

Attendance: Craft Committee Members: Sue Theolass, Diane McWhorter, Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Ken Kirby, Lucy Kingsley, Kim Allen, James Nason Staff: Crystalyn Frank, Shane Harvey
Coordinators: Katy Parker, Adam Budd Scribe: Diane McWhorter
Other Participants: Palmer Parker, Michelle Pontius, Nancy Barry, Richard Bloom, Debbie Bloom, Leah Passaro, Katherine Getta, Sherry Dunnihoo, Shelly D'Amour, Sylvia Fireman, Janae Stephens, John Govsky, Helen Marcus, Belinda, Betsy Resnick, James DeRosso, Suzanne Glick

Introductions and Announcements: Be sure to check the oregoncountryfair.net site frequently for announcements and links to meetings, work parties, hours site is open, and all the information members might need.

There are underwriting opportunities connected with the Fair in the Clouds for the first time; packages range between \$250 to \$5000. Funds will help support OCF as well as the philanthropic efforts of the nonprofit. Last year there were attendees from all over the world to the Virtual Fair so your businesses advertising could reach worldwide. You can contact underwriting@oregoncountryfair.org to sign up.

Topics from the members: None. Notes from the Town Hall will be posted in the Craft Committee minutes tab on the .net site. Click on Board Committees and Work Groups

Approval of Minutes: ***Motion: Approve the Craft Committee minutes from the May 12 meeting (Sue/Lucy). After an objection in wording without a correction, the motion was deferred to the next Craft Committee meeting.

Site Report: Shane reminded members that site is open, with the gate hours 10-4 seven days a week. If you go at other hours, please park outside the gate. Work parties are being held to clear fallen trees and other debris, with sign-ups on the .net site. There is lots of wildlife and flowers and the site is lush but dry. There is an effort to remove invasive plant species such as Shiny Geranium, which you can join in with. Trash bags are available to bag it and it will be picked up.

Booth holders will be able to work on their booths. Those who have damaged booths will be contacted. There are no services, no water, and you must pack everything in and out. Please be extremely careful about fire. If you see anything notify staff at the Hub or Warehouse.

Path Planning is continuing to meet and is working on sanitation, hand washing stations, and other improvements needed to meet the challenges of Covid. Please be careful and continue to observe safe behaviors. Thanks, Shane!

Update on the Artisan Directory: a task force was formed to work out improvements to enhance crafter sales by some dedicated volunteers. Three photos can be posted now, and a link to videos along with the link to your website. The Directory will be integrated with the interactive map. Make sure to get your photos updated and follow the link to submit new information. An email will go out very soon with the information you will need. If you are not in a booth location you can still use the new form, and can be included in the directory.

Fair in the Clouds Update: This is our major event for 2021 so please support it any way you can. New merchandise has been made by Diane McWhorter and will be posted for purchase. There will again be posters, parking stickers and lots of t-shirts. These are a good way to donate to the organization. A collaboration will take place at Saturday Market on July 10th with livestreaming until 9:00 pm and merch sales.

There are several options this year to experience the virtual fair whether or not you can get into the m8rix 3-D game part of the event. All of the livestreams, stages, workshops, and the Peach Pit and Peach Pages should be easily accessible through the website from any computer. There will be many more offerings, with new content as well as pre-recorded and archival shows. There will be live workshops on zoom for interactive discussions. The Peach Pit will be virtual and will contain all of the schedules, which will also be easily available on the website.

People who are having gatherings that weekend can post them on social media; a volunteer is needed to coordinate that. An online auction of experiences will also be posted and could use a volunteer. Contact Crystalyn (Operations Manager) with your ideas and to volunteer.

Newer computers might be needed to access the m8rix but everyone should be able to watch the livestreams and access the rest of the offerings. There is a lot available just by wandering the 2D interactive map and clicking on booths and stages. Make sure your booth is listed there!

The “Helping Hands” may be of some help in putting up a virtual booth and accessing the m8rix.

Craft Committee Activities and Discussion Topics: The Committee spent a long time discussing issues of Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity in the Fair and in the Craft sector specifically. There are exclusionary aspects of the Booth Rep system and other systems of accessing the event for crafters. Work has been done on Crafter’s Rights and Responsibilities, a Booth Representative description, and Booth Classifications. The Booth Rep Transfer system and the Kid Crafter advantage in jurying might need some modifications to be more accessible by new participants. At present there is no way to identify members of marginalized groups to see the barriers to participation but we are following the lead of the Diversity Committee (their meetings are open and listed on the .net site.)

Craft Committee is open to new members and has been meeting monthly throughout the last two years. The July meeting will likely be cancelled so the members can take a break but the August 11th meeting will be listed on the .net site with a link to the online meeting. We ask prospective members to attend six consecutive meetings before formal appointment.

Please note that the guidelines on the site are still the 2019 guidelines and don’t include some changes that were made in winter of 2020. Those can be found in the Fair Family News. As soon as staffing returns to fulltime hours and the office opens back up, the updates can be made. One change was asking Booth Reps to give any crafters they are planning to displace a year’s notice in writing, so that they can network during the Fair event for a space for the following year. The number of years of participation in a booth needed to become a Booth Rep was changed from two to five.

The Crafters Rights and Booth Representative Descriptions were shared in the chat.

Retiring crafters may want to forego passing their booth to an individual through the transfer system and just give their booth to the Fair for use as a one-year-only booth or to be awarded through the permanent placement system. That procedure has been suspended temporarily as the jury has not been held, but will be resumed when the event resumes.

With possible increased retirement after two years off, some adjustments might be made to the permanent placement system to make it more accessible to crafters who may not rise to the top of the jury system. Booth reps who can share booth space with crafters on the wait-share list should be encouraged to do so. Camping crew can help if there is not sufficient camping space.

All Booth Reps should have an emergency plan on hand in case they are unable to participate suddenly. Booth Registration Crew does work with crafters in that situation and a guiding document in the file would assist them. Generally the other crafters in the booth are considered when making any decisions about succession of booths, as Registration wants to make any transitions as successful as possible. It also might be a possibility to split some booths that are large enough to be divided. It’s important to remember that the Fair does own the booth spaces, so there is not really a “right” to succession. There

are procedures in place and processes that must be put in place in advance, and followed. Read those guidelines so you can plan.

To jury successfully if you do choose to participate in that option, show your artistry and make your submissions as spectacular as possible. You do not have to only jury your production work, but can show items you might only make one of. All of us are responsible to make the Fair as high-quality as possible to uphold our great reputation as a premier hand-crafted festival. Craft Committee does try to assist crafters and support them through the jury system, so do reach out to the committee rather than the Board for support and assistance.

In addition to the official website, there are quite a few Facebook groups to interact with, including one called OCF Booth Family and another called OCF Juried Crafters. Be cautious about what you read on Facebook, of course, as it is rarely official.

The meeting was ended after two hours.