

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Approved at the 4/27/23 meeting

DATE: Thursday, March 23, 2023

LOCATION: Online (Zoom)

MEETING TIME: 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Albino, Jain Elliott, Nancy Hafner, Heather Kent, Kay Kintzley, Michael James Long (arrived after the minutes were approved), Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Eric Nicholson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Ann Bennett-Rogers

BOARD LIAISONS PRESENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: Alan Cohn, Darlene Colburn, Lisa Cooley, Katie Cousins, Peggy Day, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Christine Harrison, Percy Hilo, Paxton Hoag, Robert Jacobs, Werner Lotz, Jon Pincus, Jon Steinhart (facilitator), Jenny Wilson

7 of 9 committee members present constitutes a quorum (Michael James Long arrived after the minutes were approved, which made 8 members present).

Agenda:

- Announcements
- Approve February minutes -
- Review vetted Elder Applications for approval - Jenny
- Events Subcommittee Report – Kay
- New OCF committee email address – Carolyn
- Wrap-up / other comments

Announcements & Introductions

- Today is a palindrome day 32323
- Nancy – the Four Winds training last night went well.

Approve February Minutes

Kay made a motion to approve the February minutes. Mouseman seconded. **The motion passed 7 – 0.** MJL arrived after minutes were approved.

New Elder Applications up for approval –Jenny

The applicants’ names are as follows:

- Kate Davidson
- Trev Kewen
- Karen Breidenbach
- Janine Summy

The committee was presented with each person’s current age, their work at the fair, and the total number of years each applicant volunteered.

There was difficulty vetting KD’s application because there was no official source (booth rep) to document her participation in the Community Village with Lost Valley Education Center, which is one of the groups in the Intentional Communities Booth. However, the board for Lost Valley did recollect her participation. Jain is acquainted with Keith (another CV person) who recalls Kate Davidson was a participant for the years in question. As an aside, Sue Theolass kept records of who camped in the Village and may be a resource for vetting future CV participants.

Mouseman made a motion to approve all 4 applicants. Nancy seconded. The motion was approved 8 – 0.

Jon Steinhart mentioned that in the updated member database, authorized users will be able to see when a person is eligible to become an Elder, because the system tallies up the number of volunteer years. There will no longer be individuals showing up as registered with multiple groups or crews. Each member can only be assigned to one. The new system is more streamlined compared to the VSB system.

The question came up about Day Passes counting towards Fair participation. Many volunteers accept Worker Day Passes rather than wristbands, and this still counts towards Elder eligibility. A recommendation was made to the Applications subcommittee that when volunteers report coming in through day passes, that these are specified as worker day passes.

A concern was expressed about the new system only assigning a person to one crew. How does that affect a person who helps out on multiple crews and needs to get on the meal list for pre or post Fair kitchen?

The question was asked about the current status of Elder Eligibility. The group was reminded that this was on the agenda at the February meeting, but because we ran out of time, a report was sent out via email (and attached to the February minutes). It was explained that the Elder Eligibility Working Group was formed to figure out HOW to change the age, not IF Elders wanted to change the age. A ten-year plan has been put together to raise the age to 60, 1 age year at a time in two year increments. Within the plan there will be made available an avenue for a person who would have qualified as an Elder on the original plan to request a compassion pass through Kirsten's staff. There will be no medical proof required, simply the applicant's word. Because this update has not become official policy, anyone who will be age 55 by the first day of the 2024 Fair can apply now and be fully vetted (assuming they meet the other criteria).

Elder Events Subcommittee Report – Kay

The events subcommittee met last month. They are adding an in-person event scheduled for April 13. The Plan is to meet at the Fair site, starting at Alices, and put our eyes on all of the places where we hold events. Then we will go on a wildflower walk. Everyone is encouraged to come out and join us. Time 12:30 p.m. Thursday. IF the weather is really horrible, we may postpone it. Meet at Alice's Firepit.

Reminder – Spring Retreat is May 5,6,7. Mollie will be there at 5 p.m. Friday. Overnight facilities are available, and the events group will provide some food. Saturday is potluck day, both morning and during the day. There will be a meal on Sunday morning.

Meet & Greet – The theme is “Peace, Love, and Hippy-ness”. Let's be a model for peace, show how we love each other, embrace diversity, and having fun doing it. Elders are encouraged to bring any decorations that promote our theme.

We are bringing back the Bell Ringing Ceremony at the Meet and Greet. Kay needs a list of all the new Elders vetted this year.

Percy shared that the Friday before the Fair is his three-quarter day. He would like to include an unofficial celebration of his Three Quarter day!

Kay reminded us that since we haven't been meeting in person and can't pass the hat, could people please donate bottles of wine to the Meet and Greet. The wine that we have is what we contribute ourselves. We could take a collection at the spring retreat.

The June committee meeting will be at Kay's home on Thursday, June 15th. We will include a clothing, camping, decorations exchange/give-away.

Lisa C. – has been enjoying being on the events subcommittee and working with Kay. Lisa is hearing that a lot of folks think it would be more practical to attend this party in town. Lisa has both the Hilyard Community Center and Washington Park Community Center reserved on temporary hold. We don't need to put down a deposit until 1 month ahead of time. Lisa encouraged Elders to attend the Wild Flower Walk. It's good for us to gather in person.

Eric – We have the Steel Wool band playing for the Meet & Greet. The band members all have passes, and they provide their own sound system.

New OCF committee email address - Carolyn

The new email address contains all 9 committee members plus Carolyn as scribe. Carolyn recommended that we maintain the ECOCF communication channels and use the OCF email address as a way for folks outside the committee to communicate. Jain agreed.

Jon P. feels that anything that comes into that email that is not a simple question should be shared with the ECOCF.

Heather offered her understanding and agreement of what was said, summarizing that the committee will not use the new email address the same way we have been communicating via ECOCF. Leave this new email address for folks who already aren't hooked into Elders. Otherwise, don't change what we've been doing.

Advantage is that people who don't know who is on the committee have a way to communicate with the committee.

Incoming emails to the OCF address can mostly be addressed by redirecting the person to the correct contact. "If your question is "X" contact "Y".

Wrap-up / Other Comments

Jon St. - We are creating forms for Fair family to complete, and one of the "fill in the blanks" will be preferred pronouns. If anyone has suggestions about what the choices should be, please offer input.

Michael James Long made a motion to close the meeting. Nancy seconded. No one opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next Elders Committee meeting will be **Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 7 p.m.** online via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Gsell