

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Approved at the 4/28/22 meeting

DATE: Thursday, March 24, 2022

LOCATION: Online (Zoom)

MEETING TIME: 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jain Elliott, Nancy Hafner, Robert Jacobs (late), Heather Kent, Michael James Long, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Eric Nicholson, Ann Rogers-Bennett (late)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Diane Albino, Kay Kintzley

BOARD LIAISONS PRESENT: Anthony “AJ” Jackson, Spirit Leatherwood

OTHERS PRESENT: Roberta Austin, Steven Berkson, Alan Cohn, Darlene Colburn, Katie Cousins, Peggy Day-Fitzgerald, Kehn “mambo” Gibson, Vickie Grek, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Paxton Hoag, David Hoffman, Chris Howe, Peggy Isaacs, Aaron Kenton, Mark Pankratz, Jon Pincus, David Ross, Jerry Shultz, Licia Shultz (facilitator), Jon Steinhart, Jenny Wilson.

AGENDA:

- Announcements
- Approve February minutes
- New elder applications - Jenny & Roberta
- Elder Wristband Subcommittee updates
- Question about Covid Protocols at Registration
- Elder Volunteers Check-in - Annemarie/Carolyn
 - Meet and Greet
 - Spring retreat
 - SLR
 - Geezer Pleezer
 - Elder Central & Camp
 - Elders general Gmail address - remove
- Fair-wide volunteer shortage - Proposal for how Elders could help – Carolyn
- Elder Camp Cleanup - Carolyn
- Quick update on Elder Eligibility SC - Jerry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ★ MJL asked about WonderfulOCFelders Listserv, specifically asking about Chewie’s request to participate. The observation was made that people who have requested to be on the listserv aren’t getting any response. Carolyn will reach out to Paul C. to see what is going on.
- ★ Spirit – March Board Report and Covid Safety Updates.
 - Capital projects passed @ \$256,000. One of the largest budgets ever. Projects will get done as we can get to them.
 - Patrons (ticket holders) will be required to be vaccinated or provide proof of legitimate negative test if they can also prove they are exempt from vaccination requirements, per Title 7 (Civil Rights law) and ADA regulations.
 - Fair staff and volunteers have no exemptions. Must be fully vaccinated and up to date per CDC guidelines.
 - Special Board Meeting on 3/21/22 was held to look at options for how do hold the 2022 Fair. Non-Conforming Use (NCU) permit needs to be preserved. Oregon’s State of Emergency mandate will be lifted April 1st. Therefore, we need to fulfill our obligation to the NCU, per Fair attorney’s advice. Fulfillment includes holding a 3-day event and staying with the existing footprint of the fair.

- Tickets go on sale April 1st. Capped ticket holders not to exceed 15,000. ED will release tickets in batches, starting with 10,000 and up to the total 15,000 based on Covid situation. (note – at the Coordinators’ Onsite meeting Saturday 4/23/22, Kirsten announced that the total number of tickets per day would most likely not exceed 10,000. Unless a strong argument could be made for increasing tickets past the 10,000 quantity).
- Covid prevention – An Occupy Medical person ran the FEMA Covid recovery center in Eugene. Zero Covid cases reported during the time she ran the program. She has been invited to an External Security meeting in May. She has reached out to a local physician who has expertise in public safety to assist with crafting a covid prevention policy for the fair and will report to Kirsten. This will expand beyond what we currently have established for Covid protocols.
- Review of Pre-fair Covid protocols. [Fair’s Covid Safety plan](#). This plan is for anyone coming out to Fair site before Wednesday of Fair. (Screen share of link above). Anyone not coming to the site pre-fair will need to register their vax info at the event entry. If a person has been on site previously and has a proof-of-vax wristband, proof of vaccination will still be required. Bring vax card and valid I.D.
- Nancy asked about how to deal with vax requirements on the PRF form, vax mandate and what to communicate on the PRF. Day pass people also need to be vaxxed. Spirit recommended that each Elder take responsibility individually for emailing the vaccination card to safety@oregoncountryfair.org.
- Comment was made that there are no requirements for a 4th shot by Lane County.
- Process when people arrive on site to get pre-verified before they get to sticker booth. People without proof of vaccination will be turned away.
- Vickie (involved with Covid committee) says there is a process in the works to create a checkpoint prior to arriving at registration.
- There will be shield guards at registration.

FEBRUARY MINUTES

Eric made motion to approve the February minutes. Nancy seconded. Heather made a request to remove Diane’s comments as they were inappropriate as an announcement. The motion was amended to approve the February minutes with the removal of Diane’s comments. **Minutes were approved 6 - 0** (Ann and Robert were not present during the motion).

NEW ELDER APPLICATIONS – Roberta & Jenny

Vetted by Jenny:

- Stephanie (Alea) Brager- (Alter-abled access advocacy, 30 years of service) age 55
- John Barth (construction crew, 30 years of service) age 66
- Kendra Morrigan (Northern Wood booth # 149, 24 years confirmed) age 71
- Karen Belsey (5 Fingers of Fun, 23 years of service) age 58
- Christopher Peck (5 fingers of Fun, 22 years of service) age 57)
- Christina Salter (5 Fingers of Fun, 21 years of service) age 60

Vetted by Roberta:

- William (Billy) Clotere (Food booths and Ent. Hospitality 24 years confirmed) age 56
- Charlotte Silverstein (Various positions 33 years confirmed) age 61

The following need discussion:

Lynn Marx - questioning eligibility - worked on OCF guidelines and rec'd some monetary compensation. Does that work count? Norma confirmed Lynn worked all those years. Paxton recommended that her time counts. We generally don't pay full boat.

- Jon P. reminded that Lynn's work is NOT committee work. She worked on the guidelines which are an integral part of our operations. The fact that she got some compensation doesn't invalidate her participation. Robert reminded we have given elder status to those who have received comp. i.e., Norma Sax.
- Jim Frey - age 67- Confirmed 15 years as quartermaster w/ external security, he had one- or two-years w/photobooth/Imaginarium (1 year in 2019 plus some pre-Fair work in 2020. Given no 2020 fair, does that count?). Unable to confirm work with teen crew from 2004-2008. He is claiming 21 years. The work he did for 2020 Fair was planned for on-site: not for the virtual Fair. Paxton recommended that Jim's pre-Fair work doesn't count.
- There was a comment made that the Applications Subcommittee shouldn't have to do research on behalf of the applicant. It was pointed out that Kelly, the Teen Coordinator, has had 3 different last names (Crane, Campbell and Isrig).
- Steven Berkson commented that the question of whether or not certain services count, in particular committee work, should be clearly established. Especially during non-fair years who has been doing committee work and putting in hours? Some more objective measures are needed.
- Jon St. has records for Jim Frey. 97-2001 on security. Jon St. took over record-keeping for teen crew after 2011. Jon has a copy of Kelly's old database. Recording keeping was not her strong point. Jon's point is that there is nobody available to verify Jim Frey's participation. Jon S. pointed out that Craig's verification is inconsistent with the records.
- Both Mambo and Robert mentioned that Jim Frey has been around for a long time. Mambo encouraged the applications committee to do the follow up with applicants who are difficult to vet. They may not have the resources.
- Bottom line: 15 years with Quartermaster /1 year with Photo Booth /2003 Teen Crew leader. More work needs to be done to verify Jim Frey. MJL said he when he was working with Craig, he was probably coming through Teen Crew. Jim probably moved on from Quartermaster because of changes with Security to make them more efficient. He's in a situation where his coordinators did not keep records. It was brought up that if Craig Smith vouched for Jim Frey, then that makes the vetting certifiable.
- Mambo pointed out that Roberta and Jenny are doing everyone a great service by going out of their way to get some of these candidates vetted. He pointed out that applicants don't necessarily have the resources that we do for tracking down coordinators and records.

Mouseman Made a motion that the 9 vetted people be approved. They are Stephanie (Alea) Brager, John Barth, Kendra Morgan, Karen Belsey, Christopher Beck, Christina Salter, William (Billy) Clotere, Charlotte Silverstein, and Lynn Marx. Michael James Long seconded. The motion passed 8-0.

ELDER WRISTBAND SC REPORT – Nancy

There are still people asking about the LOI. The PRF is scheduled to go out late April.

Nancy asked about what kind of information we should provide on the Pass Request Form, specifically related to Covid. Katie said that could be discussed outside of this meeting.

One of the questions she has been getting is about Elders getting transportation from the parking lot to the fair entrance. Paxton reminded that we have the Geezer Pleezer that provides transportation for Elders to and from the parking lot to the Fair entrance (and other places outside the Fair public space). Paxton asked about funding for Radios and Nancy said that there is a budget in place to cover this. NO advance payments for wristbands or passes will be accepted before the Pass Request form release date. Any payments received at the office will be returned to the sender or shredded.

SPRING RETREAT – Peggy I.

Scheduled at Alices Saturday April 30 at 10 a.m. Covid protocols for Alices are unclear and we need to make decisions about food. We have one more meeting 2 days before the retreat.

Peggy Isaacs will host. Peggy will get information about the site. She already has a list of things to do. Mouseman reported that everything at Alices' is functional.

Ann recommended that everyone who is planning to attend get their vaccinations validated.

Ann, Paxton and Mouseman verified that Alice's is clean, organized, and basically stocked. A rule there is not to leave food. Whoever uses Alices is responsible for cleaning it up and getting it ready for the next group. There is no single person responsible for the building.

There doesn't seem to be an issue with numbers of people. Masks appear to be optional, depending on who is there.

As far as Covid protocols, be aware of how other people are feeling around masks.

Food for the retreat will be potluck Mexican themed, plus dessert. Peggy will make enchiladas, rice and beans, and people can bring side items and dessert. It was decided to only focus on lunch (no dinner).

Someone asked about a budget to buy food to make for the retreat. Food will be prepared based on 30 people in attendance. Peggy, Annemarie, Carolyn, and Nancy (budget person) will get together to figure out how to fund food for the retreat.

Sierra is new on staff and a good contact for questions about onsite activities.

The number of people inside the building was discussed. We would prefer to be inclusive rather than exclusive. Screened in spaces are considered indoor. Someone suggested pop-ups.

ELDER VOLUNTEER SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES - Carolyn

- Meet and Greet – Peggy/Tiger Lily has volunteered. We need to decide if we will actually hold the event.
- SLR – Marcia McMasters Bauer, who has been the lead SLR person for many years, had a stroke and won't be able to attend. She has agreed to provide information to whoever can take on the role of coordinator this year. Patricia Van Esso will be a go-between given that Marcia is still in rehab and the act of talking is a challenge.
- Geezer Pleezer – An on-site Geezer coordinator is needed. Jon Beer did it in 2019 but will not be at Fair. He has offered to help with sign-ups.
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- Elder Central & Camp – we will announce work parties on ECOCF and WonderfulOCFelders listserv
- Elders general Gmail address – Janice Medvin has been managing this and would like to be taken out of the loop. Because Elders have multiple points of contact, we will remove ocfelderscontact@gmail.com. Other email contacts can be found here: <https://ocfelders.weebly.com/email-addresses-facebook-and-listserv.html>

- Elder Volunteers Subcommittee has updated the volunteer tab on the website regarding open elder volunteer jobs. They will also send out an email to the listserv and post on Facebook regarding upcoming volunteer opportunities for Elders.
- Let eldervolunteers@gmail.com know if you have any volunteer jobs you would like to get published on the website or elsewhere.

TRANSITION BETWEEN AGENDA ITEMS:

- You can bring your PRF with payment to the retreat. Nancy will be there to collect.
- Per Village David, Path Planning has a new subcommittee for ADA compliance, 4A services the public only (not fair family). The Fair is an International top 10 event. Village David met Sierra and was impressed with her.
- Steven mentioned that a screen room should be considered an indoor environment.

FAIR-WIDE VOLUNTEER SHORTAGE - PROPOSAL FOR HOW ELDERS COULD HELP – Carolyn

Create and EVER (Elder Volunteer Event Response) Team

Form a pool of potential volunteers from Elders who plan to attend the Fair. We could either use the PRF form, or we could send an email to solicit able-bodied elders who are willing to volunteer. We can ask them about their skillsets, and then share that information with Coordinators Helping Coordinators using a shared Google Doc. We can ask about their availability pre-fair, during fair and post fair. We can find out what times of day they prefer to work.

The call for Elders to volunteer at the 2022 Fair will be included either on the PRF form or possibly via email.

Largest crews are down 20%. Some smaller crews are down 50%.

Johnny with Childcare started the Coordinators Helping Coordinators program. Steven helped him set this up. There will also be a FB page. Steven’s impression is to eliminate extra work. Elders can monitor the FB page and/or google group and see if they can find people to help.

Steven said the way this volunteer solicitation will work is that a Coordinator will make a request, and other coordinators will review their lists of people and do the networking to hook up a volunteer with a job.

Nancy, Steven, Barb, and Carolyn will meet separately via Zoom to figure things out.

Suggest 2 hours. Suggest asking if someone can lift 20 lbs. “chicken lifting”.

Jon Pincus discourages using Facebook for this process; rather use Google docs. Let other coordinators know that our Elder resources are available.

ELDER CAMP UPDATES AND CLEAN UP DAYS – Carolyn

Elder Central & Camp -work parties have been posted on the website and Facebook and will also be posted on ECOCF and WonderfulOCFelders listserv

Elder camp workdays are 4/23, 5/21 and 6/18 from 10-4. Arrive prepared to clear fallen branches and overgrowth.

It is time to email eldercamphost@gmail.com to reclaim your site or to be placed on the waiting list.

WEBSITE UPDATES

The website team has a tab for News and Events. Please check it out! Please submit any news or event item you would like to have placed on this site to ocfelderwebsite@gmail.com

We will ask Nancy if we can place a link to the website on the PRF as a link to news and events.

COMMENTS

A recommendation was made for everyone to keep their microphones muted and raise a hand to speak. There is too much crosstalk.

Paxton offered to provide entertainment at the retreat. He has a complete, edited version of the 50th Anniversary midnight show available for viewing.

ELDER ELIGIBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE - Jerry

Jerry and Carolyn met recently with board liaisons Sandra, Spirit, and AJ. George was not available. There will be several meetings going forward. The original deadline of April won't happen because we got a late start.

Mambo explained that research the subcommittee did was based only on the information that was available to us. He referred to newly vetted Elder Stephanie Brager who is age 55 with 30 years of service. Elders aren't adding numbers to the fair. Also emphasized that Elders are not a crew. We are a collection of every facet of the fair that have given at least 20 years of service and have come together as a group. Mamo emphasized that Elders are a tremendous resource. Treating Elders as a crew is a mistake. Elders are the only group that have a wide resource of talent to lend to the Fair. The argument is that the "NO CHANGE" argument makes the most sense. Elders are not asking for special treatment.

AJ acknowledged that whether Elders are a crew or not, we are trying to address the situation amongst the entire organization, trying to reduce to a manageable footprint to across the organization.

In our meeting, one thing that came up is that the group didn't have all the numbers to make a recommendation, and Jerry and Carolyn asked for the numbers that were the basis of this discussion. AJ said board liaisons are working to provide this information.

Growth is looked at in different ways. AJ is waiting to get #s from Hilary. We started to look at different alternative ideas that didn't result in someone chasing the goal post. It would not be wise to go back to the board at this point and say "we decided we are not going to do anything" until we have the numbers (fair demographics), especially when other crews are being asked to cut down their numbers.

WRAP UP:

There have been questions about people unable to get on the Wonderful Elders Listserv. Carolyn will call Paul Compton to find out what's going on.

We need to update who qualifies to be an Elder. Licia asked Nancy to jot down a few notes about this.

Jon P. Elder age eligibility requires more statistical work to understand where the problems are. He suggested that we hold this project until after the fair. Especially given that the Fair needs labor, this topic can wait.

Spirit concurred with AJ that fully informed recommendations before going to the board is best path forward.

Jon Steinhart suggested to have more than one list administrator for the Wonderful Elders Listserv.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PASSED:

The Elder February Committee minutes were approved 7-0 (1 committee member was not present when the minutes were approved)

The motion to approve 9 vetted applications was approved 8-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Gsell