

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Approved at 11/18/20 meeting

September 24, 2020

LOCATION: Online (GoToMeeting)

MEETING TIME: 7: 00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Cohn, Jain Elliott, Robert Jacobs, Heather Kent, Michael James Long, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Ann Rogers-Bennett

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Diane Albino, Katie Cousins, Kay Kintzley, Eric Nicholson, Patricia Van Esso

OTHERS PRESENT: Roberta Austin, Laurie Childers, Peggy Day, Carolyn Gsell (Scribe), Chris Howe, Anthony “AJ” Jackson, Patty Mark, Jon Pincus, Licia Schultz (Facilitator), Karen Stingle, Jenny Wilson

AGENDA:

- Announcements
- Approve July & August Meeting Minutes

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

APPROVAL OF JULY & AUGUST MINUTES

Mouseman moved to approve the July and August Minutes. Ann seconded. Motion approved 7-0

New Elder Applications – Patty Marx

Patty has 3 pre-approved applications ready for committee approval. Jan has 3 pending as well.

Roberta has 8 pre-approved applications ready for committee approval as well.

AJ asked how Elder applications are approved and Michael James Long explained the vetting process.

Jain made a motion to accept the 11 pre-approved applications. Robert Jacobs. All applications were approved 7-0.

Elder Volunteers – Carolyn

With fires and smoke, the send out for survey monkey is postponed until next week.

Mouseman asked about non-fair years. Jain stated that if anyone is volunteering for the fair during non-fair years, then that counts as a year of participation. If an applicant is not volunteering during a non-fair year, then that fair year does not count towards eligibility.

November Meeting – The date needs to be changed. The date proposed was Weds. Nov. 18.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Licia got to move back home after 7 days (Wildfire evacuation for Mohawk Valley). Licia’s daughter was out for 11 days

Licia is posting info about her Racetrack project on Facebook. \$18-23 million project. Need land in Linn County (up to 68 acres). It will be a paved lot for auto cross. Phase 2 will be a dirt off-roading area (not a racetrack) and a Go-Kart track. Eventually a full-on high-speed drag strip. FB Page name – Emerald Empire Motor Sports Park Development Foundation. Please “LIKE”.

Board Candidates:

Ann – Fair comes out of the environmental, peace and civil rights movement. The fundraising aspect and giving away money is very important, so we have to think about our attendees who are paying to come to the fair, and at the same time hold on to our values.

AJ – Fair has been part of my life for 21 years now. It’s my one big vacation for two weeks out of the year. I even moved to Veneta to be closer to it. Over the past couple of years, I’ve seen an attitude in leadership that I’m not entirely happy

with. There's too much discord. I'd like to use my experience to bring people to get together to get work done. Also I think we are at a crucial time with the Covid situation, inclusion, equity. Part of my platform is let's have discussion and be civil with each other, and let's get work done. I'd like to see more transparency and civility. Moving from discussion to action.

AJ appreciates how Ann reminds everyone that "we are all here in love" when conversations get very hard.

Peggy asked about anti-racist competitiveness. AJ – it's o.k. to feel something but what are you doing with your feelings? Ann – I believe we are committed to social activism. Our background esp. Elders social activism is a big part of who we really are.

Mouseman talked about our traditions stemming from earlier social movements. "My concern is that we have to become something other than who we've been in order to make money." He thinks of the OCF as the "university of proper living".

Laurie C. – Spoke about getting younger people involved. Critical mass works! She recruited her teen daughter and friend to help with stage left. Having the two teens was a magnet for attracting more young people to help. Getting a greater diversity of people (age, sexual orientation, race, religion), the better the decisions made.

Laurie asked if anyone has seen other crews hand over their work to younger people. AJ spoke about Elders providing their knowledge to younger people. Ann spoke about her experiencing of working as a younger person on a board of people 20 years older than her and realizing they valued her contributions.

AJ asked of Elders – the idea of bringing younger people into the process there is a taking away of what the elders have built. AJ wants to assure that is not what he is trying to do. He intends to honor what the Elders have already built.

Peggy talked about giving her booth up. She walked away from it and mentioned that the Fair is more than crew. There are crafters and food booth people, entertainers. Laurie talked about better compensation for performers. It would be a good way to support the arts. Ann was empathetic and isn't sure how to address it but there should be a way to distribute some of that revenue to performers. AJ stated that the financial piece for performers is important to him. It boggled his mind that we had \$750K to pay for the winery but we aren't paying performers.

Christine expressed her appreciation and admiration for all the entertainers (big and small). It's a huge part of her fair experience. Licia spoke about how Tim Furst (Seattle Juggler) came to an Elder's meeting to explain the difficulties of being a performer and being paid so little, and that they don't get notified until end of May. Most performers have transportation expenses and issues around planning and scheduling. She also mentioned that younger people have come to help us set up the Still Living Room, and they get zero compensation – no food vouchers, t-shirts etc. AJ is working on creating a Youth Committee (ages 11 – 17) so they can learn how a committee works – learn the processes and how an organization runs. Mouseman suggested that a youth committee be given a project – to take control of an area that is theirs – give them something to own. Roberta spoke about her experience bringing in younger people to run her punch booth.

Mouseman paid respects to RGB.

SEPTEMBER MEETING – The next Elders Committee Meeting will be held online Thursday, October 22 at 7 p.m. Ann will send a meeting link. There is also a [meeting link](#) on the .net site.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.