

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Approved at the 01/26/23 EC meeting

**DATE:** Thursday, October 27, 2022

**LOCATION:** Online (Zoom)

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Diane Albino, Jain Elliott, Nancy Hafner, Heather Kent, Michael James Long, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Eric Nicholson, Ann Rogers

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kay Kintzley

**BOARD LIAISONS PRESENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Alan Cohn, Annemarie Hirsch, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Chris Meurer, Jenny Wilson, Jerry Shultz, Jon Pincus, Jon Steinhart (facilitator), Katie Cousins, Kehn “mambo” Gibson, Paxton Hoag, Peggy Day-Fitzgerald, Percy Hilo, Robert Jacobs, Roberta Austin

**AGENDA:**

- **Announcements**
- **Liaison appreciation** - Carolyn
- **Approve September Minutes**
- **Elder Eligibility Subcommittee's final report** - Jerry Schultz
- **Elder Applications for approval** - Jenny and Roberta
- **Elders Budget Submittal - Due Nov. 1** - Nancy
- **Capital Expense Projects budget Due Jan. 31** - Nancy
- **Elder Camping** - Annemarie
- **Recruiting facilitators for try-outs** - Carolyn
- **Holiday party planning** - Carolyn
- **Spring retreat dates** – Jain
- **In Person Meetings** – Michael JL

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**LIASON APPRECIATION** - Carolyn

A recognition of appreciation was extended to AJ and Spirit. Carolyn noted that both liaisons have been supportive of and attentive to the Elders, attending meetings and representing Elders during Board committee reports.

**APPROVE SEPTEMBER MINUTES**

Mouseman made a motion to approve the September minutes. Nancy seconded. The motion passed 8-0.

**ELDER ELIGIBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE FINAL REPORT** – Jerry S.

Jerry introduced members of the Elder Eligibility subcommittee (Jerry S., Carolyn, Percy, mambo, Robert Jacobs, Mouseman, Jon P. and Darlene). The group investigated the raising of the eligibility age from 55 to 60 with 20 years of service. Jerry presented a final report in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. Through a series of slides, he showed that increasing the age of eligibility will have no significant impact on the population, because membership having to wait out a 5-year period will eventually apply for Elder Status anyway. Once this initial group works through the 5-year period, there will be no significant benefit after that time. In other words, the benefit is transient.

It was noted that Elders who applied at the very beginning of the program are now at least 75 years of age. Jerry presented trend lines over time (by year) of Elder application counts, using 3 different models that suggest the application numbers are stabilizing.

In 2019, Elders submitted \$100,000 to the Fair in exchange for passes and vehicle stickers. Nancy mentioned that in 2022, Elders contributed over \$93,000 for passes and vehicle stickers, with much lower pass request numbers.

year	active elders	Elders WB	Helper WB	Day passes	rec'd WB	<b>Total WB</b>	OCF \$\$	%Elders WB w/ HWB	Avg. \$ Amt. per EWB
2019	1336	873	645	90	65%	1518	100,000	73%	\$114.55
2022	1500	686	459	59	46%	1145	93,495	67%	\$136.39

It was pointed out that Fair expansion is what is significantly increasing Fair population. Additional points were made in the PowerPoint (to view presentation, click/touch here: [Elder Eligibility Subcommittee Final Report](#)).

Elders wristband and companion passes represent approximately 7.6% of the total overnight population.

Nancy mentioned that we did receive Food Vouchers this year. They were distributed according to service. Diane said that it is likely this practice will continue into the future, to make food voucher distribution is more equitable.

Jon St. asked what the purpose of this subcommittee was? What was the subcommittee charged to do?

Carolyn explained that the subcommittee was tasked with developing a method for moving the age from 55 to 60, and the subcommittee was formed to make recommendations to the Board appointed working group. As we looked at the data, we came to the realization that we were tasked with a solution that is looking for a problem. The next step is to make this presentation to the Board working group (Sandra, AJ, George, Spirit, Jerry S., Carolyn).

Jon P. summarized that what we learned from looking at the presented stats that moving the age to 60 will have minimal impact on Fair populations. The presentation makes a case for the Elders Committee to take a position of “no age change” for Elder Eligibility, going forward.

Ann - When the Fair makes these growth changes, it necessarily increases the number of volunteers. It’s important to recognize the life challenges as people get older.

Paxton – The request originally came from the budget committee that was part of a capacity report to the Board. The board passed it on to the Elders Committee to work on raising the age.

Jon St. recommended that Elders go back and request a better task, such as “reduce the number of Elders camping passes” or “increase/decrease the revenue”. It looks like Elders were tasked with solving a problem that wasn’t truly vetted.

Jon P. said that solving the great big fair problem is not going to happen by holding up about 20 Elders per year. He said he doesn't know if we (the Elders) have the capacity to solve the fair population problem, but we have identified that the problem is not significantly coming from Elders.

Paxton commended the subcommittee for this report. Recommended that we (the Committee) pass a motion to approve this report, and then send it to the board (*scribe's note – the report will be sent to the Board working group. It will be up to the Board working group to send to the Board*). It does give a lot of information. Paxton's not sure it answers the Budget Committee's question, but their questions change every year, and this really shows the problem isn't really elders.

Jerry continued with "Closing considerations" (see link above to report).

Ann moved to approve the report as representative of the Elders committee. Mouseman seconded. The motion passed 8-0.

### **ELDER APPLICATIONS – Jenny and Roberta**

Confirmed by Jenny:

- Jesse McDonald
- Lisa Gladiola
- Allen Field
- Daniel Roth
- Allen Hall
- Dorna Bauman

Confirmed by Roberta:

- Rob Tobias
- Arlene McKenna
- Douglas Jenkins
- Sharon Selove

Committee members received documentation, prior to the meeting, which showed the years of service and contributions of each applicant listed above.

**Jain moved that all applicants listed be approved. Diane seconded. The motion was approved 8-0.**

Jerry requested that the names be read out loud. Carolyn read the names.

### **2023 ELDERS BUDGET SUBMITTAL – DUE 11/1/22 – Nancy**

Nancy is responsible for submitting the budget for Elders. It appears there is no change, so what was in place for 2022 will go forward to 2023. Nancy reviewed this with Katie and Patricia.

Paxton urged Nancy to let Alex know that Elders are happy with the currently established 2022 budget for 2023.

### **2023 ELDERS CAPITAL EXPENSE PROJECTS – PROPOSAL DUE 01/31/23 - Nancy**

Nancy said she and Katie will review potential capital projects. If there are smaller projects, especially those related to health and safety, we can combine these with other smaller projects and submit a request for capital projects as a “group” of projects totaling up to \$2,000.

#### **ELDER CAMPING – Annemarie**

Annemarie reported on Elder Camping for 2022 and has information for Elder camping going forward.

2022 Report: Elders have 2 camps: 1 near the Hub and 1 in South Woods. The Hub site has approximately 70 sites and for 2022 those sites had around 110 campers. 15 regular campers took the year off and 3 new campers took empty spots. In total there were 23 temporary campers this year. Approximately 40 people are on the Hub camp waiting list. The Elder Annex is also known as SWEATS (South Woods Elder Annex Tent Site) There are 8 camping sites located here. The access is walk-in via South Ms. Piggy’s. It is not an easy access compared to our site near The Hub. Annemarie said that it is unclear how or why this happened, but this year the SWEATS group ended up moving over to Pirate’s Cove. Apparently 1 party of Elders moved back to the South Woods site after the Pirates Cove move.

The sign-ups for Elders camping begins in March.

Mouseman asked about how many total Elders camped in Elders Campsites. Annemarie reported 120 - 125 people. She reported that there’s a need for more campsites. Phillip Guyette, Fair Camping Coordinator, suggested that elders could expand to the far west corner of South Woods near the meadow.

Ann’s concern is that we look for places that have canopy with no native Ash, because those trees could all be gone in 5 years due to destruction from the Emerald Ash Borer. This will have a devastating effect on South Woods. Add to that the location is not easily accessible. Annemarie added that it is a 30-minute walk from Xavanadu.

Jon P. There are many opinions as to how the Emerald Ash borer will affect the trees. The area where SWEATS is has some oaks and maples (with a lot of ash). Annemarie interjected that is it mostly ash. The entire fair will be affected.

Diane shared her concern about camping that is so far away. We should be looking for camping closer in, or be thinking about getting gators to transport elders in. Diane would like to see golf carts allowed to bring Elders into the Fair at night.

Annemarie suggested that if someone wants to take it on, they could work on creating an Elders camp that would include transportation.

Mambo clarified that the proposed area is south of Pirates Cove. The area is right next to Hwy. 126. Ann’s point about transportation is well taken. It’s one of the most distant camps.

Annemarie clarified that it would be good if some younger elders are interested in creating and hosting this extra camp. Someone would need to step forward to take on the project. Annemarie feels that the task of managing the original Elders camp is enough work for her, thus she doesn’t want to be involved with this. It’s not ideal for Elders, but it could be an opportunity for younger elders.

Jon St. – suggested that if we have elders getting sent to camp further out, then transportation is for more than Elders. At the rate things are going, it's not just Elders getting pushed further out. It affects other campers as well. Transportation should be considered for these further out camps.

Jon P. – Doesn't think the area proposed is a good place for Elders, for all the reasons Annemarie has already stated.

Paxton – Urged Annemarie to continue working with Phillip Guyette for finding solutions. The Henderson property is problematic. That would involve Kirsten.

Annemarie added that we had a great time at Elder camp this year: Thanked the following people who helped make it happen:

Larry Lynch, Eric Nicolson, Morgan Spiess for camp clean up and creating spaces

Sierra McComas – helped get wood chips for ground cover

Peggy Day for distributing tent tags and being available and helpful

Steve Barnes and Shadow Leighty for providing and great shower experience

Paxton for helping with radios

Gabby, teen helper

Many other Elder campers showed up to help with hospitality and kept the coffee flowing. (*scribe's note – that would be Matt Emmons of Matt and Molly Emmons. He told me how much fun he had keeping the coffee flowing*). There was a good, community feeling. Everyone had a great time. Everybody wants to come back. The Geezer Pleezer went well. Everyone got along well with each other.

One thing that came up – we didn't get straw bales for seating. The chairs were rickety, and the ground was uneven. Annemarie witnessed several Elders falling off the chairs. Morgan suggested building benches.

Annemarie has asked Nancy if there is any money in the budget to support building benches for the camp. The benches could be permanent or removable. Morgan has offered to donate money to the cause. Annemarie said that anyone who has an interest taking on the bench making project should contact her.

Jon St. said he as a 4 ft. diameter Douglas fir and if anyone has a portable sawmill and a self-loader he'd be glad to have someone come and take the downed tree off his hands.

Jon P. – There is a portable sawmill at the Fair. It would be incumbent on bringing the downed tree to the Fair site.

#### **RECRUITING FACILITATORS FOR TRYOUTS – Carolyn**

If we want to recruit people to try on facilitating our meetings, we need to get the word out. We could post something in FFN and the Wonderful Elders listserv. Carolyn felt it was not her role to take this on without knowing what the committee would like to do.

Jon St. said he is willing to continue facilitating but needs a backup.

Mambo feels it's too early to close out the facilitator role to other interested people. Mambo would be glad to try on facilitating next month.

Paxton said that of the past process for finding a facilitator and scribe has usually gone through the Recording Secretary of the Fair, then to the Scribe Tribe. He's unsure if the Scribe Tribe is still an active group and recommends that the committee do a wide search for a facilitator.

Jon P. Likes the idea of putting out the word. We could put something in the FFN or Wonderful Elders Listserv.

Jon St. thinks that being a scribe and being a facilitator are unrelated, and Carolyn is already scribing. He is unsure why we would be looking for a facilitator outside of Elders because it's our committee.

Ann said when calling out for a facilitator we should make it evident that any age could attend an Elders meeting and be a facilitator. The benefit for a younger person providing facilitation for Elders is that the person gets an opportunity to see how our group thinks and works.

Eric – Doesn't have any answers but agrees with the idea of putting a request for a facilitator out there. Preferably an Elder but not necessarily. Agrees with mambo it is too early to close out the selection process. We should continue to look further.

Carolyn made a proposal that she be allowed to put out a call for facilitator try-outs in FFN and the Wonderful Elders listserv. MJL seconded. The proposal passed 8-0.

#### **HOLIDAY PARTY PLANNING – Carolyn**

Carolyn suggested that we should talk about this now because a potential party is about 7 weeks away.

Jon St. asked the clarifying question – does the group want a holiday party. It appeared that there was strong interest but that we would need to find a venue.

Jon P. mentioned it has been at least 6 years since he reserved the WOW Hall for a party. Jain said they usually give the spot to us for free. Jon P. said it would be nice to do this that is someplace more accessible. Jon P. is willing to scout out places and proposed that Jain work with him. The two of them will confer on possibilities. Since time is tight, they will send out an email.

Jain asked about the level of concern among Elders for vaccination requirements. Carolyn reminded that we could always meet online.

Jon P. said there are sheltered areas and some outdoor heated spaces. Hendricks Park has a big fireplace.

Jon St. suggested that a survey be made amongst Elders to learn what the comfort level is.

Mambo – part of what has not been decided yet is what the comfort level of people getting together. Those are discussions that need to start.

Jon P. suggested that he and Jain discuss the possibilities, create a list, and report to the group via email.

Diane has noticed that more people are getting covid and there is less mask wearing. She thinks we should have hybrid meetings until this covid issue is under control.

Jon St. noted that the annual meeting, which was a hybrid meeting, went fairly well. The problem there, which is a problem he has experienced with other hybrid meetings, is that anyone speaking in a room must use a microphone. So if someone starts speaking without a microphone, the question has to be repeated and it takes the air out of the room, with things taking longer than is necessary.

#### **SPRING RETREAT DATES – Jain**

Jain reserved Alices for the first weekend of May 5,6,7., from 5 p.m. Friday – 3 p.m. Sunday. We can have up to 20 or 25 people. She will get clarification on number counts in April.

#### **MEETING IN PERSON – MJL**

Michael commented that the idea of hybrid meetings has been batted around for the last half hour. He enjoyed having our meetings in person. We used to meet at Growers Market. It seemed to go o.k. There would be 10 – 16 people at the meeting. However, there are a lot of people who have pointed out a number of issues with in-person meetings.

Jon St. suggested that we could do rapid testing at the door. It would be something we need to put in the budget.

The meeting ended at 8:43 p.m.

**The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, at 7 p.m.**

#### **SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PASSED:**

- September 2022 Committee Meeting minutes approved 8-0
- The Elders Eligibility Subcommittee PowerPoint Report as representative of the Elders committee was approved 8-0
- A motion to approve all 12 vetted Elder Applications was approved 8-0

#### **TO DO LIST:**

- Confirm that mambo will facilitate November committee meeting - Carolyn
- Look into holiday party options and send out an email prior to November committee meeting. What are people's comfort levels for in-person gatherings? – Jon P. and Jain
- Solicit for facilitator try-outs via FFN and Wonderful Elders Listserv - Carolyn
- Elders Eligibility Subcommittee to submit PowerPoint presentation to the Elders Eligibility Board Working Group – Jerry and Carolyn
- Think about possible Capital Expense projects to discuss at November meeting – Everybody

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Gsell