

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Approved at 04/22/21 Meeting

Thursday, March 25, 2021

LOCATION: Online (Zoom)

MEETING TIME: 7: 08 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Cohn, Jain Elliott, Robert Jacobs, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Eric Nicholson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Diane Albino, Heather Kent, Kay Kintzley, Michael James Long, Ann Rogers-Bennett, Patricia Van Esso

OTHERS PRESENT: Roberta Austin, Steve Barnes, Darlene Colburn, Paul Compton, Katie Cousins, Peggy Day-Fitzgerald, Kehn “mambo” Gibson, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Isa Haverlan, Percy Hilo, Annemarie Hirsch, Paxton Hoag, David Hoffman, Spirit Leatherwood, Mark Pankratz, Jon Pincus, Licia Schultz (facilitator), Karen Stingle, Jenny Wilson

AGENDA:

- Announcements
- Approve February minutes – EC
- Board Report – Spirit
- Permission to take Zoom Snapshot – Carolyn
- New Elder Applications – Jenny & Roberta
- Online Platforms – Group
- June Potluck – Peggy Day
- Recruit new committee members/Quorum - Mouseman
- New Elders Website – Peggy Day
- Virtual Fair Report – Paxton
- New Elders Website, content contributions - Annemarie
- Path Planning and Growth – Jon P.
- Community Village mention – David H.

Announcements:

Katie – Patricia and Katie will be on site 4/24 for a walk-about and welcome anyone to join. Sat. Noon – 3 weather permitting.

Approve February 2021 Minutes - Lacking a quorum

Board Report - Spirit

The Executive Director. Search committee is underway with a report expected at next board meeting. The management team is working on ideas for a fall event, most likely to be held at the outa-site/winery property. There is hope for an update at the April board meeting.

A new committee named FIXED ASSETS is working with LUMP and Site Management to recommend policy and priorities for stewardship of OCF’s fixed asset investments, in keeping with long term mission and goals of the Fair.

Outer Limits (The Winery) working assembly is scheduled for Sunday, April 18th. The group will discuss Winery property and permits. This will be a good time for membership to attend and put out ideas that shape the winery’s future. Zoom meeting links will be posted on .net site.

A listen session was held with the Bboard, the Fair’s newly appointed DEI consultants and the Diversity Committee. The question was discussed, “Where do we go from here?”

Mouseman mentioned that participating in a virtual zoom meeting allows membership to provide input. He has found that the board meetings don’t allow much input. He cited his appreciation for Path Planning meetings because input is

permitted, and the management of the meetings is not so strict. The next Path Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 18 at Noon. Here's a link to the info <https://oregoncountryfair.net/event/path-planning-committee-6/>.

Spirit acknowledged Mouseman's concerns about limited input. She and Colleen are discussing creative ways to allow more member input. She added that bringing more structured proposals to the meetings will allow membership to know in advance what's on the table for discussion. They are adamant about not doing things that disenfranchise the membership. It's a priority to be addressed.

Paxton will give a board report on the Virtual Fair.

Zoom Screen Shot – Carolyn

Request was made to grab a Zoom screenshot of this meeting for use on the new Elders Website. There was full agreement.

New Elder Applications - Roberta & Jenny

1 application vetted: Kelly Humphries. ALL 5 EC members present approved the application.

A question from a subcommittee member came up regarding S.O. passes and how they may count towards years of service. Essentially, if a person with an S.O. pass contributed their time to putting on the Fair and it was confirmed by a credible reference, then it counts.

Mambo – back-cast: Reiterated what Mouseman said.

Online Platforms for Fair Meetings - Group

A Question was asked about using Zoom vs. YouTube for Board meetings. Both platforms are offered. The board prefers only people who intend to provide member input use the Zoom platform. It was reported that approximately 40 people attended board meetings via zoom and approximately 150 on YouTube. Per Paxton, key is to show up at the board meetings.

Percy stated that Zoom is more user friendly compared to GoToMeeting. Peggy Agreed.

JUNE POTLUCK – Peggy Day-Fitzgerald

Peggy reported that Kay would like to host the annual June Potluck and would like for us to contribute money for a Porta-Potty. The gathering will likely be Thursday, June 24. Peggy will verify the date with Kay. The cost is about \$150 for a porta-potty for one day.

Jon P. said the Fair uses Honey Buckets. Mary at the office may be able to facilitate. Jon suggested we could get a deal. There was general agreement to make the meeting at Kay's a party rather than a meeting. Mouseman said our meetings are fun! A decision that this be a non-meeting gathering was not finalized.

Suggestions in this discussion included passing the hat at every meeting once we meet in person. That way we keep the coffers consistently replenished. It was also suggested we shop around for the porta-potty rental especially given Kay is out in Pleasant Hill.

Another alternative to a porta-potty is a bucket/handwashing system – using a 50-gallon bucket called a River System. Annemarie is willing to provide the alternative potty if the group favors it over the porta-potty.

Recruiting new committee members - Annemarie

Given that Katie has officially resigned from the committee and Alan's resignation is pending, what do we want to do?

Mouseman said that a quorum is more difficult to reach as the number of committee members increases. Not being able to pass motions slows down the committee's ability to get things done. There was a question about this meeting being technically official due to lack of a quorum. Peggy said that she believes our meeting is official, we just can't pass any motions. If it is scheduled as a regular event, then it's an official meeting.

Licia recommended that if someone is interested to become a member that they show up to the meetings and send a letter of intent to the board.

Jon P. noted that for Path Planning, people who have been coming to the meetings are the people who get appointed to the committee. If you are looking for diversity, he recommended talking with other committees to see how they recruit. Paxton suggested we look at Best Practices Manual – Technically if you don't have a quorum you don't have an official meeting. Paxton is not sure if an application can be vetted without a quorum. Licia likes using the Roberts Rules loosely. Carolyn will put a link to the [Best Practices document](#) in the minutes. There's a sense that we are not necessarily recruiting. Robert Jacobs says that the people who are active on subcommittees should be eligible to be committee members.

Roberta mentioned she is still working on getting better and in the meantime will continue to contribute.

Elder Website Report – Peggy Day

Peggy started by addressing the question, why have a FB page and a website? They have different uses and are both needed. Our Facebook page is dynamic and allows for posting conversations. It is well-managed and used. There are a few overlaps.

The 3 main goals of the new Elders website are to 1. provide information about Elder events, 2. Provide Information about volunteer jobs and their descriptions, along with recruitment. 3. Share history of elders and give recognition to early elders whose hard work and tenacity brought the Elders into being. We want to remember and honor them. Another goal of the website is to Inspire incoming elders with stories of Elder achievements. Many Fair features were started by Elders. The website allows us to document former events that we no longer have. Perhaps a group of Elders will be inspired to bring these events back.

The Elder Website Subcommittee plans to send an email to all Elders in late April to let them know about the website. We invite critique and input because we want to make sure the website meets Elder needs. Although the website is still under construction, it can be viewed here www.ocfelders.weebly.com.

Mouseman reminded us of a quote from Ray Sewell (Chez Ray), "We don't need anyone's permission to be elder hippies. We already are."

Paul Compton – question came up if it would be a good idea to email an invitation to new incoming elders to "click here to join" the WonderfulOCFelders listserv. There was general agreement. Paul would need an email list to send the invitation. Carolyn will send Paul a list.

Jon P. is glad the Elder website is coming together and appreciates the content. Jon never used Facebook until it was the only option for attending a funeral. He doesn't feel that FB is a good place to get accurate information.

Karen S. expressed appreciation for the WonderfulOCFelders listserv because information comes to her.

VIRTUAL Fair for 2021 - Paxton

Paxton said he likes the concept of capturing history. Some Fair Family have Elder stories on their Facebook page. One thing Paxton noticed is that the Timelines on the new Elder Website do not display well. The resolution is poor and

doesn't allow Zooming in to view the panels in detail. It's a function of Weebly and for the Elders Website it will have to remain "good enough."

Paxton stated he would like to get the Timelines loaded for the 2D Virtual Fair. He is on the Virtual Fair steering committee. Hosting the Timelines on the Fair's server for the virtual fair will allow for high resolution viewing.

The 2D Fair peach pages will be linking a lot of crews. The Elders is a perfect fit for a Peach Page link. Given the Timeline resolution it will take some extra work. Paxton sees the Still Living Room fitting in 3 places: 3D Fair, 2D Fair (2D version has a digital map of the Fair that the user can zoom into and click on links) and [REDACTED] (?)

Currently the steering committee is looking for graphic artists, web designers and people with motion graphics experience. Most of the work will be done in May and June. April is an organizing month. The Board passed a \$29,000 budget to support the virtual Fair. Last year we had \$2,000 budget that barely covered server costs. *(scribes note – she heard \$12,000 during this meeting, but March board minutes state \$2,000).*

New Elder Website, content contributions - Annemarie

Annemarie wants everyone to know we are looking for more stories about Elders. Also requested that we could use another person with good web design sense to work with the subcommittee.

Carolyn said any pictures related to Elder activities are wanted – Geezer Pleezer, SLR, Elder Camp, Retreats, Meet 'n' Greet. Robert Jacobs suggested contacting Jennifer JamesLong. Please send any photos to ocfelderwebsite@gmail.com.

Path Planning includes long range planning – Jon P.

Jon wants folks to be aware that every Path Planning meeting has a portion dedicated to long term planning. There has been a lot of discussion is about internal growth. A lot of internal growth is tagged to the growth of Elders. In Jon's experience, Elders are only a tiny portion of growth. It is more driven by series of expansions that brings in more volunteers. Regardless of anyone's point of view, he wanted us to know that Elders are included in the growth discussion.

Mouseman says that the concept of Elders "adding" to the population is a myth. As elders retire from their positions and those positions are filled, that does create more opportunities for new volunteers. Only about half of all elders attend fair. No doubt internal population growth is a real issue.

Mambo stated he is disheartened this conversation is coming up again. The numbers show that from the time elders began until 2 years ago the numbers were somewhat steady. We reached a peak about 5 year ago. Mambo cited a quote by Sierra Club president "Everything we save is still there to be taken. Everything we lose is gone forever."

The dance pavilion alone added over 100 new volunteers. Elders are not new people. We are the people who were already here. Roberta mentioned that Elders contribute huge amounts of revenue to the Fair.

Community Village mention – David H.

The village is working through a draft to address documenting volunteer positions, and they are giving Community Village volunteers a heads up on documenting their participation. Peggy pointed out that the new Elder Website explains the application process.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.