

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Approved at the 3/23/23 meeting

**DATE:** Thursday, February 23, 2023

**LOCATION:** Online (Zoom)

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

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** none

**BOARD LIAISONS PRESENT:** Kevin Levy (stack monitor), Ann Rogers

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Roberta Austin, Sue Barnhart, Kirsten Bolton, Chew Burgess, Laurie Childers, Alan Cohn, Darlene Colburn, Paul Compton, Katie Cousins, Peggy Day-Fitzgerald, Jefry Falkenstein, Kehn “mambo” Gibson (facilitator), Vickie Grek, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Paxton Hoag, David Hoffman, Chris Howe, Spirit Leatherwood, Jon Pincus, Jerry Shultz, Kaya Singer, Jon Steinhart, Eric Williams, Jenny Wilson

9 of 9 committee members present constitutes a quorum.

**Agenda:**

- Announcements
- Approve January minutes
- New email address: elderscommittee@oregoncountryfair.org – Kirsten
- Review vetted Elder Applications for approval - Jenny & Roberta
- Events Subcommittee - finalize event dates -Kay/Jain
- Timeline Subcommittee Report – Jain
- Wristbands Update – Nancy
- Golf Cart Report - Kevin
- Schedule meeting to discuss WonderfulOCFElders listserv
- Move meeting start time from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m. - Diane
- Volunteer needed to help Paul C. with Elder Listserv – Carolyn
- Elder Eligibility Report – Carolyn

**Announcements & Introductions**

- Eric shared that the band Steel Wool will play for this year’s Meet and Greet
- Jon St. announced that he has been tasked with folding support for registering all crews into his current TradeWinds database system. This is a system used for keeping track of wristbands, day passes, and vehicle stickers. He considers this a medium-term solution. Elder wristbands and passes can be managed through this system.
- Carolyn met with Kevin, Ann, and Mouseman to draft answers to the Committee Best Practices checklist questions. This information has been submitted to staff, Board, and CBPWG. The assignment is due Feb. 28.

**Approve January Minutes**

Ann made a motion to approve the Jan. minutes. Kay seconded. **The motion passed 9-0**

**New Elders OCF email address:** Kirsten

Staff is offering an OCF domain for all committees. Ours is elderscommittee@oregoncountryfair.org.

It's one email address that funnels to all committee members. This allows members outside of the committee to send an email directly to the committee. The committee can decide who on the recipient list for the new email address. The address will be posted on the .net site.

Carolyn will get with Kirsten to confirm who should be on the list. Kirsten prefers the entire committee to be on the email list. The email is a pass-through (it doesn't have a box; emails aren't hold on the Fair's server, rather it goes to email addresses listed as recipients).

Kirsten announced that the Board passed the budget on March 16 meeting. We are still in a delicate financial situation. As of today, we submitted close-out paperwork for the SVOG grant. We need to be cautious financially although the future looks good. We need to build reserves and then we can get into our long-range projects dealing with infrastructure, kitchen, etc.

We are continuing health and safety measures for covid. We will continue to offer enough porta-potties and hand-washing stations. We still have a good supply of and sanitizer and PPE. These items will be available from Doug's Green.

We are transitioning to the Four Winds database that Jon St. developed and has been supporting for over 30 years. The VSB wore itself out. The org had to make a quick pivot. Jon has developed a user manual. The system is user-friendly and functional. All data in one place. Goal is to get it stored in our own domain and backed up into the cloud to protect the data. Kudos to Jon Steinhart! Training for coordinators is set for March 22 at 6 p.m.

The Spring Fling will be held on May 6 at Wow Hall, 6-10 p.m. A band is scheduled. This is a big fundraiser for Culture Jam.

The question came up about what happens when an email to elderscommittee@oregoncountryfair.org is answered. Answered emails will show coming from the email address of the individual answering the email. We can also set up an automated response. Kirsten suggested the committee set up some protocols as to how emails are answered, as in creating a "chain of command".

**New Elder Applications up for approval – Roberta & Jenny**

The applicants' names are as follows:

Nicole Renee Sauder	Ann Schwartz	Jay Schwartz	William McGlaughlin
Steve Hanna	Peter Dumbleton	Patrice Thramer	Ethan Hutchinson
Clifford Pfaff	Ian Whitelaw	Roxanne Sparks	Jeff Haigerty
Laura Donaldson	Michael Wayne Lefler	Mark Johnson	Erica Hornsby
Kenneth Baron	Rob Matthews	Melinda Holben	Romy Benton
Annie Robertson	Ann Peacock	Anne Marie Schultz	Katherine Macomber Millman
Deborah Swan	Terrena Lewis	Steven Brown	Thomas Capri
Dale Coleman	Kelly Daugherty	Kate Davidson	Barbara Dumbleton
Joel Ficklin	Katherine Frazier	Paul Frazier	Leone Gholston
Steven Habersetzer	Deirdre Jackson	Theresa Jones	Scotty Kaesser
Bob Kennedy	Joanie Kleban	James Lyons	Phil Morton
Beth Shershum	Kurt Willowmoon	xxxxx	xxxxx

There was a total of 46 applicants that Jenny and Roberta researched. The committee was presented with each person's current age, their work at the fair, and the total number of years each applicant volunteered. Questions came up around Kate Davidson's CV reference to LVEC, which is a group, not a booth.

Mouseman moved to approval all 46 applicants. Michael seconded. Jain made a friendly amendment to approve 45 of the 46 applicants. Kate Davidson's application will be revisited and voted for at the next meeting. Mouseman and Michael accepted the friendly amendment. The motion to approve 45 applicants was passed 9-0.

#### **47:30 Elder Events Subcommittee Report -Jain/Kay/Lisa C.**

##### **The following events were discussed at the January meeting:**

- Spring retreat May 5,6,7 Setup at 3 p.m. on Friday and clean up done by 5 p.m. Sunday. It's a potluck event with a small budget.
- June Meeting. Kay is willing to host that meeting. June 15, 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. Potluck (no budget other than a Bucks rental)
- Fall retreat: Sept. 15,16,17 (potluck with small budget)
- Spirit Walk - Full moon in October, Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup>. A twilight walk through the fair will start near the Hub. This event includes a potluck.
- Winter Holiday Party – December 16 – Alices is available. 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.
- Meet and Greet

Kay reviewed each event with updated information:

- The Spring retreat dates and times are 5 p.m., Fri – 12 noon Sunday. Jain will follow up with the office about the hours.
- June meeting is a Yes.
- Meet and Greet – We have Alice's Fire Pit reserved all day Thursday.
- Fall retreat – Sept. 15 – 17 - In Fri Noon and out Sunday by Noon.
- Spirit Walk Oct 28 at the Yurt w/ fire pit. Starting time will be confirmed. We have the space starting at noon.
- Winter Holiday Party – We have Alices reserved for Dec. 16, but the group has plenty of time to decide if we'd rather have an in-town event like we had this past December.

The next Events Subcommittee meeting will be next week. The meeting participants extended a big "thank-you" to Eric for getting Steel Wool lined up for the Meet and Greet.

It was noted that the Spring Fling, which is May 6, conflicts with the spring retreat dates. Kay explained that this was the only weekend available. She will find out from Alex how far in advance we can schedule Alices.

A suggestion was made that at the end of each event we look at a date for the following year.

##### **New Timeline subcommittee update – Jain/Mouseman**

The group has started research, by assigning each person two years of looking through FFN.

Contributions of photographs are a big part of this project. Group photos are especially appreciated.

### **Wristband Subcommittee Report – Nancy**

The new questionnaire of intent went out. Because MailChimp is transactional, Nancy can see who received and who opened emails. To date, the numbers are:

- 685 email RSVPs
- 70 snail mails RSVPs.
- 15 new elders (of those approved at Jan. meeting) RSVPs.

The PRF form will go out in April. Nancy will be able to see who hasn't responded and send a reminder so that we get payment in a timely manner.

Chewie asked about receiving a Pass Request Form. He expressed that he is an Elder but there is a hullabaloo about him. He was told by a board member today that there are difficulties with solving this problem. There's a lot of misinformation out there. He asked the group if they were comfortable with him attending things at the fair site, and he would like to know his Elder status at the fair.

### **Golfcart Report - Kevin**

All the carts go through the motor pool. A gas-powered cart was suggested for the second cart, but Kevin is hearing that folks prefer electric (battery-powered).

Ann – we're not really asking for a golf cart during the entire fair. It's mostly to get folks to the Meet and Greet and some of the other Pre-Fair events.

Jon P. If we need it for a specific event, we may as well have it for the entire time.

Kevin – It would also be useful to have a cart backup for when one cart is down.

Jon St. Suggest making a proposal you get 1 cart per x number of elders each year.

Paxton – Electric golf carts are really important for elders. There is a charging station behind the yurt. Managing the cart charging is an issue. A second battery would be handy.

Supply chain issues may come up. The problem if working through a single supplier is that they run out of golf carts quickly. Elders need 2 carts.

Kevin – Happens to know that supply should be better than last year, but no guaranty.

Jon P. This is a budget item, and it should be budgeted. There are a lot of things that the golf cart can be used for in addition to providing Elder transport.

Chris – Motor pool has always been kind of iffy. That was why Elders went to their own supplier. A cart with good batteries and good tires is important.

### **Schedule special meeting to discuss WonderfulOCFElders listserv**

The discussion went as follows:

mambo – it shouldn't be special. It should be a subcommittee meeting. We are discussing when to schedule and who the members are.

Jon St. – Doesn't think we should have a meeting but if we do he would be happy to attend.

Ann – Before we schedule a meeting, what is the meeting about? What are we discussing? We need to reach out to people on both sides. We need a really good facilitator. Need to recognize we won't reach an agreement necessarily, but we can reach an understanding. Currently there is a complaint. Things we need some sidebars. What are we scheduling a meeting for?

Heather - We are here to schedule a meeting.

mambo - We are here to schedule a meeting and decide who is on it.

Sue B. – Yes let's schedule a meeting of people who are interested and see if we can work on a policy that works or shut down the list.

Lauri C. – Yes, a meeting. Find common ground, find highest priority. Finds it ironic that those who think we there doesn't need to be a discussion are the same people who claim "free speech". The meeting should be for anyone interested in the listserv. doesn't know that we are talking subcommittee. We just need a place to talk about this.

Diane – suggest we do a doodle poll to get availability of folks.

Heather – Agrees we need to do a meeting poll, at least for committee members. Not a subcommittee meeting; it should just be an extra meeting of the committee that anyone should be allowed to attend.

Jon P. – We don't need a meeting. This committee has no authority over this independent listserv. If we are going to have a meeting, it should be an extra Elders Committee Meeting. That way there are protocols to guide the meeting. This is an independent discussion listserv that is not under the authority of the Elders committee or the Fair.

Michael JL – In the past we've been able to discuss controversial subjects. In favor of having a meeting. Once everyone has argued their positions, we can have a vote and flesh out a majority opinion and a minority opinion. Allow everyone to express themselves. There may be more than two sides.

Paxton – In favor of a meeting, thinks from that meeting we should form a subcommittee to deal because this is an ongoing problem. He believes in a fully moderated list.

Jain – Make sure we don't schedule anything when there are other fair meetings.

mambo – This is a Fair-wide issue, not an Elders issue. Putting the "Elder" name on the list is somewhat disingenuous. So is using the descriptor "OCF". Much in favor of a meeting, but it's not just within the purview of the elders.

Kevin – With the OCF name being attached, it is something to think about for the discussion. Yes, it is a Fair-wide issue.

mambo - It shouldn't be an Elders' subcommittee. Too narrow a focus. The discussion is not solely and Elders' list. What we are talking about here is a charrette (def. a meeting in which all stakeholders in a project attempt to resolve conflicts and map solutions.)

Jon St. – Someone else needs to facilitate. This is an issue about this particular listserv. It is not about the entire Fair. The entire fair has addressed this in their Code of Conduct. The progressive policy is going to list consequences for violating the code of content.

Diane – The committee should fill out the doodle poll. The poll should go to the committee for deciding date and time, but anyone should be allowed to join the meeting. We are discussing the "WonderfulOCFElders" only.

Jon P. – Yes, the meeting is for the people on this list(ser). The OCF guidelines apply to everyone in the OCF. We don't need complicate this. We need a good facilitator.

Carolyn – Robbi from FairCares needs to be invited.

Lauri C – Has a better system for scheduling meetings –<https://www.when2meet.com/>. We need a good, disinterested facilitator.

mambo - Asked if someone wanted to make a motion to schedule a meeting:

Jon P. - Would like to see everyone on the ECOCF have access to the poll.

Lauri C. – is willing to help set up the poll.

Kevin - will work with Lauri to reach out to Robbie.

Mambo – If there is no motion to schedule a meeting, let's move on.

Then Diane made a motion to schedule a special meeting, based on the results of the poll.

It was agreed that we should schedule the meeting first, then share the date on the Wonderful OCF Elders listserv.

Point of Order by Jon P. – It wasn't clear that a vote was taken. If it was by acclamation that's great, but there should be some finalization on it.

mambo – There was no vote taken because none was needed.

Jon P. - Disagreed

### **Intro to soon-to-be elder**

Eric Williams – Recalls being at this meeting a few years ago because he remembers Mouseman. He met Diane 23 years ago when he started volunteering. Eric worked for Diane's daughter shadow as shower staff for about 13 years, then moved over to Farside as Greeter and parking facilitator. Has lots of questions about Elders and looking ahead to when he will make the transition. Eric showed immense appreciation for the Fair and his experiences and eagerly looks forward to our next Fair.

### **Diane – Move start time from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m. - Diane**

Diane asked if the group would consider moving our meeting start time from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. She would like for us to consider this at our spring retreat.

Several participants chimed in about the time – 6:30 start time. Others chimed in that they cannot make the meeting before 7 p.m.

### **Volunteer needed to help Paul C. with Elder Listserv – Carolyn/Paul**

At the previous meeting Jon St. volunteered to help Paul C. with the listserv but had to drop out due to his new commitment to help with the Fair’s membership database (the replacement to the VSB). Jefry Falkenstein stepped forward to volunteer. Thank you, Jefry!

**Elder Eligibility report – Carolyn**

She will share the report via email on the ECOCF listserv (see addendum below minutes).

The Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

The next Elders Committee meeting will be Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 7 p.m. online via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Gsell

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ADDENDUM: The following information was intended to be shared with the committee at the Thursday 2/23/23 Elders committee meeting. We ran out of time so here is a written report:

Jerry and I (Carolyn) met with the Elder Eligibility Working group on 2/17/23. The group consisted of the two of us along with board members Sandra, George, Ann, and Kevin.

Sandra reminded us of the Board's Motion passed at the December 6, 2021, meeting:

*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.*

*Motion passed: 11-0; AJ abstained.*

While our group made the recommendation of no change, backed up by various graphs representing Elders' data, and followed up with Jerry's PowerPoint presentation, it was explained that we were commissioned with HOW to make a change.

What the group at the 02/17/23 meeting came up with was the 10-year plan, which you may recall we did write up as an option. To recap, the 10-year plan gradually increases age eligibility every two years, over a 10-year period. If the plan were to be implemented now, an applicant would need to be at least 56 years of age by the 2024 Fair, and that same parameter would hold true for the 2025 Fair. For the 2026 and 2027 Fair, age eligibility would increase to age 57, and so on.

Jerry and I emphasized that there should be some type of compassion pass made available to those between 55 and 60 under on the previous eligibility ruling, based on need, but that Elders do not want to be put in the position of making such decisions. The board members present agreed.

Sandra said she would discuss the options for offering "compassion passes" with Kirsten, and that until a decision could be made as to how to approach the option, and until an official plan is announced, the current age for Elder eligibility will remain at 55.

For now, Jenny and Roberta will be instructed to vet applications for members Aged 55, with at least 20 years of verifiable volunteer work, until an official plan is put in place.

Submitted by cg