

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Approved at the 10/27/22 meeting

**DATE:** Thursday, September 22, 2022

**LOCATION:** Online (Zoom)

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Diane Albino, Jain Elliott, Heather Kent, Kay Kintzley, Michael JamesLong, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Eric Nicholson, Ann Bennett-Rogers

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Nancy Hafner

**BOARD LIAISONS PRESENT:** Anthony “AJ” Jackson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Roberta Austin, Steven Berkson, Darlene Colburn, Katie Cousins, Peggy Day-Fitzgerald, Kehn “mambo” Gibson, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Paxton Hoag, David Hoffman, Jon Pincus, Silverhawk, Jon Steinhart (facilitator), Jenny Wilson

**AGENDA:**

- Announcements
- Approve June Minutes
- Approve Vetted Elder Applications – Jenny and Roberta
- Wristband SC Report – Katie
- SLR Report – Eric
- Meet and Greet – Kay
- Elder Eligibility Subcommittee - Mouseman

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Carolyn – We have a board election coming up. Candidates Forum is Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Annual Membership Meeting is on Saturday Oct. 15, at the LCC Long House 6:30 p.m. Ballots are due Oct. 22. See the .net site for more info: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/board-elections/>

Jon P– The WOW Hall is holding an election for BOD and Bylaws on November 13.

**APPROVE JUNE MINUTES**

Ann made a motion to approve the June minutes. Mouseman seconded. The motion passed 7-0 (Diane was not present for the vote due to a lost connection).

**Elder Applications – Jenny and Roberta**

Confirmed by Jenny:

**Alexander Henry Murdock:** age 56. 46 years with family booth Lizard Design. Confirmed by Lizzie Murdoch (mom, original booth rep) and Braden Hoodock (nephew, current booth rep).

**Mark Wheeler:** age 57. Started in 1997 at Crafts Lot camping crew (now Piggy/SCOF Lot Camping Crew. Confirmed by John Kassebaum (current crew leader)

**Deb Trist:** age 71, Started in 1985at Crystal Light Mining booth. From 1992- 2019, worked at KLCC booth. Confirmed by Gayle Chisholm (booth rep)

**Kris Paul.** Age 56. Started in 1998 at Lifelong Learning in Community Village. Confirmed by Tanya Kiyak-Boughton (coordinator)

**Ryan Zebold:** age 57. started in 1986 at Shady Lane booth #141. Worked with Fire Crew from 1997-2019. Confirmed by both Bill Pack and Amy Unthank (crew coordinator).

**Sharon Bogdonovich** – Age 55. From 1998-2001, worked at Community Village Little People. Confirmed by Jain Elliott. From 2002-2006, as on Village Coordinating Council Confirmed by Karla Caudell (fellow council member). From 2007-2015, worked at Village Green Earth booth. Confirmed by Tony Reidl (booth coordinator). From 2016-2019, was Community Village camping coordinator. Confirmed by Diane Albino.

**Jesse McDonald** – Jenny found it applicant difficult to vet because the applicant did not want the people who could verify her participation contacted. At the meeting Diane said that Jesse has served the fair for a very long time, including Main Camp kitchen, in addition to booth participation. Both Diane and Jon P. vouched for her participation at the meeting.

Mouseman reminded the group that we have a process for vetting the applications. Just stating somebody knows someone and that they have been in a booth or doing whatever, doesn't truly constitute a verification. The verification should come from a coordinator or manager.

Kay reminded us that it is a challenge to vet applicants when we are dealing with so much online communication. However, we need to stick to the protocol.

Mambo added that when he was part of the vetting process, that it needed to be accurate and well researched so that it could stand up to any kind of critical examination. During a time when elder eligibility is coming to question, we should be more careful in our approach, so that our vetting process holds.

Diane asked about how the two Covid years with no event affects eligibility and verification. Jon Steinhart said that those two years don't affect membership, but those two years are lost as far as work credit goes. Paxton said the board is working on a bylaw change to clarify that the 2020 and 2021 years will not qualify for years of service.

Mouseman – the applicants names that are brought to the meeting should be fully vetted beforehand.

Confirmed by Roberta:

**Peter Aronson** Age 77. Traffic crew since 1998..verified by Vickie Grek.

**Robert Waller** Age 59.30 years verified.1992-1995 Deconstruction Crew verified by Jar Smith, 1996-2006 Kitchen Post Fair verified by Gerry McDonald and Abby Auch, 2007-2009 Pre-Fair Kitchen verified by Donna Blaser/McLain, and 2009-present QM-Wood World Verified by Andy McLain.

**Kathleen Kirkpatrick** (Kat) Age 64. 21 years verified. 2000-2001 Deconstruction Crew Verified by Jar Smith. 2002-2007 Post Fair Kitchen Verified by Gerry McDonald, 2007-2009 Pre-fair kitchen verified by Donna Blaser/ McLain (came is as a **Working SO** several of those years verified by Donna and Gerry) 2010-Present (not active 2020 or 2021) Grievance Administrator verified by Marc Hinz.

**Mare Sippel.** Age 69. 1985 -2004 Verified by Eileen Brixey at least 6 years at the Master Gardner booth in Community Village. Verified pre-post security for at least 16 years 2004 -Present by Dawn Leslie, Warren and Cheryl Walsh.

**Hall Stuart-Lovell.** Age 60. Verified 20+ years. 1998-present. Co-Co Deconstruction Crew. Verified by Jar Smith.

**Anne Holmes.** Age 76. Worked 1975-80 at the Strawberry Pie booth. 1981-2019 at the Blintz Booth.

**Ann moved that we approved all the applicants vetted by Roberta. Mouseman seconded. The motion was approved 8-0.**

**Mouseman moved that we approved the first 6 of Jenny's. Ann seconded. The motion passed 8-0**

Diane made a motion that we approve Jesse McDonald. Ann seconded.

Mouseman moved to table the motion to the next meeting. MJL seconded the motion.

The motion to table passed: 4:1, with 3 abstentions. Yes votes by Kay, Heather, Mouseman, Michael JL. No vote from Diane. Abstains: Jain, Eric, Ann

There was a long discussion by multiple people about vetting this particular application. Diane expressed that The applicant was experiencing a great deal of stress over the vetting process because of all the years given to the Fair and the response received. Both Diane and Jon P. vouched for the applicant. Other committee members felt that while committee members can vouch for an applicant, it should be done in a more formal process prior to the meeting.

Roberta will clean up Jesse McDonald's applicant information and bring it forward for a motion to approve at the next meeting.

Several people in the meeting stated openly that the approval of the application in October is certain; but that it must go through the proper vetting process. The correct procedure is to line up the documentation prior to the meeting rather than working through the vetting during a committee meeting.

#### **Wristband Subcommittee Report - Katie**

Katie reported the following numbers on behalf of Nancy, who could not make tonight's meeting:

Elder wristbands sold - 686

Companion wristbands - 459

Vehicle stickers - 481

Far Side Vehicle Stickers - 34

Oversize vehicle stickers - 21

Day passes - 59

Per Katie, the choice of Nancy Hafner to lead the WB SC was an excellent choice. Patricia and Katie acknowledge her leadership. She made the experience so fun that Patricia and Katie have decided not to retire from the job. Nancy can take a lot.

After the meeting, Katie requested to insert this into the minutes (this is a more precise statement compared to what she said in the meeting):

"I wanted to say but forgot: Nancy was such a perfect choice for the role of leader of the wristband subcommittee! Patricia and I acknowledged her role as the leader and supported her decisions. Nancy, in turn, sought our advice on nearly everything. We worked as a tight team to address issues as they arose,

and the process ran quite smoothly - so much so that we received high praise from Lucy Kingsley as to our impeccable accuracy and efficiency. Although Patricia and I had originally intended to retire from the wristband subcommittee, we both enjoyed the process this year. It was fun for us because Nancy took over a great deal of the more laborious tasks. So, Patricia and I expect to continue our involvement in the subcommittee under Nancy's leadership."

There was a round of applause from attendees acknowledging Nancy's good work, along with the intentions of both Patricia and Katie to continue with volunteering with the Elders Wristband Subcommittee.

### **Still Living Room Report – Eric**

There was plenty of volunteer help. Jerry Schultz was a primary mover and shaker. Jerry helped Eric get everything out of the Elmira storage and moved down to the site at Elder Central. Setup went well. Same for takedown – there was plenty of help. Having volunteers recruited to help added greatly.

Eric was trying to determine options for storage. The people who allowed us to use their workshop for storage for the past few years really didn't want to continue another year. Eric and Jerry made a backup plan for storage. Then Sandra Bauer was able to procure us some space using one of the shipping containers at Doug's Green. Annemarie and Larry were also able to store the Elder Central materials in the same shipping container.

AJ – The fixed assets committee had been working on the storage situation. The committee was able to work with Sierra to get storage for several groups including the Elders. AJ said the Fixed Assets Committee is continuing to work on more storage.

### **Meet and Greet Report – Kay**

We had new volunteers this year. Mollie Elliott worked with Kay for the food setup., John Higby, our wine steward, brought in Rick Valley to assist.

Eric organized the music and there was a large variety. It was a big challenge for new people to set up this big party. They went a little over budget, but Patricia VanEsso was able to work out the finances.

Licia has stepped away from the event permanently. Kay chose to stay and help Mollie until she is comfortable with managing the event and/or until we find a second person.

Kay expressed gratitude for all the Elders who showed up to set up the event and clean up.

### **ELDER ELIGIBILITY SC REPORT – Mouseman**

Mouseman reported that the subcommittee met in August to review Jerry's updated PowerPoint Presentation. Jerry's graphs make a compelling argument for not changing the eligibility age.

Carolyn was reminded that Darlene and Robert J. would like to continue to participate. Carolyn will resend the documents.

Paxton said It would be nice if the Elder Eligibility Subcommittee submitted their findings to the Board before the board retreat in November.

## WRAP-UP

Jon Steinhart, facilitator, asked the group if there was anything else that people had to say given that the agenda was complete.

Eric – Have we considered doing a fall retreat? Katie responded that we should probably start talking about these things, including the Holiday party. Jon P. remarked that we managed to have a successful retreat in the spring. We should be able to one in the fall.

There didn't seem to be anyone willing to step up to organize it.

Jon Steinhart requested feedback, given this is his first time facilitating an Elders Committee meeting. There was an overall thumbs up review for Jon's facilitation style. He reminded the group that if the meeting gets behind, he will start intervening to move discussions along and get them wrapped up.

Diane reminded the group that the original intention was to allow different people to try on facilitating the meeting. Jon St. said that he probably wouldn't be available to attend in October. AJ suggested that we ask Spirit to facilitate the October meeting as that would be her last meeting as a board member and our liaison. Darlene thanked Jon St. for facilitating.

Other comments:

"If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun". Peggy reminded us that at the same time, we follow rules so everyone can have fun.

As we are working with Elder applicants, keep in mind that older applicants may experience a much harder time with the process.

Also remember that for folks who were at the fair in the early days, there was no paperwork.

AJ – thanked the committee and attendees for having an informal relationship. He expressed gratitude for a pleasant meeting. The Elders are good at agreeing to disagree.

AJ – Next month will be Spirit's last meeting as Liaison and board member. Jon St. won't be here next month so suggested Spirit could step in to facilitate.

Darlene made a request that we think about the expression "You guys". We are not all "guys". She would prefer that the group not be referred to as "you guys".

Mouseman – ~~Sesame Street~~ says "hey, you guys" and it is used as an inclusive statement. *Per Mouseman post-meeting, the credit to Sesame Street was in error. The opening "hey, you guys" is attributed to Jim Henson's "The Electric Company."*

Jon St. – I'm really conflicted on this kind of stuff. Ambiguity can get people killed. It's hard to balance these sorts of language changes.

AJ said that he has been in the habit of using the term "you guys" for a very long time, and when you are sharing space with another person who makes a request, one should honor the request to the best of one's ability. There was general agreement that we should do our best to be mindful of that kind of language, but we are not perfect and will make mistakes.

**The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 27 at 7 p.m.**

**SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PASSED:**

- The June committee meeting minutes were approved 7-0
- Elder applications for Peter Aronson, Robert Waller, Kathleen Kirkpatrick, Mare Sippel, Hall Stuart-Lovell, and Ann Holmes were approved 8-0.
- Elder applications for Alexander Henry Murdock, Mark Wheeler, Deb Trist, Kris Paul, Ryan Zebold, and Sharon Bogdonovich were approved 8-0

**TO DO LIST:**

- Invite Spirit to facilitate the October meeting
- Think about an in-person holiday party
- Elder Eligibility Subcommittee to prepare updated report for Oct. meeting

The meeting ended at around 8:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Gsell