

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Final

DATE: Thursday, October 28, 2021

LOCATION: Online (Zoom)

MEETING TIME: 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jain Elliott, Heather Kent, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Eric Nicholson, Robert Jacobs

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Diane Albino, Alan Cohn, Kay Kintzley, Michael James Long, Ann Rogers-Bennett

OTHERS PRESENT: Sue Barnhart, Darlene Colburn, Paul Compton, Katie Cousins, Peggy Day-Fitzgerald, Ken “mambo” Gibson, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Nancy Hafner, Annemarie Hirsch, Paxton Hoag, Chris Howe, Sprit Leatherwood (BOD liaison), Mark Pankratz, Jon Pincus, Licia Shultz (facilitator), Jenny Wilson.

ATTENDANCE NOTE: Alan Cohn, Michael James Long, and Ann Rogers-Bennett contacted the scribe to indicate they would not be able to join this meeting due to out of state travel or other obligations.

AGENDA:

- Approve September minutes Can’t do
- Budget Committee proposal for age 57 Elder eligibility requirement – Hilary
- Introduce Nancy Hafner as new wristbands person and budget person
- Nominate Nancy Hafner to be on the committee
- Proxy voting and quorums – Licia/Carolyn
- Elders bank account – new signer
- Three boxes of applications archives need re-homing – Katie
- Elders Holiday Party – Licia
- Schedule November EC meeting - Jain
- Establishing a quorum -
- New elder applications – Jenny
- Miscellaneous ramblings
- Announcements

Changing Elder Status Eligibility Requirements – Hilary Anthony

The budget committee is prepared to request that the board approve a change to the eligibility age for Elders, raising the age requirement to 57. Hilary would like to have the Elders’ support. The motion the budget committee has in mind would specifically state that for an Elder to receive a pass, they would need to meet the minimum age requirement of 57.

The motion to change the age eligibility is a starting point. There needs to be age adjustments going forward until the minimum age of 60 is reached.

A discussion ensued with several points made. What elders are hearing is that anyone who have already been approved as an elder but has not reached the age of 57 by the next fair would not be eligible for an Elder camping pass or day pass.

Hilary pointed out that if the eligibility age is not changed, then by the next fair (2022), there would be 3 graduating birth years of folks eligible for camping passes. The Covid situation has played into the desire to move the eligibility age. If the fair is trying to reduce the overall number of camping passes, and a considerable number of people turning age 55 between 2019 and 2022 occurred, this could significantly increase the total number of elders eligible for passes.

The primary complaint from the group around the motion is that the proposed motion separates Elders from elders eligible for camping passes. (A verified Elder aged 55 or 56 would not be able to obtain a pass).

Hilary agreed it would make more sense to modify the proposal so that anyone already approved as an elder would be eligible for a camping pass. For new applications submitted after the motion is approved by the board, those applicants would have a minimum age requirement of 57.

Other points made:

- Elders don't add to the population. They were already attending the fair and now they are getting their pass through the elders, rather than through a crew or other fair position.
- Now that some of us are in our 80's, 55 seems awfully young.
- It's a small number of people who will be affected by the age change.
- There needs to be an overall plan where the minimum age requirement is raised over time until the minimum age of 60 is reached.
- A suggestion of increasing by 1 year every other year would take the plan out to 2030.

Hilary said that the board motion will be revised so that anyone already approved as an Elder would be eligible for a pass, even if they are below the new age limit.

There was a continued discussion about naming people to form a subcommittee to hammer out ways to manage the age requirement issue. It was pointed out that Hilary already made a presentation two meetings ago (August meeting), and that Elders have had sufficient time to discuss this.

Elders shared that we move a little slowly. Mouseman and Jon P. volunteered to form a subcommittee to discuss the age requirements going forward. While there is widespread support from Elders to raise the age, the general sentiment is that it won't reduce camping pass numbers, but it will reduce the administrative load on the wristband subcommittee.

Licia explained that the subcommittee would need to get back to us with a proposal.

Hilary reminded the group that the vote won't happen in November. The motion will be made under New Business at the November board meeting, and the motion will be voted on at the December meeting.

Another point brought up is that many Elders with camping passes don't camp. They stay after sweep and leave at some point to go home and return the following day. That's what "Late Night Trips" is all about. There was general agreement that we should run a survey when we send out the Letter of Intent, asking folks requesting wristbands how they intend to use them. This would be strictly for statistical purposes.

Licia summarized the action that the Budget Committee will take: Whoever has already been approved as an elder, even if under age 57, will be eligible for a pass. Once the board passes a motion to change the age, all those applications going forward will have a minimum age requirement of 57.

Elder WB SC Lead position - Annemarie

Nancy Hafner will take on the WB SC lead position as well as take on the budget. Everyone cheered!

The Elder WB SC has a new email address: elderwristbands@outlook.com. The former email address elderwristbands@gmail.com is currently forwarding all email to the outlook.com. address.

Nominate New Committee Member – Annemarie

Annemarie made a request that the committee nominate Nancy Hafner to the Elder committee. While there was general agreement, the question came up as to whether there was a quorum for this meeting.

Proxy Votes, Quorums, General Approvals – Licia/Carolyn

Carolyn shared that Michael James Long sent her an email indicating he could not attend tonight's meeting, and that he was assigning Robert Jacobs to proxy vote on his behalf. Is this an acceptable practice?

Proxy Votes – Licia asked if this was protocol. MJL asked Robert Jacobs. Robert said we have done proxy voting in the past. It was questioned as an acceptable practice.

Proxy voting means that a person who cannot attend designates someone to vote on their behalf, trusting that the proxy's vote will match up with the absent person's

The board needs to approve new committee members. A letter is required from the person who is nominated to the committee, requesting approval from the board. The request would go to the November board meeting under new business and approved at the December meeting.

Committee member absenteeism was questioned. Should we ask people who aren't attending to drop off the committee?

Having a quorum can have significant impacts on others. If we wait until the November meeting to approved vetted elder applications and there is no quorum again, those applications will end up falling under the age 57 age criteria and could mean that some of those vetted applications would be voided.

Robert suggested that even though we don't have a quorum, that we at least put a vote amongst the attending members at this meeting to show our desire to have Nancy H. on as a committee member.

Spirit will be happy to bring Nancy's letter to the board for the November 1st meeting.

Licia asked for a straw poll in favor of recommending Nancy as a new committee member. Everyone in attendance showed support. There were no objections.

Once Nancy takes on this work, she will need to be a signer on the Elders Bank Account. There is no urgency to get this done now.

Katie said that the bank sometimes asked for documentation verifying the new signer. At the next meeting we need to vote to approve Nancy as a signer.

Archiving Elder Applications - Katie

There are 3 boxes of archived elder applications that Patricia VanEsso has been storing in her garage, and she would like for someone to take over the storage. Licia asked if we should ask Fair Archives to hold the Elders Applications. Robert Jacobs will speak with Terry and Jerry about storing the 3 boxes.

Nancy said that there had been a side discussion of scanning new applications so we can store them digitally. There was no decision about this.

Holiday Party - Licia

Do we want an online party again, or something in person?

The general sentiment was that while everyone loves the idea of an in-person party, Covid is still a reality. The safe thing to do is to have an online party this year.

Eric offered to provide music if the party is online, or if it is an outdoor party with social distance. He will not attend an indoor party.

The date for the online holiday party is set for Thursday, December 16 at 7 p.m.

The next Elder Committee meeting is set for Friday, November 19 at 7 p.m. (note day and date change!!!).

Establishing a Quorum

It was determined that there is a quorum for this meeting with Spirit stepping in as the 6th person. Paxton confirmed that board liaisons can vote on committee issues.

With this understanding in mind, Licia request that Jenny to provide information on newly vetted applications.

1st applicant: Tom Bruzold (fire crew): Included 2 letters of reference with the application. Shady Lane booth 79 – 2008, and the coordinator of fire crew (Bill) confirmed Tom has been on fire crew since 1997. Spirit can confirm the veracity of the two references for Tom B.

2nd applicant: Heidi Doescher – Heidi has been the Fair’s Membership Secretary from 1990 to 2021

3rd applicant: Beth Littlewolf – David Phillips verified that he had worked with Beth on the Peachy the Dragon crew 1992 – 2003. Her other Fair participation with regards to eligibility was documented at previous meetings.

Paxton can verify that Beth was involved with this group. Peachy the Dragon doesn’t have a crew. It is ambience. Paxton said Beth had been with the dragon for at least 20 years.

Robert made a motion to approve all 3 applicants. Spirit seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Miscellaneous ramblings

Jain reminded that we were going to survey Elders regarding how they use their camping passes.

Jain wrote a letter to FFN reminding people of the importance of documenting who can verify their service at the fair. It will be in the November FFN issue.

Nancy asked what kind of information we want from Elders to understand how they are using their passes.

Licia talked about legal ramifications of documenting decisions in this meeting, and the importance of committee members showing up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jon P. - WOW Hall general membership meeting. is Nov. 14 at 4 p.m. online. Go to the WOW Hall website for instructions on how to participate.

Jain shared that the way the WOW Hall is running the voting this year is far superior. Last year’s voting took too long and was too complicated and disorganized.

Paxton – we have a fair document called committee best practices. Everyone on the committee should become familiar with them: https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/bp-manual-7_20_20-1.pdf

Annemarie – announced that Paul C. has agreed to manage the ECOCF listserv. Everyone cheered.

Jon P. – Reminded us that it was the board who voted in the (Elders) committee and the elder eligibility process.

Eric – We need to give a vote of confidence for committee members who are not here.

SUMMARY – TO DO LIST

- Nancy to send letter to Spirit to present to the board
- Mouseman and Jon to meet separately about Elder eligibility changes
- Boxes of applications – Robert to talk to archives
- Jenny to reach out to Carolyn with new Elder info for database
- Next Elder Committee meeting is Friday, November 19
- Elders Holiday Party is online Thursday, December 16 at 7 p.m.
- Reach out to all committee members prior to meeting to verify attendance. Sept. and Oct. minutes need to get approved- Carolyn

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PASSED:

A motion was made to approve 3 Elder Applications: Tom Bruzold, Heidi Doescher, and Beth Littlewolf. The motion was approved 6-0.

the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

the next meeting is Friday, November 19 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Gsell