

## ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Approved at the 01/27/22 meeting

**DATE:** Thursday, November 19, 2021

**LOCATION:** Online (Zoom)

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

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Diane Albino, Kay Kintzley

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Roberta Austin, Paul “SilverHawk” Bristow, Paul Compton, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Annemarie Hirsch, Paxton Hoag, Anthony “AJ” Jackson, Spirit Leatherwood, Jon Pincus, Licia Shultz (facilitator), Jenny Wilson

### AGENDA:

- October To-Do list – Carolyn
- Announcements
- WonderfulOCFElders listserv – Paul C.
- Approve September & October minutes
- New elder applications – Jenny
- LOI and Survey – Jain
- Confirm Nancy for EC membership
- Board announcement – AJ
- Elder Age Eligibility – Report from Mouseman and John

### OCTOBER MEETING – TO DO LIST

- Nancy to send letter to Spirit to present to the board **DONE**
- Mouseman and Jon to meet separately about Elder eligibility changes **DONE – See report below.**
- Boxes of applications – Robert to talk to archives **DONE! Jerry and Robert picked up the boxes and will deliver to Fair Office for archiving tomorrow.**
- Jenny to reach out to Carolyn with new Elder info for database **DONE**
- Reach out to all committee members prior to meeting to verify attendance. Sept. and Oct. minutes need to get approved- Carolyn **DONE**

### Announcements

Mouseman announced that Don Doolin recently passed away. Andyman has terminal cancer and asked Mouseman to spread the word

### WonderfulOCFElders listserv – Paul C.

Paul asked about fulfilling requests from people other than Elders to join the listserv. Alan explained that he (Paul) can use his own discretion for allowing people to join. We should assume good intentions, and if a listserv member does anything out of line, a decision to remove that person can be made. Heather shared a concern that we if we decided to change how we deal with listserv membership, then we need to create a policy or a written agreement about that.

### APPROVAL OF Minutes

**Mouseman made a motion to approve October and September minutes.** Alan seconded the September minutes. Jain seconded October minutes. The motion was approved 7 -0, with 1 abstention.

### New Elder Applications

1. Meg Martha Blanchet
2. Rosana Costello

Jenny reviewed the requirements fulfilled by the two applicants and the results of following up with each applicant's contacts.

**Ann made a motion to approve the 2 candidates Meg Blanchet and Rosana Costello.** Michael James Long seconded. The motion was approved 8-0.

Roberta indicated she now has a scanner and may be able to help with digitizing Elder applications.

Robert reiterated that if someone worked on the virtual fair or other projects during non-fair years, that their contribution should count towards Elder status. Is the final decision about work done during non-fair years up to the Elders Committee, or is it up to the Board, or a combination of both? Robert feels that to not give credit to people who worked for the fair during non-fair years or worked year-round for the fair is unfair. Michael James Long added that historically we have made outside of actual fair-time volunteer work count (including work on the property). Someone needs to substantiate volunteer participation. Paul C. pointed out, having been on a crew in the past, that there is a subset of the crew that doesn't work during the Fair – they work before the Fair. In the spirit of contributions to the fair, those contributions should be recognized. AJ feels it is especially important to get this nailed down, to get clear about the requirements for applying for Elder Status.

Licia thanked Jenny and Roberta for their work and said that we should nail down the requirements for elder status volunteer work. It is important. Spirit concurred.

#### **Letter of Intent (LOI) survey idea – Jain**

Jain said that everybody is wondering if Elders will be anxious to return to fair after two years off. This projected anxiety is around Covid and vaccination requirements.

IF we plan to attend Fair in 2022, do we plan to camp? Annemarie reminded that since we only send the LOI to people who are not on the "permanent list," we won't capture all the potential Elder campers.

Robert thinks we should send out a survey to every elder on our list.

Jon P. likes Jain's suggestion. He says it is important to do the survey at the right time.

Silver Hawk would be willing to send out some data/info sources.

Annemarie explained that the LOI goes out in Jan. She feels it wouldn't be fair to the applications subcommittee to have to deal with the survey. It would be best if the survey is separate from the LOI.

Carolyn – we have a database, and most people use email. We can do an email survey and snail mail the people who only do snail mail.

Paxton remarked that most people don't respond well to email surveys. He feels the vaccine requirement will reduce the number of people who want to come to the fair.

AJ, who is also the Membership Coordinator for the Eugene Saturday (and Holiday) Market is finding that with the new Covid restrictions in place for the Holiday Market, Vendor participation is 50% of normal capacity. He explained that most vendors are 50 or older, and they are concerned about Covid.

Licia said that our "permanent" Elder Pass Request list may not be valid for this year. We don't want to burden the wristband SC with the survey. Licia asked when would be a suitable time to do a survey? Ann asked AJ how the market went about contacting potential vendors for the Holiday Market. AJ said the question was very simple and clear. The question – if we have a market indoors and require vendors to be vaccinated and wear masks, and allow attendees to participate with no vaccine requirement and masks required, will you participate? AJ said that "we have an aging market." 50% over the age of 50.

AJ cautioned that we should hold off on a survey until we know EXACTLY what the board policy will be.

Jon P. added that just like the Saturday Market vendors, we are having an aging fair.

This discussion will resume at the January meeting. Licia suggested that Jain and Carolyn get together to figure out numbers for a mailing list.

**Official endorsement of new committee member Nancy Hafner - Licia**

*Jain made a motion to endorse Nancy Hafner to be on the Elders Committee.* Mouseman seconded. The motion passed 8-0.

Licia pointed out how valuable Nancy is to the Elders, especially given that she is taking on the Wristband Subcommittee lead role.

**Board Announcement - AJ**

Welcome AJ as new board liaison to the Elders Committee. Carolyn also gave a shout out to Spirit for her service to the Elders Committee. There was an enthusiastic cheer for Spirit's support and having been appointed to be our liaison.

**Elder Age Eligibility – Discussion Report from Mouseman and Jon**

Mouseman and John Met to discuss a resolution for raising the age limit for Elders eligibility. The primary concern is about causing harm to someone who, not knowing a change to the requirements, may be giving up their position before the next fair without understanding that the rules have changed.

They propose that any change to raising the age eligibility requirement take place for the 2023 Fair.

Licia clarified that if the board votes to change the age at the next meeting, we can still make a recommendation about waiting one more year. Spirit recommended we reach out to Hilary in advance of the board meeting. Paul reminded us that Hilary did make a concession at our last meeting to allow anyone with official elder status to apply for a camping wristband, regardless of whether they were 55 or 56. Her original proposal was that anyone with Elder status who would be age 55 or 56 at the 2022 Fair to not qualify for an Elders wristband.

Robert Jacobs suggested the Elders Committee recommend to the board of Directors that no changes to the eligibility age of 57 be made for the 2022 Fair; that the new age requirement of 57 be start for the 2023 Fair.

Paxton recommended that we make a projection of how many Elders would be affected.

Someone reminded that the Elder application deadline for the 2022 Fair is Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. That leaves only the months of December and January for any additional people to apply for Elder status for the 2022 Fair.

Spirit suggested that we identify a process for determining the progression for moving the age eligibility over time to reach the goal of age 60.

Jon. P. feels it's a question of fairness for people who have been playing by the rules.

Someone reminded that the motion that the board will be voting on is only for changing the entry age from 55 to 57.

Paxton – there needs to be a bigger discussion about progressing the minimum age requirement for Elders. Paxton recommended that we calculate projections of how many additional elders would be applying for passes if we keep the minimum age of 55 as qualifying for the 2022 fair.

Jon P. thinks the eligibility age requirement changes should be policy driven, not budget driven. They (the budget committee) haven't even looked at the numbers (of Elders). They seem to be operating on conjecture. Again, this should be a policy discussion, not a budget discussion.

AJ – we need to think about why the budget committee would want to take this action. This is a disagreement. It's not a budget committee vs. Elders committee. AJ encouraged us to stay away from making it personal. Spirit reminded us that the Budget Committee is not just looking at Elders (camping numbers). They are looking at sources from all groups.

Robert expressed that Hilary has gotten us motivated to produce a plan for gradually raising the age of eligibility. Carolyn can make an estimate of how many people in this 55-56 age group would be affected. Spirit will speak with Hilary about the conversations we had tonight.

**Robert Jacobs made a motion that the Elders Committee make the following recommendation to the board: To increase the minimum age for Elder eligibility from age 55 to age 57, effective for the 2023 Fair, and that all approved Elders be eligible to purchase wristbands.** Mouseman seconded. The motion carried 7-0 (one EC member left the meeting prior to the motion).

#### SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PASSED:

- September and October meeting minutes approved 8-0
- 2 vetted candidates Meg Blanchet and Rosana Costello Elder status approved 8-0
- Elder Committee members endorsement of Nancy Hafner as committee member approved 8-0
- A motion to make a recommendation to the board to increase the minimum age for Elder eligibility from age 55 to age 57, effective for the 2023 Fair, and that all approved Elders be eligible to purchase wristbands approved 7-0

#### NOVEMBER TO-DO LIST

- Review totals for snail mail and email addresses required to do a survey
- Carolyn to look at history of Elder applications and make a projection of how many additional new Elders age 55 and 56 would apply for Elder status prior to the Feb. 1, 2022 deadline

#### CARRY-OVER WORK FOR 2022 MEETINGS:

- Committee to firmly establish criteria that fulfills eligibility for Elder Status, specifically volunteer work done outside of the 3-day event, both on and off the property.
- 2022 Camping Survey, pending board's finalizing Covid-19 protocols and criteria for entry.
- Make recommendation to the board for gradually increased elder eligibility age to 60. Agenda item for 2022

Reminder! Our Elders Holiday Party will be online, Thursday 12/16, at 7 p.m.

The next committee meeting is Thursday, January 27, 2022, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned around 9 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Gsell