid staff and others with critical functions (White Bird, Fire, etc.), so don't rely on cellular service. John P. said that a new fiber optic line was laid down so bandwidth should improve this year.

Approval of May Minutes

Katie C. made a motion to approve May 2019 minutes. Annemarie H. seconded. **The motion was approved 8-0**

Sub-committee Reports:

- Elder Camping – Annemarie H.
The camp site looks good after a group of volunteers cleaned up and cleared the site. Everyone on the Elders Camping list has a spot. Volunteers are needed to help at Elder Central to host hospitality and keep things cleaned up. Donations of food, snacks and drinks to Elder Central would be greatly appreciated. A dishwashing station will be available. People are encouraged to keep meal prep simple and clean up after themselves. The SW Elder Annex tent site (near Miss Piggy’s) is also cleaned up. The toilets near there are “close but not too close :>”. The traditional Friday night cocktail party will be hosted again this year by John Durant and Cindy. They have a blender! Annemarie brought up fire safety. Per OCF 2019 Guidelines, “Camps and booths with cooking and/or permitted campfires must have a five-pound ABC fire extinguisher, a shovel, and two five-gallon containers full of water with one burlap bag submerged in each.”
Annemarie thanked Larry, Eric and everyone else who assisted with clearing storm debris and general clean-up of the Elder camp areas.
- “Elder/AA” Showers sub-committee report – Steve B.
Since the last meeting, Annemarie, Steve and Larry met with Shane and Cotterpin to discuss the Elder shower situation. It turns out that funding to build the showers was contingent on fair family use. For this year, the Elders will be responsible for keeping the showers cleaned. Shane will lock the showers sometime after 9:30 p.m. and open them back up at 6:00 a.m. Annemarie said they would conduct a survey during the fair to assess shower usage. We were reminded that for the past 4 years these showers have been accessible to all fair family. There will be signs posted to indicate Alter-abled get 1st priority, as well as clean-up signs. Next year, OCF Shower Crew will manage the showers.

A lively discussion about the “Elder/AA” showers ensued. It was generally agreed that Alter-abled access is top priority. Further, it was recognized that Elders who are alter-abled would naturally get priority access. The biggest complaint is that elders should not have to maintain these showers. We were reminded that this is the last year we’ll be tasked with this job. The other bone of contention was the decision to close and lock up the showers for most of the night. Several people emphasized that shift workers are on 24/7 and people who work odd hours need to have access to showers. It’s a hygiene issue. Further, should an alter-abled individual have an accident where they need a shower, regardless of time of day or night, we need to provide the service. Lois reminded us that the fair has made it clear that all crews and groups should be aware of alter-abled needs and are to do their best to accommodate those needs. Also consider that the highest concentration of alter-abled and Elders are camped near the Hub.

Suggested remedies for this year were many. Maybe the showers could remain open but unstaffed during late hours with instructions for users to clean up after themselves. Diane mentioned that all the showers have night closures excepting The Ritz, due to staff constraints. Steve indicated that just telling people to clean showers after use is not self-explanatory. Someone suggested there could be a checklist posted for each shower stall with cleaning supplies. Or maybe the showers could remain locked and someone could keep the key for an emergency, though this was not considered a viable solution. In the end, Jon P. and Annemarie said they are willing to work with the Elder Shower group to have further discussions with the fair about finding a solution for this year that will better benefit alter-abled and late-night shift workers.

- Geezer Pleaser sub-committee report – Jon Beer
Annemarie reported on behalf of Jon. There are 16 volunteers signed up. Jon wrote up a summary:
The on-line signup for G-P driving shifts is underway. Out of the 20+ folks who expressed an interest in driving, 16 have already signed up for shifts. Only 8 out of 34 shifts remain open.

I will be on-site Monday pre-Fair to pick up the golf cart from the QM and work with Michele Thorn to decorate it. Driving shifts will start Tuesday morning.

Although the G-P will not normally be driven after dark, an exception will be made to pick up folks from the Wednesday and Thursday evening registration shifts that run until around 10 p.m.

There have been issues in the past with the battery charge not lasting through shifts. I have seen an email to Jacob Blaser to inquire about the possibility of including a spare battery with the cart so we can always have one on the charger, ready to swap out.

If we have a spare battery, a charging system will also be required to charge the spare. But if the cart is charged by clipping cables to battery terminals (like jumping a car) then we are all set. Does Paxton set this up?

Any questions or suggestions contact me: jonbeer77@gmail.com or call/text 360-317-5224.

A discussion got going about needing the Geezer Pleaser cart at night so Elders can attend the fire dance performances or get out to their vehicles. Lois volunteered to work the carts at night.

Chris asked how people can get in touch with Geezers for a Geezer cart ride. Walkie-talkies are used between Registration and Elder Central. Someone asked about having a Tinkerbell at Elder Central to improve communication opportunities. Jon P. said it would take about an hour to run a line from The Hub to Elder Camp in order to get a Tinkerbell there. No specific new plan was finalized.

- SLR Setup – Eric N.

Set up date is Sunday, July 7 at 10 a.m. Roger is tasked with picking up flowers and delivering them to the SLR site. Eric's people have tools and ladders. Jon P. learned that the mirror booth space will likely end up not being 100% available – There are people doing a sound thing in that space this year. However, they appear to be cooperative and won't need the entire space. Bottom line is that the SLR will get some of that space but not all of it. Jerry expressed concern because he's been working with the display design. Jon P. feels like everyone involved will cooperate.

Eric brought up SLR Take-Down, stating that it gets challenging to recruit people after the fair to get the display broken down, packed up and sent to storage. Speaking of storage, Eric says our best option is to go with the shop space that is being offered by a couple who live just outside Elmira. It's not heated but dry, and there is one broken window. It's large enough to store just about everything. There's a lot of vertical space. The only caveat to accessing this space is 1. The property owners are on vacation until fair time and 2. They are hosting their son's birthday party Monday after fair, which means that we can't go over there right now to look at the space, and SLR items can't be taken over for storage until Tuesday. Annemarie suggested that the truck and trailer get loaded on Monday, then unloaded and stored on Tuesday. Eric agreed that was a good plan. Peggy suggested that we could repair the window.

A question came up about storing the Timeline in this same space as it is sensitive to humidity. Jerry suggested we could store it at the OCF office in town, in the upstairs rafters. Peggy suggested using dehumidifier canisters in the shop storage space. They would have to be replenished every 2 months.

Annemarie reported that Animal suggested Elders should apply for a Fair grant to purchase a permanent storage pod.

The Take-Down is set for Monday, July 15 at 11 a.m.

Robert brought up shade structures for SLR. Annemarie has the tie-dyed tarp someone gifted to us and will bring it to Sunday setup. Robert stated that he can work with the rigging if he has the shade piece. Rick offered to bring 8 bamboo poles for the supports. Robert wants to avoid running any strings across the path this year.

Everyone needs to keep in mind that Sandra is the go-to person for SLR design and décor.

- Meet & Greet sub-committee report – Kay, Licia, Eric

Alicia reported that they've collected \$375 for wine and \$400 for food and non-alcoholic beverages for Thursday's Meet and Greet. Volunteers meet at 4:30 p.m. Setup at 5 p.m. Party starts at 5:45 – Dark. Radar Angels and Steel Wool will provide the entertainment. Theme: 50 Years of Magic. We are encouraged to dress up for the event.

Chris's friend suggested that slips of paper be passed out with the quote "Long live the Elders" in various languages. In French, that would be Vive les Anciens.

- Wristbands – Katie C.

The grand total collected for all Elder passes and vehicle stickers is exactly \$100,000. Any onsite Elders can pick up wristbands at the Elder Hospitality Tent on Tuesday, Noon – 5:30. After that, pick up wristbands on Wednesday and Thursday at the Sticker Booth (Registration). Elder registration hours are 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. After 9:00 p.m., the Elder sign in book is handed over to Troubleshooters. Changes to companion names can ONLY take place at the Elders line. Troubleshooters will not be making name changes to companions.

Jon P. mentioned that Elders are gaining respect, based on what he has been experiencing at the site pre-fair.

- 50th /Archives – Jerry J.

A 2- month exhibit "Party with a Purpose: 50 Years of the Oregon Country Fair" will open with a reception at the Multnomah County Central Library this Sat. June 29, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. <https://multcolib.org/events/party-purpose-50-years-oregon-country-fair/104590>. Jerry helped OCF Archivist Terry Baxter arrange the display cases for the exhibit.

Jon P. gave mention that a crew of WOW Hall volunteers showed up to help at the Lane County Museum's OCF 50th exhibit opening and celebration that was held Saturday, June 8. The museum said it was the largest attendance they had ever seen for an opening exhibit.

In the same vein, there is a commissioned art piece to be revealed at Xavanadu on Friday at 1 p.m. Jerry has also built 2 commemorative benches for this year's fair.

- SLR Staffing – Marcia

Marcia was not present, but Annemarie provided Marcia's contact number in case anyone has questions about volunteering for SLR staffing: 512-284-2360

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 9 p.m.