

ELDERS SPRING 2022 RETREAT MINUTES – Reviewed by committee; no vote for approval required.

Saturday, April 30, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Albino, Jain Elliott, Nancy Hafner, Kay Kintzley, and Eric Nicholson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Jacobs, Heather Kent, Michael James Long, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, and Ann Rogers-Bennett

OTHERS PRESENT: Roberta Austin, Maryann “Malka” Barber, Sandra Bauer, Paul “Silverhawk” Bristow, Leslie Brown, Laurie Childers, Katie Cousins, Peggy Day Fitzgerald, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Chris Howe, Mark Johnson, Roger Lesiak, Jim May, Linda Mooney, Jon Pincus, Jorjan Plimmer, Fran Rosenthal, Arna Shaw, Jerry Shultz, Licia Shultz, Patrica VanEsso, Jenny Wilson.

CAMEO APPEARANCE: Ichabod

LOCATION: Alice’s

MEETING TIME: started approximately 10:30 a.m.

AGENDA THEME – Volunteering and putting on the 2022 Fair

MORNING AGENDA

- Introductions
- Announcements
- Still Living Room
 - Coordination and Décor - Sandra
 - Extra Space
 - Transport, setup, and breakdown – Eric
- Meet and Greet - Licia
- Elder Camping – Peggy Day

AFTERNOON AGENDA

- Geezer Pleezer – Fran
- Wristband Subcommittee update – Nancy
- Fair at Large volunteering – Carolyn
- Guidance for new volunteers - Licia

INTRODUCTIONS: Each attendee stated their name, and one word to describe how they were feeling. Frequently heard was “hopeful”. Licia emphasized that the most important aspect of the retreat was us being together for the first time in a very long time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Jain – Shiny Leaf Geranium (invasive species) pull party. Meet 10 a.m. Wednesday at Main Camp
- Kay – Although on the Elders Committee, have not been attending online meetings. Avoiding screens! Thinking about resigning but will reconsider if in-person meetings start getting scheduled.
- Licia – announced she is nurturing her passion through chairing a non-profit endeavor for building a racetrack. She will retire from position of Elder Committee Facilitator. She will stay on for the May and June meeting. Start looking for a new facilitator.
- By the way, Licia will be racing at the track by Valley River Center next Saturday and Sunday. Check it out!
- Kay offered to host the June Elder Committee meeting. It’s the last meeting before the Fair.
- Beginning Sat. May 15 QM will be available to direct anyone who shows up to offer volunteer services

- A Celebration of Life is being held this afternoon for Gweneth Van Frank Carlson onsite at Dragon Plaza.

STILL LIVING ROOM

Still Living Room Coordination and Decor— Sandra

For many years Marcia Bauer-McMasters has been coordinating the staffing for Still Living Room. Marcia will not be able to attend this year (possibly 2023 as well) due to a rather severe stroke. We need someone to step in to fill her position. Going forward, whoever steps forward could co-coordinate with Marcia when she is able to return to Fair.

Marcia did all the onsite organizing and scheduling. Ben Hughes (not an Elder) helped in the past with putting up décor. He has helped with heavy work and is good on ladders. To help with the 2022 Fair, he needs a pass, and Sandra put out a request for someone to allow him their Helper Pass so he may participate.

Marcia has a spreadsheet of past volunteers. Jerry Joffe and Terry Baxter typically take the lead on putting up the timelines.

Sandra coordinates the SLR décor. Jerry Shultz made a lot of the SLR furniture, and he and Eric Nicholson are the prime movers.

Patricia VanEsso has been in touch with Marcia and is waiting for Marcia to send the volunteer spreadsheet and other information to assist this year's SLR coordinator.

Volunteers staffing the SLR sign up for shifts. Shift work includes hanging out, keeping things tidy, and talking with folks visiting the space, often answering questions. Shifts are usually 4 hours. Elders who have not signed up for shifts often visit the SLR and offer staff volunteers bathroom or food breaks.

Terry Baxter also scours the archives for items to place in the SLR glass display cabinet.

Sandra is collecting photos for the SLR display. Photos of interest include photos from the past, the focus being a broad presentation of the Fair that would be of interest to display visitors. Sandra requested that contributions of digital photos be emailed to her sanbauer@aol.com. Printed 8 x 10 photos are also welcome. Email Sandra about best way to send them.

Linda Robertson will again provide flowers for the 2022 display. We need a volunteer with a Truck who can pick up the pots on Thursday before Fair and deliver them to the display, and who can also pick up the pots Monday after the Fair and return them to Linda. Linda lives in a central location in Eugene. Roger Lesiak has done this in the past but won't be available this year. He said the pots are rather heavy. *Note – the flowers are planted mostly in 5-gallon buckets.*

The décor gets taken down Sunday night. Items go into a huge storage box (made by Jerry!). Marcia made it a habit of showing up at the beginning of the first shift to insure it was properly staffed and tidy.

There is a question as to where the Décor box is currently store. Some people are looking into it.

SLR Extra Space

The old mirror area may be open to our use. Ambience may be in the know. (Diane confirmed at the Thursday committee meeting that we can get that space). *(Scribes note – unsure if anyone agreed to check into the space – do we still need a volunteer for this?)*

Transport, Setup, Breakdown – Eric

Eric takes the lead on setup and take down of the furniture, including transportation and storage. Thus far he has not had much response from volunteers.

Eric asked about the situation for storage after the Fair. Most SLR items are currently located in a Workshop on private property in Elmira. Eric hasn't spoken to the folks who offered the storage space in a while.

Licia reminded us that we need volunteers to provide lunch and water for the setup folks.

Eric reminded us that trucks and trailers are needed. Someone said that Lois Inman has loaned her truck in the past, and that Mouseman usually loans his trailer.

ELDER CAMPING – Peggy Day

The next Elder Camp clean-up day is Saturday, May 21st, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please email eldercamphost@gmail.com if you intend to come.

Elder Central items that have been in storage are retrieved for setup. Annemarie and Larry will bring the supplies to Elder Central on July 5th.

Peggy Day will be at the campsite starting July 5 to provide security. She noted that Mary Barton who has been a key person with Elder Central will not be attending this year.

Annemarie received an email from Shadow with the following schedule proposed for the HUB Showers.

She wrote: The current plan for the Hub Showers is that it will be exclusively for elders & alter-able folks, and their attendants showering with them.

Thursday: 5-10pm
Fri & Sat: 7am-10pm
Sun: 7am-5pm

If these shifts don't go late enough for the elders, it's not too late to change the schedule to: (the deadline for this change was May 1st)

Thursday: 6-11p
Fri & Sat: 8am-11pm
Sun: 8am-6pm

Elders who are on the waiting list or previously camped at Elder Camp need to contact the Camp Host. Email eldercamphost@gmail.com, or call Annemarie at 541-285-1537

If Annemarie or Peggy don't hear back from you by May 25th, your spot will be given away.

Annemarie will recruit volunteers for camp hospitality persons (Camp Mavens), camp setup and decorating, as well as scheduling Elder Central 2-hour shifts.

Peggy clarified that Annemarie is the Camp Host and Peggy is her assistant.

Annemarie does not want to be the hospitality person (Camp Maven) all the time and needs elders to step up to help oversee the hospitality tent during the Fair.

Peggy also agreed to allocate her companion pass to Ben Hughes. *(post meeting note – Ben is not attending Fair this year, so we will need to recruit a replacement person for installing SLR décor. The skillset needed is being good on ladders and rigging.*

MEET AND GREET – Licia

Kay and Licia have hosted the Meet and Greet for many years and are turning over the reins. The Meet and Greet occurs Thursday evening before Fair. Around 150 people show up by Alices. There's food, beverages (wine and non-alcohol), and entertainment.

Kay has contacted potential candidates for the positions. Barbara Green and Molly Elliott expressed their commitment to putting on the party. Nancy McBee is also interested in being a part of the team to put this on. There is one more person Roseann who may also be interested to help with hosting.

Kay has offered to volunteer but not do the organizing. She plans to meet with the host volunteers prior to the June Elder Committee meeting. Kay and Licia will donate items they've collected for the Meet and Greet such as tablecloths, etc. Licia remarked that the cleanup takes place in the dark and asked if Elder Central could provide lanterns for the cleanup.

Eric is working on lining up musicians. He is talking with some folks who may have a connection to Baby Gramps. We need to make sure that the new volunteer hosts connect with Eric.

Lunch Break – 11:40 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

AFTERNOON MEETING

Geezer Pleezer – Fran Rosenthal

Fran has volunteered to be our new Geezer Pleezer volunteer and is working with Jon Beer. She has driven the Geezer at past fair and recalls stress that can occur. She wants to make the GP run more smoothly. The issue of maintaining batteries for the Geezer were mentioned. Chris H. will speak with Fran about this. Jon B. advised Fran that there have been issues in the past with communication. We expect to have digital radio communications between Fair Central and the Geezer this year. A driver's license is required to drive the Geezer.

Carolyn agreed to ensuring that both Jon B. and Fran R. get included on the ECOCF listserv.

Kay mentioned that a lot of people step up to volunteer once they arrive at the Fair.

Wristband Subcommittee update – Nancy

Folks who didn't respond to the Letter of Intent (LOI) are writing in to ask about receiving the Pass Request Form. There have been a large number of snail mail and email address changes. Many elders are telling us they did not receive the LOI or PRF (Pass Request Form). There has been some discussion about making special parking arrangements for Elders in need. It remains a question.

Nancy said that there have been typos in the email addresses of newly approved Elders. A suggestion was made that the Applications Subcommittee send an email to a new applicant verifying that their application was received, and to request a return email so they are assured the email address is correct.

Fair-at-large positions – Carolyn

Elder Volunteers Co-cos worked with Johnny Whiddon, Fair Childcare Co-co, to post a volunteer survey to Johnny's website. Johnny already had a survey out for pre-fair volunteers, so he created a new page for us, and we specified the questions for the survey. So far, we've had about 34 people respond. Their survey information gets dumped into a spreadsheet and from there Annemarie and Carolyn can look at each person's data to determine where the person could volunteer. Carolyn has put focus on Elders volunteers for positions outside of Elders (Fair-at-Large). Thus far, one elder has volunteered to work with Cream Puff Sparkles (Crew Services) to drive the gator for the morning shifts during fair to distribute water and snacks to various crews. Other positions that need to be filled are:

- FARTS bus driver, CDL preferred – contact Carolyn if you have an interest eldervolunteers@gmail.com.
- Pre-fair vax verification volunteers – Aunty Em is heading up the pre-fair vax verification team and has posted dates she needs volunteers. You can volunteer directly by emailing her at etiennemsmith@gmail.com. Volunteer dates are June 4, 11,18,25 & 26 and July 2,3 & 4. Times; 9am- 5pm.

Guidance for new volunteers – Licia

It appears we have 3 strong volunteers for the Meet and Greet, and Patricia V. said that another person is also interested.

Annemarie and Carolyn are working on recruiting volunteers.

It's very important for those of us who are volunteering or have held positions in the past to help new volunteers learn the ropes. They may choose to do things differently than we did and that's fine. But we can be a resource for them. We also have our website www.ocfelders.weebly.com that lists many of the volunteer jobs along with job descriptions.

Advice to Roberta and Jenny, don't take criticism personally. It's all about problem solving.

Starting May 15th, Quartermaster will be open on weekends. Anyone who wishes to volunteer for the Fair but doesn't have something specific to do can check in with Quartermaster for an assignment.

Closing – Licia

Reminder that we need to find a volunteer to pick up flowers from Linda Robertson and deliver to the SLR.

We need to locate our storage box of SLR soft goods (décor). Eric will speak with Sierra.

Kay and Licia will connect Eric with the new Meet and Greet volunteer hosts.

Jon P. said that Steve Barnes is willing to help with cleaning showers after hours.

No motions were made or passed at the retreat.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

A group of 6 people stayed to clean up Alice's and left it cleaner than they found it, which was already very clean!

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Gsell