

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Approved at 01/28/21 Meeting  
Thursday, November 18, 2020

**LOCATION:** Online (GoToMeeting)

**MEETING TIME:** 7: 00 p.m.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Katie Cousins, Jain Elliott, Robert Jacobs, Heather Kent, Michael James Long, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Eric Nicholson, Ann Rogers-Bennett

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Diane Albino, Alan Cohn, Kay Kintzley, Patricia Van Esso

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Roberta Austin, Kehn “mambo” Gibson, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Chris Harrison, Annemarie Hirsch, Paxton Hoag, Anthony “AJ” Jackson, Jim May, Janice Medvin, Licia Schultz (facilitator), Jenny May

**AGENDA:**

- Approve Sept. & Oct. minutes
- Elder Volunteers Report – Annemarie H.
- New Elder Applications – Roberta A.
- Eligibility requirements for Elder Status in off (Covid) years – Michael JL
- Future Meeting Dates – Ann B.
- Music for Dec Party – Eric N.
- New Technology Volunteer & Volunteer Survey – Annemarie H.

**Approve Sept. & Oct. minutes**

A motion was made by Mouseman to approve the Sept. and Oct. minutes. Katie seconded. Motion approved 7 -0 (Heather Kent not included in vote due to late arrival).

**Wristband Committee Recruiting– Annemarie**

Annemarie extended gratitude for the comprehensive work performed by Wristband subcommittee leaders Katie Cousins and Patricia Van Esso, who are both retiring from the primary duties of the position. They will continue to work registration at the fair and assist with scheduling.

Michael expressed that in the past with Patricia and Katie running the entire wristband operation, it has been easy for people to plug in as far as registration goes. Annemarie pointed out that the scope of work is the entire wristband process, not just registration.

The person or people who run this subcommittee need to be Super-organized due to the complexity of the job.

Michael JL talked about Elders aging out of positions, yet we should be able to find someone. He feels it is important to have two people.

Carolyn suggested if we could just recruit from Elders who have joined up in the past 5 years, as the younger elders would be the more likely candidates due to the technology requirements of the job. The Elders database would allow for selecting email solicitations based on date of application acceptance.

Paxton provided some feedback to the job description. Thinks it should be a year-round position (the WHEN), not just October through Friday of Fair. He likes the job description and recommends that we put out a flyer to solicit. He thinks a creatively prepared email sent out to Elders, using Graphics to grab people’s attn. would be best. He doesn’t think the person or people need to be on the committee but should attend committee meetings.

Mambo commented that whoever takes the job needs to WANT the job. Getting the word out is critical. Ask for what you need.

Robert Jacobs – qualifications are to have elder status, have fair experience, and have the necessary skills. He agrees that the Elder Volunteers subcommittee should be able to use the Elders database to recruit from.

Mambo – how many elders do we have? Per Katie, 1,437.

Licia suggested start posting on our FB page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/709653806233660> . Start the conversation there. It was suggested we reach out to other crews, since there are elders on those crews.

Annemarie said that the next step is to put out a solicitation with graphics (attach job description). Respondents will receive an application and from there an interview will be scheduled with Katie and Patricia.

There was general agreement that it is o.k. to use the database.

The Elder Volunteers Subcommittee can be reached at [eldervolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:eldervolunteers@gmail.com).

### **New Elder Applications – Roberta**

4 applications vetted. There are a few applications not yet vetted.

Katie made a motion to vet the 4 applications. Mouseman seconded. The motion was approved 8-0 (Heather Joined after meeting started). *Post-meeting note – the 4 approvals brings total number of Elders to 1,441.*

Mambo expressed gratitude for Roberta's work. Ann and Jain expressed that we should be careful with vetting – that we need to maintain the integrity of vetting.

Robert Jacobs reminded us that we have plenty of time right now to vet applications. We're not up against any deadlines. (scribe's note – some confusion was caused by one application that was questionable, and it was not clear to the scribe as of the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft update that only 4 were truly vetted.)

### **Eligibility requirements for Elder Status in off (Covid) years – Michael & others**

Jain said that the board's criteria requires attendance at the fair. Since there was no fair in 2020 but people still did work, does that count as a work year?

Mambo feels that it would be easiest if we just flat out stated that a Covid no-fair year doesn't count; it makes it very clear as far as eligibility is concerned.

Robert Jacobs reviewed some of the types of work people do for the fair outside of the actual event, and he doesn't think there are very many people who would even fall into this category.

Katie said we don't have the authority to supersede the Board's requirement of actual Fair participation.

Jain feels optimistic that the Board will be flexible, given that the likelihood of a 2021 fair is slim.

Paxton says that he and the board feel that the Virtual Fair is/was an actual Fair. In 2021 there will probably be a virtual fair crew. Paxton said there was an incredible amount of work that went into the Virtual Fair. Crystalyn has a good list of the 300-400 people who worked on the Virtual fair. (There's a 2D Fair and a 3D Fair). Paxton doesn't think we need to go to the board – it's not worth worrying about.

Mouseman stated that point blank we don't have the authority to count virtual fairs as actual fairs.

Ann mentioned that Internal security and site crew have been at the Fair site. Internal Security was there during the normal Fair dates to make sure people didn't come onto the site.

AJ encouraged the EC to go to the board and make a request.

Licia asked if Paxton or AJ would be willing to make the request. IT was suggested we talk with our Board liaison. Paxton said it comes down to participation. (*postscript from scribe – we learned via email that Spirit Leatherwood and Lisa Cooley will continue to be the Elders liaisons for the 2020/2021 year.*)

MJL says he tends to go with Paxton but said that there could be others besides those who worked on Virtual Fair who have been contributing throughout the year. Jain emphasized that many people have worked long hours on committees.

Paxton said that doing committee work alone shouldn't count. But people who put in long hours on the virtual Fair, along with people who worked onsite for security would be likely eligible. Paxton said that he doubts there will be a fair in 2021. There was a townhall discussion about having a day event that would be smaller (no camping). Bottom line the fair is trying to figure out how to survive another year without a fair.

Katie – Let's cross that bridge when we get there.

### **Future Meeting Dates – Ann**

Dec. 17 – Holiday Party 7 p.m. online

Jan. 28 – 7 p.m.

### **Music for Holiday Party – Eric**

Eric thinks he can play music from his truck. Mouseman said that GoToMeeting limits how many people he can see on his iPad. He said Zoom allows him to scroll through the attendees. Mambo mentioned that Jennifer JamesLong has another platform. She has offered it to us. There are options. There was a discussion about Zoom working better for bigger groups. Annemarie offered to use her daughter's account for our holiday party. Using someone else's business account for the fair can be problematic. Paxton suggested reaching out to Dean Middleton to get set up on Zoom. AJ suggested that if we decide on Zoom that 4-5 people test it out first prior to the meeting. Bottom line – Annemarie will use her daughter's zoom account for the Dec. party, since it is not an official business meeting.

### **New Tech Volunteer / Volunteer Survey – Annemarie**

Technology update – Paul Compton will take over monitoring the listserv and will transfer our listserv to Google. Janice Medvin will continue to back up the OCF Elders Contact email. Gratitude to Alan Cohn was expressed for his 12 years of service. Jan Royalty will continue to provide backup for the listserv.

Elder Volunteers Survey update – Many have responded to the survey and many have not yet responded. A reminder with survey link will be sent out.

### **OCF Best Practices - Paxton**

Paxton said that a new document got passed by the Board. It's a Best Practices Manual and he suggested we should read through and see how it effects the workings of the committee. [OCF Committee Best Practices Manual](#)

### **Onsite Access - mambo**

Mambo would like to see the site more available to the membership. The site has been closed most days (Open Fri. Sat. & Sun. 10 am – 4 pm) and when flooding happens, floating the paths is magical. Several attendees talked about the healing power of being able to walk the land. Mambo asked that the two board members present please bring it up to the board. Regarding next year's fair, Mambo suggested we could have ONLY fair family at the fair, and perhaps do it in September. Think about 2021 and how we can find a way to be together. [The next brainstorming session will be Dec. 6.](#) *(scribes note – there is also a survey on the home page [www.oregoncountryfair.net](http://www.oregoncountryfair.net))* Heather expressed that it's important to open the site – it allows Fair family to keep an eye out for any issues that may be occurring on site.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.