

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Draft 2 Pending approval at 2/27/20 meeting

January 23, 2020

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Albino, Katie Cousins, Jain Elliott, Kay Kintzley, Michael James Long, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Eric Nicholson and Patricia Van Esso

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Alan Cohn, Robert Jacobs, Heather Kent, Ann Rogers

OTHERS PRESENT: Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Patty Marx, Jan Royalty and Licia Shultz (facilitator)

LOCATION: Grower’s Market MEETING TIME: 7 p.m.

Intros, announcements, agenda items

Announcements

- Celebrate Immigrants – A fundraising event at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 West 13th on Saturday, 12/25 at 6:30 p.m. Silent auction and concert with Chico Schwall
- Kay mentioned that Nancy McBee has volunteered to assist with hosting our March Retreat. Her contact phone is 619-886-5555
- Patty Marx has a new grandson Antonio, born 1/20/20. Congratulations Patty and family!

Agenda Items

- Approve November 2019 Meeting Minutes
- Budget
- Actionable items from October Retreat
- New Elder Applications for Approval
- January BOD discussions – Voting age/Minute records

APPROVE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

- Kay made a motion to approve the November 2019 meeting minutes with one minor correction. Under announcements, Jan Royalty was referred to as Jan L. (typo). Jain seconded. The motion passed 7 – 0 (1 committee member arrived after the minutes were approved).

ELDER BUDGET REPORT – Katie reported that our budget will be approved at the next board meeting. The dollar amount is the same as last year’s budget. We had requested an additional \$300 which we did not receive. However, we were allocated food vouchers and 6 staff shirts. This is a first for Elders.

At the coordinator budget meeting, some price hikes for certain types of passes were announced:

S.O. passes increased by \$5. The 2020 S.O. passes will be \$85

Oversized Vehicle passes increased \$20. The 2020 O/S vehicle stickers will be \$80.

There was also a discussion at the budget meeting about OCF management making the transfer of Farside vehicle stickers from the crew/booth budget to the Elders budget in order to accommodate Elders who had been receiving Farside vehicle stickers in the past. To date, Elders have retained the rights to camp at the Farside, but many who camped in their vehicles have been unable to receive Farside Vehicle Stickers because the issuing of those stickers has been controlled by coordinators.

Katie determined that we were never double billed for the Geezer Pleaser cart as was previously thought (reference Budget Report at 10/26/19 retreat). In 2020 we will not go through QuarterMaster. We will procure the Geezer Pleaser cart ourselves.

ACTIONABLE ITEMS FROM OCTOBER RETREAT

- Pre-Fair meal vouchers. The complaint was that Elders working onsite pre-fair have been unable to get meal vouchers. It was determined that if we have a point person to coordinate meal vouchers for Elders, we could make it happen. Still Living Room setup and Elder Camp setup volunteers would be eligible. Someone suggest Jon Pincus could be a good point person, and Mouseman volunteered to speak with Jon.
- Replacement of timelines with new ones mounted on aluminum substrate. Licia indicated that the current timelines are in good enough condition for 2020 fair, and that since the replacement of the timelines is considered a Capital Project, that a budget would need to be turned in by January 31, 2021.
- Defining Volunteer Positions. There was a discussion at the October retreat about enlisting more Elders to fill volunteer positions. Based on the discussion in October and at this meeting, it was decided that we could list volunteer positions for the 2020 fair in a newsletter that would go out with the Pass Request mailing sometime in April. Peggy Isaacs had expressed an interest to put a newsletter together. Peggy Fitzgerald has done something like this in the past and indicated she'd be glad to pass on her materials to Peggy I. Carolyn has already reached out to Annmarie Hirsh about putting together a volunteer list that would include a description of what each position entails. They will get together before the March committee meeting. In the meantime, Carolyn will contact Peggy I. about posting volunteer positions in the newsletter. Peggy's contact # is 541-918-1404.
- New Elders Facebook Page – Licia explained that the purpose of the new FB page is for announcements and general information of interest to Elders. No politics. Only Elders are eligible to access the group.
- Communications – there was a lot of brainstorming during the October retreat about the fair's perception of Elders, the role Elders play, and how we can better communicate. Licia suggested we write a regular piece in FFN about Elder activities and what we are up to. We could use this regular communication in FFN to correct misinformation, and to show that Elders have a lot to offer. We can be available to help on other crews and committees. Carolyn agreed to write the first Elders article for the next FFN – Feb. issue. She will run it past the committee before submittal.
- Informing Elders about events – We get frequent complaints from Elders about not knowing about events in advance. Our next retreat is listed on the FFN calendar, on the listserv, and via the Elders FB page.
- Mission Statement for Elders Committee – we will work on this at the March retreat.

NEW ELDER APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL

25 applications were passed around to the committee at this meeting for final review.

Katie C. made a motion to approve the 25 new applications. Kay seconded. The motion passed 8-0

Patty M. reported there are currently 18 applications pending approval. As of this meeting, 55 new applications have been approved. The deadline for new applications for 2020 fair is Feb. 1st.

To summarize new Elder Applications:

- 30 were previously approved
- 25 were approved at this 1/23/20 meeting
- 1 has been denied
- 18 are pending

COMMENTARY ON JAN. 2020 BOD MEETING

Mouseman reported back from the January BOD meeting that the question of age requirements for voting in OCF Elections came up. The Bylaws are ambiguous in terms of age requirements. One of the crews held a Facebook conversation that is controversial in that there's an implication of individuals encouraging membership to get their children to vote. It was brought up that because the Oregon Country Fair is a Corporation, it follows that the voting membership has an age requirement according to state and federal laws. The question is, are we in violation of the voting requirement? Are there other implications? Mouseman will submit a report to the BOD. Stay tuned. (Scribes note – see copy of Bylaws below).

Another topic that came up was the details of conversations that are recorded in the BOD meeting minutes. It was argued that from a legal standpoint, anything stated in the minutes can have legal implications, and that the meeting minutes should be a summary of motions made, discussed and voted on. Many OCF members felt that it was important to have a written record of these conversations as it helps the membership understand the thinking of board members and provides more background information that leads to decisions. A majority of Elders at this meeting expressed their preference to have more detailed minutes. There was a general discussion that because the BOD meetings are recorded, the audio record of everything said would be under scrutiny anyway, so the argument to remove details of conversations is not valid. Most in the group felt that having the ability to have the detailed notes in writing, rather than only recorded, makes it much easier to go back and review a decision process, and this is important in supporting the Fair's egalitarian values.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 27th at 7 p.m., at Growers Market

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PASSED:

- November meeting minutes approved
- 25 new Elder applications were approved

TO DO LIST:

- Carolyn to do write up for FFN, to be reviewed by EC prior to submittal.
- Mouseman to connect with Jon about being a pre-fair meal liaison.
- Licia to connect Peggy I. with Peggy F. about newsletter.
- Carolyn to connect with Annmarie and Peggy I about Elder volunteer positions.

FOR REFERENCE: OCF Bylaws <https://www.oregoncountryfair.net/ByLawsOct2018.pdf> with regards to voting and membership requirements.

Currently, the requirement to vote is as follows:

6. Rights of Membership. (a) Voting: All members who have been members for at least 30 days prior to the date of a membership meeting shall be entitled to cast one vote on any issue brought before the membership. Members shall vote to elect the Board of Directors, recall a director, amend the Articles of Incorporation, and on all other matters for which a membership vote is required by the Oregon Revised Statutes and by these bylaws. In addition, OCF Amended Bylaws, October 1, 2018 Page-3 members shall have the right to vote on advisory resolutions concerning any other matter to come before the membership.

Definition of membership:

ARTICLE V. MEMBERS. 2. Eligibility and Admission. Eligibility and Admission:

(a) Any individual who subscribes to the purposes and basic policies of the Fair, abides by the terms and conditions of these Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation and any amendments thereto, and acts in accordance with the decisions made by the Board of Directors, is eligible for membership if the individual is registered with the Fair and (1) has either received a wristband, other Fair camping pass or verifiable worker day pass in one of the two previous years, or (2) is a verified elder. To remain a member, an individual must vote in at least one annual membership vote every three years.