

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Final (approved at 2/24/22 meeting)

DATE: Thursday, January 27, 2022

LOCATION: Online (Zoom)

MEETING TIME: 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Albino, Jain Elliott, Nancy Hafner, Michael James Long, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Eric Nicholson, Robert Jacobs, Ann Bennett-Rogers

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Heather Kent, Kay Kintzley

OTHERS PRESENT: Roberta Austin, Paul Compton, Peggy Day-Fitzgerald, Kehn “mambo” Gibson, Jim Goettler, Vickie Grek, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Percy Hilo, Paxton Hoag, Chris Howe, Anthony “AJ” Jackson, Spirit Leatherwood, Beth Little, Linda Mooney, Jon Pincus, Licia Shultz (facilitator)

AGENDA:

- Announcements
- Approve November minutes
- New elder applications – Jenny & Roberta
- Working Group for Elder Eligibility updates – AJ & Spirit
- Wristband SC report - Nancy
- Storage – Ann & A.J.
- Create subcommittee to craft change in elder age eligibility status
- Schedule spring retreat - Carolyn
- Discussion about current events - Mouseman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Licia applauded the attendance numbers to our first meeting of the year.

AJ – Apologized to Elders for his reaction at the January board meeting. He expressed his appreciation for Elders. He reaffirmed his commitment to the board.

NOVEMBER MINUTES

Carolyn pointed out that the date for the November minutes was incorrect.

Ann moved to approve the minutes with the date correction. MJL seconded. The motion passed 6-0 (2 members were not present when the minutes were approved).

NEW ELDER APPLICATIONS – Roberta & Jenny

Fully vetted by Roberta:

- James A. R. Smith
- Deborah Swan
- Kenneth Birkes
- Daren Fluke

Fully vetted by Jenny:

- David Kemp
- Bill Ganser
- Mark Borger
- Amie Pease
- David Pemberton (*After the meeting, Jenny and Carolyn discovered that David Pemberton had already been approved at the Feb. 2020 meeting.*)
- James Treanor-Weaver
- Nick Morgan
- Carol Herzog

Jenny and Roberta walked through each applicant's qualifications.

Jain made a motion to approve the fully vetted elder applications. Mouseman seconded.

Pending Verification - Jenny

- Matt Mixer – 18 yrs. Teaches yoga at Dharma Gardens. Prior to that was teaching Yoga at CV. The committee stated that the applicant has not supplied sufficient information. There was a reminder that it is up to the applicant to provide good references. It's not up to the applications subcommittee nor the Elders committee to ferret out information.

Jenny is working on one application that appears questionable:

- Sheryl Morganstern – Jenny vetted a total of 20 years of service. She is only fifty-four, but she will be 55 in May. Per Robert Jacobs, the official criterion for elder eligibility is for the person to be fifty-five by day of the Fair. Therefore, Sheryl meets the criteria.
- Kristine N. Treanor-Weaver – Crew Boss External Security – age 53 – asking for medical exception. 23 years of service. Spirit weighed in. Mouseman explained that it is not our place to make exceptions. With all due respect to the person, we must go by our guidelines. Jon P. mentioned that Elders may have options. Licia mentioned that a person close to the age who has a medical issue could volunteer in a light duty position, for example in the Still Living Room. Mambo mentioned that one exception was made in the past for a person who was in hospice. Roberta reminded that the person's husband can get a companion pass since he has been approved as an elder.

Someone referenced a compassion pass. Jain explained that a compassion pass is one that is paid for by elders through fund-raising, for an Elder with economic hardship.

Pending verification – Roberta

- Charles H. Brown Jr. – Vaudeville Juggler – 30 years. (Roberta received the email she had been waiting for during the meeting, proving his 30 years of participation) per Roberta, he is fully vetted.

Mouseman made a motion to approve Sheryl Morganstern and Charles H. Brown, Robert Jacobs seconded.

A final vote for all fourteen* applications: Passed 8-0

Paxton added that Kristine Treanor-Weaver could get a light duty position with her existing crew to get a couple of more years.

Working Group for Elder Eligibility updates – AJ & Spirit

Spirit read a board motion made at the December 2021 meeting. In lieu of a motion to change the qualifying age to 57 in 2022 for an Elder camping pass, the following motion was made:

Spirit moved and George seconded to assign the Budget Committee and Elders Committee Liaisons, in consultation with the Elders Committee, to recommend a process to gradually increase the qualifying age for elders from 55 to 60 years old at the April 2022 Board Meeting for implementation in 2023

Spirit recommended that Carolyn G. and Katie C. from Elders work with the group to forge a proposal. AJ added that when the group meets, we need to discuss special circumstances. The group should really think about some of the hiccups that can happen.

Attendees made comments. One was to come up with a way to facilitate compassion passes. There was a question as to how age eligibility has become an issue. We were reminded that this has already been discussed at past meetings. There seems to be two juxtaposing needs: Giving younger people opportunities to fill volunteer positions, and at the same

time slowing down the increase in elders. Jon and Mouseman were the only two people who met as a subcommittee prior to discuss these issues, and they would like to continue those discussions.

STORAGE – Ann & AJ

Ann recalled former meetings where we discussed issues of storage. AJ is a lead on the storage subcommittee and Ann is involved with this subcommittee.

AJ shared that one of the long-term goals is looking to provide storage for various committees. AJ will be coming to us asking what our storage needs are, and it will be after the 2022 fair. The general idea is to look at the overall storage needs for the various groups within the fair.

Licia reminded us that she and Jerry have furnishings and display fixtures stored for SLR. Eric found barn storage in Elmira where most of the Elder camp items are stored. Eric, the Storage Genie, said he hasn't been to the storage barn since Covid. Eric went on to describe the storage space and the wonderful people who made their barn space available. Eric described the storage as vertical. (small footprint, very tall).

What the storage subcommittee will need to know is square footage of storage space requirements.

There was a discussion about digitizing paperwork and looking after fragile displays. Old paperwork is best kept in archives. We need to take good care of these things.

A hearty acknowledgement went out to Eric for solving huge storage issues on his own, without any help from the fair at large, and the group also acknowledged Eric's way of showing appreciation for the people who have been providing us storage space.

AJ reminded the group again that the subcommittee is looking at storage solutions to accommodate post-2023 fair.

WRISTBAND SC REPORT – Nancy

Nancy acknowledged help received from Katie, Carolyn, and Annemarie. Nancy is meeting with Alex at the office tomorrow. The LOI is going out to every Elder, regardless of whether they signed up for permanent status. 330 elders are on snail mail, and the remainder will go out via email, from elderwristbands@gmail.com. Patricia V. is going to help with the getting the snail mail out.

Newly approved Elders will also receive the LOI. Those letters may not go out with the first batch. There is a question on the LOI asking, for those deciding not to come to the 2022 fair, what their reason is.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

(Reference storage discussion) Paxton said that any paper archives older than 3-5 years should go to archives. It is not up to the committee to decide to destroy paperwork. However, if you have confidential paperwork, it should be shredded. Paxton also has scanners available for loan.

For the 2022 Fair, the maximum number of people on site on any given day during the 3-day event will be limited to 32,000. Kirsten requested that we try not to fill in vacancies. In other words, don't add people unnecessarily. If anyone takes a leave of absence, it shouldn't be held against them.

The formula that the budget committee uses for counting elders, is that an elder, plus companion, plus replacement worker, plus S.O. adds people.

Jon reminded that we are not a crew, we are Elders by decree of the board.

FORM SUBCOMMITTEE FOR ELDER ELIGIBILITY –

The purpose of this subcommittee will be to forge proposals to submit to the working group.

Jon P., Mouseman, Percy, Jerry Schultz, Carolyn, Mambo

Paxton said the original calculation was to raise the age every 2 years, taking a total of 10 years to fully implement. Robert reminded us that the 10-year plan was something we Elders thought up many years ago.

2003 was the first year we had official elders.

Jon reminded us to work off the board motions.

RETREAT DATE – Carolyn

There was disagreement around whether we can schedule Alice's. Also, people dropped out of the meeting due to how late it was. Carolyn agreed to contact the Fair office to see what dates are available for a retreat.

Discussion of current events Tabled

NOTE: AJ's birthday is April 2nd, opening day of Saturday Market

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PASSED:

- November meeting minutes approved 6-0
- Fourteen vetted Elder applications approved 8-0

The next committee meeting is Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Gsell