

Board of Directors Meeting

June 5, 2023, 7 pm

(Subject to approval by the Board at the June 25, 2023, Board meeting)

Zoom remote online and live streamed on YouTube

YouTube recording link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlxYzSM-R7M>

Board Directors present: John Alexander, Sandra Bauer (VP of Philanthropy and Fund Development), George Braddock, Anthony “AJ” Jackson, (VP of Membership Engagement and Services), Paxton Hoag, Kevin Levy, Lisa Parker (VP of Bylaws and Policy), Ann Rogers, Arna Shaw, Jon Silvermoon, and Sue Theolass. **Board Director absent:** Tom Horn (President). **Board Officer present:** Stephen Diercouff (Secretary). **Board Officers absent:** Hilary Anthony (Co-Treasurer), Lynda Gingerich (Co-Treasurer). **Staff present:** Kirsten Bolton (Executive Director), Sierra McComas (Site and Facilities Manager), Vanessa Roy (Marketing Manager), Norma Sax (Office Manager), Alex Zabala (Office Assistant), and Anna DiBenedetto (Board Scribe).

The meeting was facilitated by John Alexander, who said the Fair excitement is brewing and can be felt all the way down to Ashland. Stephen is on the Zoom to help with procedural questions.

The minutes of this Board meeting are presented with motions and votes without discussion. The entire meeting, including discussions, can be viewed on the YouTube recording at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlxYzSM-R7M>.

Announcements

John Alexander: Carbon Neutrality Work group has been working and is encouraging as much ride sharing and carpooling as possible to Fair, both pre-Fair and post-Fair. Surveys are coming about our carbon footprint to help us become carbon neutral as much as possible. In 2019 they partnered with PSU Institute for Sustainable Solutions and developed a Phase I report that was summarized in an article in the September 2022 FFN called “Positively Neutral.” It estimates 4,500 tons of CO₂ every year from the Fair. Travel constitutes 97 percent of the Fair’s carbon footprint, so carpooling can reduce that significantly. Estimated 60,000 trips each year to make the Fair happen. Email working group at ocfsustainability@gmail.com.

Sue: Food Committee update: We have four new food entities this year: Makeda's Ethiopian Food will be in the former Sheilagh's Gourmet space near Drum Tower, Cheezey Wheezey's will be in the former Nearly Normal's space, Dump City Dumplings will be on Shady Lane, and Go Giddy Pops will be near Wally's Way. Buddha Chocolates and Psychedelic Thai will be in the De Frisco's space this year; we know it is important to have food in that area. De Frisco's and Olive Grove are taking this year off and plan to return next year. Dana's Cheesecake, Nearly Normal's and Sheilagh's Gourmet have retired.

Stephen: Board met in closed session May 19, 24 and 31. A vote was taken on May 24 but not at the other two meetings. Months after the Fair event in the fall, we have our annual election.

Reminded folks that advisory petitions must be turned in by July 31 with at least 100 signatures. Every year one-third of the Board is up for election. We encourage you to run for Board positions. Deadline for turning in candidate statements is August 20 at 8 pm.

Ann: Jack Ward aka Snowcone Jack's celebration of life will be June 11, 2-6 pm at Mouseman's house down Suttle Lane from the Fair.

Sue: Nel Applegate, beloved of Tim Mueller, advocate for marginalized people, member of Steel Wool band, long time participant in Community Village, died last week. She is already missed by hundreds of people.

Minutes Review

(YouTube video: 0:09:53)

Paxton moved and Arna seconded to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2023, meeting.

Sue: Minor correction to spelling of last name — Paul Fuller of Divine Balance Fruit Salad.

The motion passed: 11-0.

Paxton moved and Lisa seconded to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2023, Work Session.

The motion passed: 11-0.

Agenda Review and New Business

(YouTube video: 0:15:00)

Ann moved and Sue seconded to move request to sponsor the Lane ESD Gala from New to Old Business.

Motion passed: 9-2; Arna and AJ opposed.

Paxton moved and Ann seconded to approve the June 5, 2023, agenda, as amended.

The motion passed: 10-1; AJ opposed.

Member Input

(YouTube video: 0:27:00)

Carolyn G: She is the scribe for Elders Committee. Tonight, there is a motion on the table to move eligible age from 55 to 60 over a 10-year period. Before we began this discussion, Elders got together to crunch demographics with the Board working group to come up with the plan. Raising the age eligibility may not have a big impact on population of Fair, but we didn't have lots of numbers on younger Fairgoers. They have a copy of the Power Point if anyone wants to see it. They are not thrilled about the change but since the Board passed a motion, instructing them to do so, they came up with the plan.

Craig Smith: He has been an Elder at Fair for 15 years and is also Fixed Assets Committee member. Wants to speak in favor of Elder motion to raise the age to 60. When he became an Elder, they didn't have enough crew positions, so they made the age 55 to make openings for youth. Thinks it's a great proposal and 60 is a very reasonable age. Thanks for all the hard work.

Jon Silvermoon: **Point of Order – Member Input is for issues not on the agenda.** Kirsten reminded members to use their member input time during specific agenda items if that's what they want to discuss.

Grumpy: Question about vote in closed Board Meeting – what was the vote about?

Stephen answered that it was a confidential legal matter.

Kevin Hillery: He is the OCF Arborist. Emerald Ash Borer has been going on since last July. Please read the December article in FFN for more information, "What Happens When Trees Disappear From the Forest." It's difficult to convey the sheer size of the problem. Total ecosystem change is how he summarizes what's in store. Fair would need to be nimble to respond. Sierra has been doing heavy lifting. There is an Emerald Ash Borer Task Force that has been doing lots of work. Board has been doing work about on-site firewood. Greeters need support about how to respond. Maybe people whose firewood is being taken away need something given to them in return, like food vouchers. Firewood ban is effective policy but live edge wood may remain a problem, especially from Washington County that was milled in the last five years. Dennis Todd has done a ton of work on Path planning. Quarter Master will have lots of information. Immediate request comes from LUMP Committee – ask Board to do a Work Session later in the summer. EAB task force needs a monthly place to give updates to Board.

Cynthia Peachy: It's fun to be on site with all the amazing people who are working. Emerald Ash Borer will take a lot of money. We need to fund-raise at a level we've never done before to tackle this issue, and it needs to be fast.

Staff Report – Executive Director

(YouTube video: 0:40:10)

On-site opening weekend of Main Camp was busy and productive and pre-Fair kitchen cooked delicious meals. Thanks to all volunteers.

Administration

- Site Office hours during Main Camp, June 3 to July 6: Open 9 am-5 pm, Monday to Sunday
- Site Office hours during Fair, July 7 to July 9: Open 9 am-3 pm Friday to Sunday
- Eugene Office back to regular hours July 10, 10 am to 4 pm
- Employee Schedule during Main Camp:
 - Mark & Alexis: on-site Wednesday to Sunday.
 - Sierra: on-site Friday to Tuesday.
 - Kirsten, Vanessa & Norma: Wednesday to Thursday Town office; Friday to Sunday on-site.
 - Alex: Friday to Sunday on-site; Monday to Tuesday Town office.
 - Durwin: Wednesday- Sunday on-site.
 - Jeff: Friday to Tuesday on-site.
 - Korey: Thursday to Monday on-site.
- Employee Fair Schedule, July 3 to July 10: All staff on-site, all days
- Employee Post-Fair Schedule, July 11 to 16: All Staff on-site except Vanessa, Alex and Norma, who are in Town Office.

- VIP Passes will be mailed to business partners and important contacts in mid-June.
- An on-site Coordinator meeting occurred on June 4 at 2 pm. Next meeting is July 2, 2023, at 4 pm at Alice's Fire Pit.
- There will be no Fireworks this year on the Fourth of July. The site is closed and only working crews are allowed on site.
- Ticket sales are pacing the same as last year. We are approximately 30 percent sold out across all three days. This equates to more tickets sold than this time last year since we increased available tickets to 15,000 per day this year. Revenue is almost double than this time last year.
- Four Winds Database: About 25 percent of Coordinators still have not logged into the database. We will be reaching out to these crews to make sure they get their crew data in before Four Winds closes. Four Winds will close on June 30 at 11:59 pm.
- OCF is sponsoring the 2023 Veneta Farmers Market, City of Veneta Fun Run in September, and the Applegate Folk Festival in late July.

Culture Jam

Registration is going well. We still have openings and scholarships available. The deadline to apply is June 15. The Spring Fling fundraiser generated approximately \$5,000. This is more than double what was budgeted. Big shout-out to all the donors, raffle ticket buyers, Vanessa, Norma, Alex, and all the volunteers who made it successful.

2023 contracts:

- Honey Buckets contract — Done
- Ritz Sauna — Pending
- Whitebird — Done
- Verizon COW Tower — Done
- AT&T COW Tower — May not have this year, working to resolve
- T-Mobile COW Tower — Done
- Equipment Rental — Work in progress
- Dodeca Art Barn — Done
- LTD — Contract pending
- First Student — Done
- Western States Flagging — Done
- ATMs — Done
- Credit Card machines — Done
- Radio Contracts — Done
- City of Veneta Banner Permit — Done
- Life's Best In Tents — Done
- Commemorative Sales Printing — Done
- Staff T-Shirt Printing — Done
- Water Hydrant Meter Rental — Done
- Dust Control — Done
- Ice — Done
- Refrigerated Trailers — Done

Towing — pending
Lane County Sheriff's — Done
Guidelines Printing — Done

Permits:

Right of Way Permit — Done
2023 Outdoor Assembly Permit, Farside — Pending
Camping — Pending
ODOT — Pending

Sue: Update on compost slab?

Answer: Delayed pouring of cement until after event. It's been compacted and graveled and parking expanded.

Committee and Working Group Reports

(YouTube video: 0:49:42)

Committees should send their reports to Vanessa (vanessa@oregoncountryfair.org), to be posted on the .net site and included in the Board packet.

Paxton: **Emerald Ash Borer Working Group:** Had good walk yesterday with work group, identifying trees. This year is going to be predominately about education, teaching about what it is and its impact on the Fair. Doing on-site ash tree inventory with signage. Scheduled another walk after June-ly Board meeting and invites all Board members to do the walk on June 25. Would like to see a report at every Board meeting.

Committee Best Practices: Met on Wednesday, April 12, at 6 pm via Zoom and notes are here: https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2023/05/041223CBPWG_minutes.pdf .

Craft Committee: Met on April 19 and the minutes are here: https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2023/05/CC_4-19-23.pdf .

Elders Committee: Met on April 27 and minutes are here: https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2023/05/042723_ELDERScommMtg.pdf .

Elders Committee also met on May 6 for a Retreat and the minutes are here: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2023/05/EldersRetreatMtg050623.pdf> .

Food Committee: Met in closed session on May 2 and. May 9. Met on April 25 in public session. Attendance: Aaron Moffett (Veggie Heaven), Larry, Dave, Sue Caitlin, Thom, AJ, Doug (Registration), Marco, Danya, Vanessa, Kundari (Kundari's), Saman, Jesiah (Organic Orange Juice), Sara/Norma (Sara's Tamales), and Summer (Scribe) .

Lower Reefer: Will be OPEN to vendors for the 2023 Fair. Need to let vendors know that moving Lower Reefer to Kermit is being considered and that feedback should be provided to management from vendors before the decision is made. Bring it to the food vendor's attention at the Mandatory Food Booth Meeting. Polar Express (lower reefer transportation) may get a trial run in 2023 year with shorter distance. Consider requesting a town-hall-style meeting with food booths about Lower Reefer move.

Sue moves to accept March meeting notes, vote is unanimous.

Blue Sheets: Still waiting on four blue sheets. Some menu revisions to be reviewed and simple steps that can be taken. Dana's, Sheila's and Nearly Normal's are all retiring. Five carts/booths taking leave of absence: Azure Ocean, Cart De Frisco, Coconut Bliss, Olive Grove and Snow Cone Jack's. Blue sheets provide good information on Lower Reefer move, and can be used to provide information in Fair decision making.

Registration and Tuesday Banding: Idea floated by Registration to provide banding on Tuesday prior to Fair for food booths, largely supportive reaction by meeting attendees. Considered benefits include reducing the amount of people getting banded onsite on Wednesday, improving food safety by removing the need to get banded before securing perishables onsite.

Mandatory Food Booth Meeting (MFBM): Will be hybrid format, Zoom link available by request (email indicated it would be posted on .net). Must be attended by Primary and/or Secondary booth reps. Other booth staff permitted to attend but only Primary/Secondary will participate in discussion. Meeting will be recorded with Zoom and recording will be available to be reviewed by food booths as needed. Gather contact info for presenters with announcements, provide to food booths so that they can reach out independently. Agenda for MFBM will be sent by email from subcommittee by May 5.

Land Use Management Planning (LUMP) Committee: Met April 11 and minutes are here: <https://lump.oregoncountryfair.org/Minutes/Minutes-2023/LUMP-2023-04-April-11.pdf> . Also met May 9. We heard and discussed the Emerald Ash Borer Work Group report from Kevin and Glenn. The team will be giving regular updates at Board meetings, and hosting another site walk after the on-site Junely meeting. Kevin will be requesting a Board work session on the EAB. Glenn reported on biodiversity monitoring, with information collected on OCF Natural Resources, some gathered through iNaturalist and eBird. Our next meeting will be on site, meeting at Main Camp at noon June 4 .

Path Planning Committee: Met April 16 and minutes are here: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2023/04/4-16-2023-Path-Planning-Agenda.pdf> . Also met May 21. Members and staff attended a site walk to discuss solutions that are essential to achieve before this year's Fair.

The willow planting bank restoration project's impact on booth placement and access, path width guidelines, existing pinch points and emergency entrance and egress was assessed with input from Archaeology, Construction, VegeManECs, White Bird, Recycling and Water Crew. New fencing barricades will be constructed as needed to protect the bank restoration project, preserve the river view, and keep people safe; while minimizing further impact to the path width, access and safety. Temporary barricades will be placed as soon as possible and barricades used for the

event will be aesthetically in line with Fair standards. Strawberry Lane and Shady Lane will be closed to all vehicles except gators and service vehicles to reduce the impact on bank compaction and to accommodate the bank restoration project. Members of White Bird are concerned about the ability of EMS vehicles to access these areas. A motion to recommend that Fair purchase or rent an off-road EMS gator transport unit for White Bird passed unanimously.

The soon-to-be-constructed KOCF stagelette has been named "The Alcove." The name "Upper River Loop" will be removed from the map, and the area will be referred to as Ark Park. Festive Restive is in conversation with FARTS for pre and post shuttles for staff and public. ADA access is being considered. Conversations are ongoing about stops.

Path Planning members will observe the 2023 Fair event with path flow and wayfinding in mind, and report back on how the daily public population caps feel and the impact to their crew/booth/experience. We invite all Fair family members to interact with and observe our event through these lenses. Please join our next Path Planning meeting Sunday, September 17. Agenda to be found on the .net site.

Treasurers' Report

Hilary and Lynda both had excused absences. Profit and Loss report was provided to Board in lieu of an update.

Old Business

(YouTube video: 1:00:23)

Sponsorship/Donation to the Lane ESD African American Black Student Success Program
(Ann, Sue, Jon S., Paxton, Lisa)

Jon Silvermoon moved and Paxton seconded to sponsor/donate \$3,000 to the Lane ESD African American Black Student Success Program.

Irene Rasheed, representing Lane ESD, described the gala and the benefits that each party would receive if the Board sponsors a table.

Member Input:

Lisa Cooley: Tremendous opportunity for the Fair. Suggests buying a table for \$5,000. Complements Culture Jam very well.

Michael Connelly: Full-page advertisement would come with purchasing a table for \$5,000 and also being able to attend? What would \$3,000 do?

Irene Rasheed answered that you could donate \$3,000 and it would go into the scholarship fund, but the Fair would not be mentioned in the circular that reaches 47,000 families. There are only 15 tables and she thought it was a good fit for attendance. \$5,000 gets attendance for a full table.

Jon amended the motion to donate at the \$5,000 table level and to authorize the Board President, in consultation with the Executive Director, to decide, amongst the people who notify them that they would like to attend, how to allocate the eight seats and that anybody attending, if it's all right with Irene, should touch bases with Irene about how much tie dye they can squeeze into formal black attire. Paxton agreed.

Kirsten pointed out that there is a Board meeting that same day, which might make it difficult for Board members attend.

Motion passed: 11-0.

At 9 pm Arna moved and Sandra seconded to extend the meeting 15 minutes and to table everything except the Conflict of Interest item.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Personnel Policies Committee Appointment – Sandra Bauer (AJ & Arna)
TABLED until next meeting.

Potential Conflict of Interest – George Braddock, Ritz Sauna Contract (Arna & Sandra)

Sandra: In accordance with Article X of the OCF Bylaws, the Board of Directors recognizes a potential conflict of interest wherein George Braddock, the owner and operator of The Ritz Sauna, serves as a member of the OCF Board of Directors. The material facts of the transaction have been disclosed to the Board, and the Board has determined the contract to be fair to the Fair. The Board hereby authorizes the transaction of business between the OCF and Ritz Sauna, LLC. Arna seconded.

Membership comment: None

Sue offered the following friendly amendment: Guidelines must be adhered to and archaeological laws and regulations must be adhered to as part of the motion. Sandra and Arna declined to accept the friendly amendment.

Jon Silvermoon offered an amendment to the motion: Board authorization is contingent upon the addition of a contract clause specifying that Ritz Sauna LLC is to follow all applicable Oregon Country Fair guidelines. Sue seconded.

Sue moved and Ann seconded to extend another 15 minutes. Motion passed: 10-0-1; AJ abstained.

Jon Silvermoon's motion to amend failed: 5-5; Arna, John Alexander, AJ, Sandra and Kevin opposed. George was recused.

Original motion passed: 7-1-2; Sue opposed; Jon Silvermoon and Ann abstained. George was recused.

Committee Best Practices Work Group - Manual Revision Recommendations (Arna & Sandra)
TABLED until August meeting.

Elders Eligibility Work Group Recommendation (Sandra & George)
TABLED until next meeting.

New Business

Sponsorship Item moved to Old Business.

Meeting Evaluation

Last round for the good of the peach

(YouTube video: 2:23:13)

Ann: Thanked Irene for coming, we learned a lot about Lane ESD.

Jon Silvermoon: Thanked fellow Board members for discussion about Lane ESD sponsorship. It showed we can reach agreement amongst ourselves. Not sure we were all on the same page when discussion started, but we got there by the end. I think that's a positive way of working as a Board together.

Jonathan Pincus: Thanked the Board for doing this really hard work.

AJ: Sometimes when he attends these meetings, he crosses his fingers and hopes that just once we can work together and do good work for the members that voted for us. Understands that's the nature of people having conflict, but he's glad to see that the donation went forward despite his reservations around how it came to us. He encouraged us as an organization to think about how we spend our money with other organizations and the message it sends and what we get back. As Board members, he hears from many people. He encourages us to not see the negative in everybody else's opinions. Still sad that we are divided. Challenged every Board member at the next Board meeting to come up with a motion that we can all agree upon.

Sandra: Thank you John Alexander for staying strong and herding cats.

Allain Van Laanen: Interesting that four people could bring a motion, which took up the entire agenda and entire Board meeting, displacing the other work that people prepared for.

Stephen noted that five people sponsored the motion; the Board President with two others could also bring forth a motion.

Paxton: We are working out our process and I think we are productive. I am one of those that would rather deal with more business and not table things, but that is not popular with this group. Good meeting, really looking forward to the Fair this year.

Next Board Next Board Meeting – Sunday, June 25, 4 to 6 pm at Alice's Fire Pit (Hybrid)

President's Peace

(YouTube video: 2:30:19)

Tom's written comments were read aloud by John Alexander:

As the President of this esteemed Board, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to all of the volunteers that make our Oregon Country Fair an amazing experience. As I walked the Eight with my family on Saturday, I felt a wave of happiness and joy in seeing the smiles and feeling the incredible positive energy all around.

I want to take a moment to thank all of the volunteers who make our Fair possible. Thank you so much for your invaluable contributions, creativity, positive energy. Your selfless dedication and tireless efforts have made, and continue to make, a significant impact on thousands of people — tens of thousands of people, really.

Oregon Country Fair volunteers are a family. The impact of your volunteer work extends far beyond the tasks you perform. Your presence brings joy, comfort, and hope to many. Your enthusiasm and passion inspire others, fostering a sense of unity and a shared purpose. Your kindness and compassion create a positive rippling effect that touches the lives of countless individuals.

On behalf of the entire Board, I want to extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering energy, creativity, and support for one another and for our Fair. We are immensely grateful. Your dedication inspires us, as a Board, to strive for excellence, and your passion fuels our collective efforts to continue to do better and be better in service to the Fair.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your selfless dedication and the countless hours you have devoted to our Fair.

With deepest appreciation and warmest regards,
Thomas Horn,
OCF Board President