OCF Craft Committee Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2023

Attendance: Ken Kirby, sue theolass, Diane McWhorter, Vince LaRochelle, John Govsky, James NasonArna Shaw, Adam BuddExcused: Lucy Kingsley, Kim AllenScribe: Diane McWhorterOther Participants: Tash Wesp, Glenda Villamar, Morningstar, Vanessa Roy, Dani Derrick, Jay Shuster,
Taylor Rutledge

<u>Introductions and Announcements</u>: Vanessa will facilitate. Glenda is from KOCF and would like to interview someone about Craft Committee, its work and history. The Slug Queen Coronation is Aug. 11th in Eugene. The Picnic is Aug 19th on site, with an Evaluation meeting on Sunday at 11:00 am. The Annual Meeting is October 14th. Eugene Pride is Saturday August 12th.

Agenda Approval: ***Motion: Approve the agenda (Vince/John) 6-0-0

Minutes Approval: Minutes of May 10th. ***Approve the minutes (sue/John) 7-0-0

<u>Guest Concerns</u>: Glenda want to do an interview for KOCF with someone from the committee. You can email her at <u>glenda.kocf@gmail.com</u>

Morningstar from Booth Registration inquired about the process for moving registration deadlines sooner in the calendar year. This was added to New Business.

<u>Board Liaison Report</u>: Arna reported that three recommendations from Best Practices were brought to the Board, with the first one passed and the other two referred to the next meeting. The passed one was about the role of Board Liaisons: Committee Facilitators and Board Liaisons are responsible for ensuring that all present at committee meetings adhere to the Code of Conduct and will set and ensure that each member of the committee and other individuals, whether present or absent, will receive respectful and equitable treatment. The second and third motions can be viewed in the Board materials on the .net site.

Sue added that there is a link there to give feedback for the ED performance review. The election timeline is posted. There were no advisory measures from membership.

Corey, the groundskeeper, was promoted to Site Supervisor while a new Site Manager is hired after the resignation of Sierra McComas.

Everyone is encouraged to run for the Board.

Attendance figures were 12,500 on Friday, 15,400 on Saturday, and 11,500 on Sunday. AT&T did not end up bringing a COW for internet service, which was a big part of the inadequate service. The house at the Winery property burnt from a grass fire but will be covered by insurance.

<u>Coordinators Reports</u>: none present at the moment.

<u>Staff Report</u>: Vanessa reported that staff is already working on next year's event. Decon worked more quickly this year with more volunteers on site.

<u>Post-Fair Reports</u>: Vanessa explained the staff position on the Artisan Listing in the Peach Pit. The timeline of accepting and siting artisans doesn't fit with the timeline needed to publish the paper. A link was sent to Booth Reps but was overlooked and only 40 responded. A later email got more responses, but it was too late and not comprehensive enough. A partial and inaccurate listing is not seen as satisfying for the purpose. Neither the staff or Peach Pit volunteers had access to a listing of crafters.

She also explained that the professional photographers did not supply identifiable photos of crafters. That will be improved for next year. She hopes to work with crew leaders and volunteers to improve promotions of crafters next year.

Morningstar said that Booth Reg was contacted but did not know how to supply the information. Whatever the pathway was for it in the past, that has been lost and needs to be reconstructed. Members agreed that this was not new, that artisans have never felt promoted, and the directory was never accurate or complete. Moving deadlines may help but may not be enough. Perhaps a directory that doesn't rely on the Peach Pit is a better plan.

Communication during the cultural transition and changes in personnel was inadequate to get artisans to realign to seeking information at the central site of the .net and being more responsible for their own registration details and promotion. The switch from the paper packet was huge for booth participants and will take some time to adjust expectations on all sides. The petition about the internet indicated that many people did not know the system well enough to know there was a feedback system or who to go to with particular issues. It is not the Craft Committee's charge to do this communication. It's difficult to even get people to read the guidelines, and that has to change somehow.

Info Crew may have a lot of thoughts about how to make the Peach Pit more useful to fairgoers. One-year-only booths may not be getting the information they need to use the booths they are assigned and put them away for the winter. Perhaps a required orientation or mentorship by an Elder would help some people. An info sheet directed at new crafters might help. There is just a vast amount of detailed information to absorb that takes years. Neighbors do help others and can be a good resource. Emails are just not going to work as well as the paper packet which can be viewed over time and at length. It's going to be a few years of transition. A callout for photos and materials to share over social media would help.

The crafter database has hundreds of categories and is not in a form that can be easily converted to a compact list of artisans. A different database is needed for publication.

<u>Coordinator Report</u>: Adam arrived and said that while some things could have worked better, overall the event worked well. The new space for Craft Inventory was well-used and lots of useful conversations were held. Working closely with Booth Registration on the many issues for months was successful. The database can be reorganized and built to work for the many purposes for which it is needed, but it is a big project and requires organizational support. Booth Reps themselves are still relied upon to supply info for the other crafters in their booths.

<u>Other Debrief Issues</u>: Several booths were moved and one booth lost considerable space to create a new Childcare location in Xavanadu, including a booth that had been chosen by one of the artisans granted a Permanent Placement booth. It was out of process and an outrageous mistake with no notification of Booth Reg who had awarded the booth. That situation also impacted a food booth who was not notified.

A bush/tree was also planted right in front of a booth in Xavanadu. Consulting with booth reps or at least Booth Reg crew should happen when trees are planted.

It's not clear who is supposed to maintain the booths and camping areas of one-year-only booths. The guidelines still say crafters are not supposed to camp on Tuesday night but it is necessary for many to do that. A guideline change would be helpful to reduce anxiety.

At least one member of the committee felt that too many responsibilities were being put on Craft Committee to communicate and take care of issues with boothworld, such as the Peach Pit and internet issues, particularly during the event when it is more than fulltime just to run the business of the booth. It's time to examine the charge of the committee and its volunteers.

The traffic situation going into the 8 on Monday was super dysfunctional. Lines of cars running their engines for hours is a climate disaster. Monday load-out needs to be extended somehow so people don't

feel so competitive about bringing in their cars, and services like porta-potties and water are cut off too soon.

The confusion about driving on Shady Lane at load-in was unfortunate and inconsistent. Not everyone was kind and considerate.

Everyone should fill out feedback forms on all of these issues.

There were a couple of internet solutions that did work, such as hot spots and other tweaks to do to phones, so maybe next year these could be better known. Booth Reg does not have an IT person and is not helpful regarding the wifi situation.

Pre-Town Hall Survey and Town Hall were removed from the agenda and put on next month's.

<u>New Business</u>: Cannabis Seeds: someone has inquired about selling seeds of strains of cannabis that he grows, in a craft booth. Before discussing it at length, the legalities need to be checked out. Arna will speak with Kirsten about consulting the lawyer about it.

The guidelines do say "handmade, homegrown or handgathered" so it would be within the guidelines.

<u>Earlier Deadlines</u>: there were no objections to moving the deadlines for registration to earlier dates, but it will be something that will require a lot of notification, communication and transition time. A detailed timeline and proposed changes would be helpful for the discussion.

Permanent Placement Process: this is coming up at the October meeting. The deadline for applications is September 30th. There are multiple applicants who need to update to qualify this year, so Diane will contact them and provide a list before the meeting.

Glenda offered to do a shout-out on her KOCF program whenever the committee would like something amplified or announced.

Next meeting will be September 13th. It will be a hybrid meeting held at the OCF office on Lawrence Street.

Adjourned 7:33