

ELDERS SPRING RETREAT MINUTES – Approved at the 5/25/23 Committee Meeting

DATE: Saturday, May 6, 2023

LOCATION: Alice's

MEETING TIME: 10 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Albino, Jain Elliott, Nancy Hafner, Kay Kintzley, Robert "Mouseman" McCarthy

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Heather Kent, Michael JamesLong, Eric Nicholson, Ann Rogers

LIAISON PRESENT: Kevin Levy

OTHERS PRESENT: Synnove Abrahamsen, Roberta Austin, Amber Bacigalupi, Mark Bacigalupi Maryann "Malka" Barber, Sandra Bauer (BOD), Nancy Bright, David Brooks, Jean Bryant, Alice Chadd, Amber Coates, Andy Constant, Katie Cousins, Kelly Daugherty, Peggy Day-Fitzgerald, Kathy "Kat" Frazier, Leone Gholston, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Isa Haverlan, Karen Hill, Percy Hilo (facilitator), Annemarie Hirsch, Paxton Hoag (BOD), Bob Kennedy, Jim May, Cathy Piazza, Remedios Rapoport, Jane Robin, Fran Rosenthal, Jerry Shultz, Morgan Spiess, Alan Stein, Patricia VanEsso, Sarah Vick, Jenny Wilson

AGENDA

- Housekeeping - Kay
- Introductions
- Announcements
- General Volunteering Info - Annemarie
- Elder camping: Hub, SWEATS, new South Woods camp, Elder Central - Annemarie
- Still Living Room Decorating – Sandra
- Still Living Room Staffing – Sandra
- Meet and Greet – Kay
- In Person June Committee Meeting and Potluck – Kay
- **LUNCH BREAK**
- Something Special – Remedios
- Still Living Room Setup and Decon – Jerry S.
- Archives – Carolyn
- SLR Potted Flowering Plants – Annemarie
- New Timeline for 2010-2019 – Mouseman
- Geezer Pleezer – Pre-Fair Organizing – Cathy Piazza
- Late Night Trips – Carolyn
- Meeting wrap-up and evaluation

HOUSEKEEPING – Kay

Kay reviewed the cleanup requirements for Alice's. Bottom line let's leave it better than we found it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kay informed the group that she is officially resigning from the Elder Committee. She has been unable to attend online meetings, preferring in-person. The online meetings do not meet her needs. Kay will continue to serve on the Event Subcommittee and will continue to help with the Elders (Hub) Camp.

- Nancy is available to collect Pass Request Forms and payments during the lunch break.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Each person introduced themselves by name, and shared the year of their first fair, the first year as an

elder, and what they are looking forward to wearing at the Fair. There were a lot of laughs as each person shared.

GENERAL VOLUNTEERING INFO - Annemarie

Carolyn and Annemarie are the Elder Volunteers coordinators, Elders website builders and web hosts. The website www.ocfelders.weebly.com helps folks to know more about volunteer opportunities, in addition to many other topics of interest to Fair Elders.

There are over 100 people on the Elder volunteer list, and we have volunteers in leadership positions for the various functions of Elders.

Elders Wristbands sets aside 22 “no cost” passes for elders who fill major volunteer roles.

ELDER CAMPING: HUB, SWEATS, NEW SOUTH WOODS CAMP, ELDER CENTRAL - Annemarie

Annemarie reminded us that our first Elders’ camp was started by Kay Chris Brown and Alan Cohn. Fair Camping is offering us an additional Elders’ camp space in South Woods. David Brooks and Kelly Daugherty have volunteered to be the hosts for this new camp. Annemarie introduced David and Kelly to the group. In summation, Elders now have 3 camps:

- Elder Camp at the Hub (78 tent sites)
- SWEATS –South Woods Elder Annex Tent Sites – located near Ms. Piggy’s (8 tent sites)
- Del Boca Veneta – named by our new camp hosts. The name is a take-off from Seinfeld’s Del Boca Vista https://seinfeld.fandom.com/wiki/Del_Boca_Vista - (15 sites for 2023).

We need volunteers to help with the new campsite cleanup. There’s a lot of brush, mostly blackberries, to clear, and ground to be leveled. The canopy is Ash. Annemarie will put out a sign-up sheet during lunch and will let everyone know when the next work party is scheduled. Fair Camping has offered this spot and will assist in clearing. We should be able to get 15 tent sites for this year.

The SCOFF Lot is the only place for RV camping. It’s first come-first serve. Del Boca Vista is somewhat distant, and Annemarie is working with Geezer Pleezer and Fair Camping to get a second Elders golf cart for transport to and from the campsite. Another possibility is obtaining a Service Vehicle Sticker for providing transport services to and from Del Boca Veneta.

The question came up about overflow RV once SCOFF Lot is full. John K. is the camp host of SCOFF Lot.

Elder Central is the Elders’ hang out place near Hub with a hospitality tent. The tent is provisioned with coolers, cookstove, chargers, electrical station, Peach Pits, and potluck snacks. There is plenty of shade. Annemarie asked that folks refrain from bringing food packaged in plastic containers that end up being left as trash. She recommended that folks repackage food to eliminate plastic garbage, and label food so folks know the ingredients.

Elder Central is kept staffed which means there is always security there. The Geezer Pleezer is also headquartered at Elder Central, and the FARTS bus goes by there.

The Wristband subcommittee crew will be at Elder Central on Tuesday, July 4 from 2 – 5 p.m. for any Elder who would like to stop by and get their wristbands early.

Elder Central DECON will be discussed this afternoon under the topic of the Still Living Room Setup.

STILL LIVING ROOM (SLR) DECORATING – Sandra Bauer

Sandra has been managing the SLR decorating ever since the exhibit first started. Décor happens after Eric, Jerry, and the setup crew get all the larger pieces of furniture in place.

The decor project will start Wednesday, July 5, from 2 – 5 p.m. As many folks as can possibly show up that day would be greatly appreciated. The Umbrellas, banners, photos, etc. all go up that afternoon.

Sandra presented an idea to the group. In the past the SLR had a theater but there was too much ambient noise. Now we have that shady space where the Mirror exhibit was formerly located. Sandra suggested that shaded area could be converted into a little theater. We could have a large monitor to show early fair photos and videos. It would be another piece of education to show the roots of the Fair. We could have the photos and videos on a continuous loop. We just need to make the monitor look FUNKY! Sound could be an issue. Perhaps we could use captioning instead. This would bring a new dimension to the exhibit. The seating could consist of benches. A suggestion was made to keep the photos and videos running in the evening. A group will check out the SLR site during lunch to explore possibilities.

Sandra reminded us that we set up solar lights for nighttime ambience.

The SLR is always looking for new photos. Photos of folks who have passed are welcome. An 8 x 10 photo should include a date and explanation of the photo. The Archives group has frames. They will reimburse folks for the cost of printing the photo. Terry Baxter, Archivist, also collects photos. Photos can be delivered to him or dropped off at the SLR exhibit.

STILL LIVING ROOM STAFFING – Sandra (on behalf of Marcia)

Marcia, who has been managing SLR staffing and exhibit upkeep during the Fair had a medical issue last year, so she wasn't able to attend. She is feeling better and is returning for the 2023 Fair. Jean Bryant, who stepped in to help with keeping the staffing organized last year, is willing to assist Marcia. Jean does not want to take on a full coordinating role. It would be advisable to have a third person working with Marcia and Jean, preferably someone who would eventually take on the primary duties.

MEET AND GREET - Kay

The Meet and Greet is the big Elders party that happens at Alice's firepit the night before Fair. This year's setup will begin earlier than in the past years.

Party setup includes arranging tables, chopping fruits, veggies, and cheese, and arranging food on trays. This year we'll have two wine stewards. We have 3 Groups for entertainment: Radar Angels, Ellen Singer, and Steel Wool.

Volunteers are also needed at the end of the party to clean up and transport items to storage areas (typically Elders Camp). We have a small budget but cannot spend the money on alcohol. Please bring donations for wine and cash donations. (Kay passed a collection jar at the meeting). The theme is PEACE, LOVE, AND HAPPINESS. Kay made two large banners which she showed the group. The P, L. & H banner is bright yellow with red letters. The other banner she created is a large PEACE sign on a rainbow flag. There's a photo of these on the Elders Website <https://ocfelders.weebly.com/elder-news-and-events.html>.

It would be helpful to coordinate using the Geezer Pleaser for SLR setup and cleanup. The events team will need help with transporting items along Chickadee, and maybe an additional route. Percy would like to do a last Hurrah at the Meet and Greet for his 75th birthday.

Kay shared that Lisa Cooley would like to lead the Bell Ringing Ceremony at the Meet and Greet. This includes reading the names of the new elders.

IN PERSON JUNE COMMITTEE MEETING AND POTLUCK - Kay

The Elders committee meeting is holding their annual June In-Person Meeting at Kay's in Pleasant Hill. The date is Thursday, June 15, starting at 4 p.m. This is the meeting where we finalize our plans at the fair. We have a potluck, social time, meeting, and volunteer sign-ups. This year we are adding a Fair clothing and camp gear exchange. Bring items to give away, trade, or sell.

LUNCH BREAK – 11:50 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Includes walk to South Woods to survey our new Del Boca Veneta Camp Site. There's also a walk to the Still Living Room space to check out conditions and look at the potential shaded theater space.

SOMETHING SPECIAL - Remedios

Remedios shared a vision titled "The Gentle Revolution Manifesto." You can see more on the website www.thegentlerevolution.com. She led the group in a chant by cuing the group to shout out the word "People". It goes like this:

*PEOPLE, inspiring PEOPLE, to get involved, with positive change.
PEOPLE, protecting our natural earth, and our cultures,
From destructive practices.
PEOPLE, thinking about positive ideas, and
Making positive actions happen.
PEOPLE, supporting a peaceful, non-violent, and
Gentle revolution of change,
An evolution of humans, marked by changed behavior.
PEOPLE, working together, and solving problems.
PEOPLE, being PEOPLE, as we heal ourselves, and heal the world.
PEOPLE, learning to live with more love and tolerance!
PEOPLE, living simply, comfortably, and with less greed.
PEOPLE, protecting justice and democracy.
PEOPLE, being gentle and respectful to all life.*

STILL LIVING ROOM SETUP AND DECON – Jerry Shultz

Jerry and Eric will lead the Still Living Room setup. As usual they will need some strong people to assist. The job consists of obtaining a gaiter and hauling all the furniture for the SLR that is stored in a shipping container at Dug's Green to the SLR site, and then installing the items. There are a lot of heavy objects. Elder Central also has items stored in the same container which they will drop off at the Elder Central Location. This is a full day of work.

Setup will begin Saturday, July 1st. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Hub. The setup volunteers will get lunch at Main Camp Kitchen and there will be beverages and snacks on hand at the SLR site.

We start taking down the Still Living Room Sunday night. It's mostly the décor items that need to be stored away. On Monday morning at 10 a.m. we need volunteers to take down the remaining furniture and load it on a gaiter for hauling back to our storage container at Dug's Green.

Please see Annemarie's volunteer sign up sheet. If you haven't signed up yet, you can email us at eldervolunteers@gmail.com and inform us of your availability to help out.

ARCHIVES – Carolyn

Carolyn read the information that Jerry Joffe provided for the retreat:

Last year Kevin McCornack, 541-510-6513, helped move the timelines from the basement Archives room at the office out to the Fair site with his truck and trailer. He had plenty of blankets to protect them and might be willing to help again this year. There is also the other display, which I have mentioned to you, that lights up if there is a battery that I have at my house but could bring it to the office to be taken out to the Fair with the timelines.

The bottom line is that I can help with providing access to the Archives room on the day that Elders decide to move the timelines out to the SLR. Because of my LNT duties, it would be best if the move was on Sunday, July 2nd or Monday, July 3rd, but I could be available on Tuesday morning, July 4th or Weds. early morning, July 5th. I can also be available on Monday, July 10th, to put the timelines back in the archives room. The room isn't big enough at this point to hold the light display and it would be great if there was another dry place to store it.

POTTED FLOWERS/PLANTS – Annemarie

In past years, Linda Robertson has loaned large potted flowering plants that need to be transported to the SLR and returned home. The pots are too heavy for one person to lift, and they also require transport in a truck with a canopy.

The suggestion was made to contact the Flower Crew to see they can provide flowers. Paxton will contact Ashley Demaline to see if she could supply some potted flowers for the SLR. Is there money in our budget? There was general agreement that we should no longer use these big pots. Patricia will contact Linda and thank her for the bigger pots and ask if she might be interested in making smaller ones. (*Scribe's postscript – After the meeting, Linda informed Patricia that she will no longer be able to supply potted flowers*)

Nancy said there is money in the SLR budget that could be allocated to the Flower Crew supplying us with flowers.

NEW TIMELINE / 2010-2019 – Mouseman

Mouseman said that there are 8 people who agreed to be on the new Timeline subcommittee, but they haven't had a meeting to date. Mouseman is going to put a shoutout to the group to organize a weekday/weeknight meeting.

GEEZER PLEEZER – PRE-FAIR ORGANIZING – Cathy Piazza

The Fair does not want to deal with Action Rentals which is where the Fair got battery operated golf carts. This year they are renting golf carts from a rental place in Tualatin. The carts are gas powered. Do we have enough money in the budget to get a second cart? Carts can get gassed up at Dug's Green. One gas tank goes a long way.

There was a suggestion that we rent our own electric golf cart from Action Rental and get a gas-powered golf cart through the motor pool. We automatically have \$500 taken from our budget that is transferred to the motor pool for this purpose. There was a general agreement that having one gas and one electric golf cart would be like having a hybrid system. It's advisable with an electric cart that we get an extra battery that is kept on a charger to be ready when the other golf cart battery wears down.

If we want a second cart, either way, we will have to come up with additional money. Cathy P. and Nancy will coordinate.

Annemarie suggested that the entire South Woods could use transportation and said we should ask the Fair about getting a 6-8 person golf cart, or a bus service.

Paxton said we should send a recommendation to Mark Malaska. Carolyn will send an email on behalf of the Fair. Cathy will look for a horn or bell.

Recommendation – See what you can do with Action Rental to get an electric cart.

GEEZER PLEEZER – ONSITE COORDINATING – Fran R.

Folks who signed up to be drivers last year will get an email for signing up to drive for the 2023 Fair.

LATE NIGHT TRIPS – Carolyn

This will be the last year that Jerry Joffe will be coordinating Late Night Trips. He has a co-coordinator Roy Burling who will take over the position for the 2024 Fair. They are looking for a couple of volunteers to assist. Here is the write-up from Jerry and Roy:

This is a transition year with Jerry retiring, Roy Burling taking over as team leader and new people on the team so there will be a mandatory, short training session on Wednesday, July 5th, at the site to go over everything. The exact time is to be determined, but probably mid-day. The main job consists of: getting the bus stop ready each night; putting away the sign, etc. after the last trip each night; making sure the people who get on the bus are on the registered Passenger Manifest; the person responsible for taking the trip into town, helps the driver get through any crowds on Aero; and then at the drop off at Valley River Center helps anyone get to their car. (Rinse and repeat the next night.)

All of the information about Late Night Trips can be found on the .net site:
<https://oregoncountryfair.net/late-night-trips/>

MEETING WRAP-UP AND EVALUATION

Nancy is now handling the Elders Database. Any changes of address etc. need to go to Elderwristbands@gmail.com

Remedios talked about how to communicate Elders' legacy. People are curious about the Fair. The Fair story is part of her story. About making positive change in the world. How do we connect these dots in a positive way to communicate? How do we move this conversation out further? Remedios asked for the group's permission to spread the Country Fair's mission and ideas out into the wider world. group gave enthusiastic applause.

Kay announced the basic schedule for the remainder of the retreat.

Our next retreat will be in the fall: Sept. 15, 16, and 17.

The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Gsell