

**ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES** – Approved at the 10/26/23 Elders Committee Meeting

**DATE:** Thursday, September 28, 7 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Online

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Diane Albino, Jain Elliott, Nancy Hafner, Michael James Long, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Eric Nicholson

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ann Bennett Rogers, Heather Kent

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Roberta Austin, Steve Barnes, David Brooks, Alan Cohn, Darlene Colborn (facilitator), Lisa Cooley, Peggy Day, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Ken “mambo” Gibson, Annemarie Hirsch, Paxton Hoag (late), Percy Hilo, David Hoffman, Kay Kintzley, Kevin Levy (board liaison - late), Cathy Piazza, Jon Pincus, Jenny Wilson, Natalie (last name?)

A Quorum was established (6 of 8 members present).

**Agenda**

- Announcements
- Approve June 2023 minutes
- Approve fall retreat minutes
- Recognition
- New Elder Applications up for approval – Roberta & Jenny
- ECOCF – Add new people to committee listserv
  - Folks who are taking on lead roles for Elder Camps, GP, M&G, SLR, facilitation
    - Darlene
    - Cathy P.
    - Kelly (Buck)
    - David (Spud)
    - Molly
    - Lisa C.
- Elder Volunteers Subcommittee News – Annemarie & Carolyn **Tabled**
- Events subcommittee report: Kay and Lisa
- Elder Committee Hybrid meetings – Kay
- Brainstorm ideas raising funds for Elder events – Kay - **Tabled**

**Announcements**

- Kay – We have permission for Elders only to stay overnight at Alice’s after the Spirit Walk, scheduled for Saturday, October 28. This is a great option for Elders who don’t want to drive home after dark.
- Mouseman – Dennis Todd is not doing well. He has Spinal stenosis and is paralyzed from chest down. It came on suddenly.

**Approval June 2023 minutes**

Mouseman moved to accept the latest version (draft 2) of the June 2023 minutes. Diane seconded. The motion passed 4 – 0 with Michael James Long and Jain Elliott abstaining (they were not at the June meeting). The motion was approved 4 – 0 with 2 abstentions.

### **Approve fall retreat Minutes**

Eric made a motion to approve Draft 3 of the 9/16/23 retreat minutes. Nancy seconded. Jain and Michael JamesLong abstained (they were not at the fall retreat). The motion passed 4 – 0 with 2 abstentions.

### **Recognition – Carolyn**

Kay Kintzley sent her letter of resignation from the Elders Committee to the board. Carolyn wants to thank her for her service and hopes she will rejoin.

Kay said that yes, she has changed her mind and would like to rejoin asap.

Eric made a motion to accept Kay back onto the Elders Committee. Michael JamesLong seconded. The motion was approved 6 – 0.

Kay will send another letter to the board requesting to be reinstated. At this meeting, she does not have voting rights given her current resignation status.

There was a discussion that it's not up to the committee to vote on a new committee member. Jon P. says while not required, it's not a problem for the committee to show their approval. Kay can let the board know that the remaining committee members all approve of her rejoining. Jain will ~~also~~ write a letter to the board in support of Kay's re-application.

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

The current criteria for minimum Elder eligibility age of 55 still holds for the 2024 Fair. There was a question about approving applicants who are currently aged 54 but will be 55 before or on the first day of the next Fair.

What ensued was a lengthy discussion and multiple disagreements around the rules for approving elders, which was conflated with several elders objecting to the boards' decision to raise the age. These arguments were further expanded over the new ruling that goes into effect for the 2025 fair, increasing the age requirement to 56. Some people found the implementation of this change to be confusing. There were arguments about why we should or shouldn't vet and approve 54-year-olds, even if they will be 55 by the next Fair. There were not only disagreements about the protocol for vetting new Elders, but many opinions about how "it should be" as well.

Nancy explained to the group that we have established a hard deadline of February 1, 2024, for applications to be accepted. If an Elder is currently age 54 but will become 55 before the upcoming Fair, we have been counting that as a valid application, as long as it is submitted by the February 1 deadline.

Michael JamesLong went back through past decision logs, and found the following decision was made by the Elders Committee on 01/21/2010:

An Applicant for Elder Status must be of the required birth age by 12:01 AM the First day of the current year scheduled OCF. **Intent:** Applicants must be 55yrs of age at 12:01 AM, Friday the day of the current year Oregon Country Fair.

Per the decision log record, the protocol was unanimously approved in 2010, although the Committee had been adhering to this guideline previously.

In advance of the meeting, Jenny and Roberta submitted the qualifications for each vetted Elder to the scribe, and a document containing this information was sent to the ECOCF listserv for committee members to read in advance of the meeting. Information included the person's age at time of application, a notation for any 54 year age applicants who will be age 55 by the start of the 2024, along with each applicant's volunteer history, and who vouched for the applicant's participation.

Finally, Jenny read off the 39 names of all the vetted applicants. The vetted applicants are:

Lisa Lynn Burtraw	Catherina Mekkadath	Michele Gila
David Paul Koester	Dionne Hasforth	Laura Hood
Daniel Bessette	Mark Taratoot	Marilyn Kolodziejczyk
Dana Tessler	Leo Mahesh Sudnik (Leo	Anthony Koverman
Joel Martin	Murdock)	John Krauser
Richard Savicky	David V. Horste (Leo S.	Jon Marker
George Domijan	Sunshine)	Martin McGowan
Thomas Sackett	David Bahr	David Merrill
Dawn Ray	Jim Brewer	Drew Miles
Victoria Healy	Sandra Marie Brown	Eric Nusbaum
Jeanette Hardison	Lilly Crowheart	David J. Richey
Laura Sky	Carrie P. Daggett	Steven Silverstein
Maria Sowers	Karen Fine	Ben Wilson
Sebastian Mekkadath	Peter David Gambil	

Mouseman moved that we approve all 39 vetted applicants. Nancy seconded. Michael JamesLong dissented. The motion passed 5 – 1.

There was confusion as to why Michael dissented. After a brief discussion, Michael realized his error in judgement and requested to change his vote from no to yes.

**The motion to approve all vetted applicants was reapproved 6 – 0.**

Diane made a complaint that years of service should have been part of the elder age formula. Some folks expressed the importance of getting this approval system clear. Jon P. wants to continue the discussion of the protocol as an agenda item at the next meeting. The group was reminded that Roberta and Jenny put a lot of work into these applications, and they have been following correct protocols. We are making it very difficult for them by questioning the process when there is a process in place.

In response to multiple people expressing their unhappiness with the passed motion, Jon P. pointed out that at the board meeting where the motion to change age eligibility was approved, he was the only person to speak against it.

Some in the group expressed an interest in forming another subcommittee to go through the age eligibility requirements again, but when the facilitator inquired, most in the group were not in favor of

revisiting the subject. The committee has already appointed a subcommittee to discuss the age change and presented their findings to this group and to the board. The board made their decision. Diane will talk to Ann. Nancy will talk to Sandra.

The agenda item for approving elder applications took up almost an entire hour of the meeting.

### **ECOFC – Add new people to committee listserv - Carolyn**

We have folks who are taking on lead roles for Elder Camps, GP, M&G, SLR, and facilitation. They need to be on the ECOFC listserv so they can communicate with the committee:

Darlene Colborn  
Cathy Piazza  
Kelly Daugherty  
David Brooks  
Molly Elliott  
Lisa Cooley

**Nancy made the motion to approve the 6 people listed above, to be included on the ECOFC listserv. Eric seconded.**

Discussion:

Jain agrees that these folks should be on it, but she would like to see those who are no longer active with committee work be taken off the listserv. She would also like to request that the new people approved to be on the listserv agree to treat information shared on this listserv as confidential. She would like to amend the motion to reflect these sentiments.

There was a discussion about removing inactive people. Carolyn observed that since she has been on the listserv there have been no problems. The listserv doesn't deal with highly controversial subjects. Jain pointed out that there was a problem in the past but agreed that since that incident, people on the listserv haven't generated any improper behavior.

Diane requested clarification on the ECOFC list and the committee list. Jon reminded everyone that we have the [elderscommittee@oregoncountryfair.org](mailto:elderscommittee@oregoncountryfair.org) email address. We don't need to divide the ECOFC list. A request was made to add the 6 people. We don't need to confuse it with all these other things. Jon would like to see the motion simplified to just adding the 6 people.

The motion was brought back to the floor: **Nancy made the motion to approve the 6 people listed above, to be included on the ECOFC listserv. Eric seconded. The motion passed 6 – 0.**

**Events subcommittee report:** Kay and Lisa

We have Washington park reserved for the Elders Holiday party. The date and time is December 16, and the hours reserved are Noon – 6 p.m. Nancy will make the \$100 deposit tomorrow.

Spirit Walk will be on Supermoon, Saturday, October 28. Kay has rented the yurt at the hub. We have electricity for crock pots. It is a potluck. Show up anytime after 1 to decorate and setup or arrive mid-afternoon. We will walk the fair at twilight and see our favorite haunts and places. Lisa will ring a bell for each person we wish to remember, along with their places inside the Fair. Send a text or email message to Lisa with the name of the person to be remembered: 541-556-5547 (text preferred). Email is [cooleylisa.reeferOCF@gmail.com](mailto:cooleylisa.reeferOCF@gmail.com).

During the twilight walk we will stop at the spots associated with the remembered person. This is open to all Fair family. Alice's is only available to Elders for overnight stays. Let Kay know ahead of time to reserve a spot. Weather permitting we'll have a firepit.

Kay reported that we may have a new person helping the Events committee. Synnove Abrahamsen. She is a new Elder and attended the fall retreat.

#### **Hybrid Meetings - Kay**

Kay expressed the hope for a hybrid meeting so we can meet in person.

#### **Closing Discussion**

The facilitator declared the meeting to be closed for additional business. The purpose of remaining at the meeting longer was to provide a recap to our Board liaison Kevin, as well as board member Paxton, who showed up towards the end of meeting after completing a closed board session.

The scribe reviewed all the approved motions with Kevin, and he conferred his understanding and approval.

The meeting ended at 9:25 p.m.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 26 at 7 p.m.

#### **SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PASSED:**

- June meeting minutes passed 4 – 0 with 2 abstentions.
- Fall retreat minutes passed 4 – 0 with 2 abstentions.
- Reinstate Kay Kinsley to Elders Committee (to show committee solidarity to the board) – passed 6 – 0.
- 39 New Elders approved 6 – 0.
- Add the following 6 people to the ECOCF Listserv: Darlene Colborn, Cathy Piazza, Kelly Daugherty, David Brooks, Molly Elliott, Lisa Cooley – Approved 6 - 0

#### **HOMEWORK:**

**Add 6 new people to ECOCF** – Carolyn will inform Jefry F. and Paul C.

Jain to write letter to the board recommending that Kay be reinstated to the committee

Kay to write letter to the board requesting reinstatement to the committee

Nancy to speak with Sandra about elder age eligibility

Diane to speak with Ann about elder age eligibility

Everyone – inform Lisa of any person to be remembered at Spirit Walk

#### **PARKING LOT:**

Brainstorm ideas for fundraising for Elder Events - Kay

Elder Volunteers Report – Annemarie & Carolyn

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Gsell