

ELDERS COMMITTEE RETREAT MEETING MINUTES – Approved at (9/28/23 Elders Committee Meeting

DATE: Saturday, September 16, 2023

LOCATION: Alices' OCF site

MEETING TIME: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Albino, Ann Bennet-Rogers, Nancy Hafner, Kay Kintzley (co-host), Robert "Mouseman" McCarthy, Eric Nicholson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Jain Elliott, Heather Kent, Michael James Long

OTHERS PRESENT: Synnove Abrahamsen, Sandra Bauer, Andy Constant, Katie Cousins (facilitator), Molly Elliott (co-host), Peggy Fitzgerald, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Chris (Howe) Harrison, Mary Hef, Annemarie Hirsch, Paxton Hoag, Kay Kintzley (co-host), Kevin Levy (board liaison), Jim May, Cathy Piazza, Jon Pincus, Remedios Rapoport, Rita Timpane, Rick Valley, Jenny Wilson

A Quorum was established (5 of 8 members present. No votes taken).

START TIME: 10:10 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Each person shared about their favorite part of this year's Fair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Board motion to increase elder age eligibility over a 10-year period will begin with the 2025 fair. This afternoon we are invited to harvest fruit on site (Apples and grapes).

There will be a tiny work party at the yurt sometime later today in preparation for the Spirit Walk.

AGENDA:

- 2023 Meet and Greet review – Kay K.
- Events Subcommittee update – Kay K.
- 2023 Elder Camping – Annemarie H.
 - Phone call-in from Kelly and David reporting on Del Boca Veneta and SWEATS
- 2023 Geezer Pleezer – Cathy P.
- 2023 Still Living Room – Sandra B.
- 2023 Wristband Subcommittee Report – Nancy H., Katie C.
- Budget – Nancy H.
- Shower issues at the Hub – Annemarie H.
- Elder Central Teen Crew helpers at Elder Camp – Annemarie H.
- Safety Issues – Annemarie H.

2023 Meet and Greet review – Kay K.

M&G was a tremendous success. It's a celebration that includes the entire Fair family. The event was originally established to introduce new Elders.

Each year we have a theme for the Meet & Greet. Kay invited the group to think about a theme for the 2024 Fair.

Events Subcommittee update – Kay K.

Dates for this year's remaining events:

- **2023 Spirit Walk** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 28 at the Yurt** (The one close to Elders' Camp).

- Kay will be there by noon/1 p.m. to broom out and do some prep work. Arrive early to help with decorating and setting up the space.
- Lisa C. is organizing a bell ringing ceremony to honor folks who have gone before us. Lisa is collecting the list of names of folks to be remembered. To include someone on the list, send Lisa an email, text message, or call:
 - 541-556-5547.
 - Cooley.lisa.reeferocf@gmail.com
 We will hold a moment of silence for each name.
- There will be a moonlight walk throughout the Fair where we can remember the people who passed. The walk will start at twilight.
- After the walk-about we'll have a potluck with a fall theme. There are plug-ins for crockpots, etc. Weather permitting, we could have a firepit.
- **Winter Holiday Party Saturday, Dec. 16 at Washington Park Community Center. Hours 1 – 5 p.m.** Bring a potluck dish.

Dates for 2024 Elder events:

- Spring retreat: May 10, 11, 12
- M&G, Thursday, July 11
- Fall retreat: Sept. 20-22
- Spirit Walk: Oct. 19
- Winter Holiday Party TBD

Molly has made a list of feedback and suggestions for the next Meet and Greet:

- The location was good, except for some very uneven ground. Some benches were in disrepair.
- There were complaints that the venue was too crowded.
- Elders are invited to send additional feedback to the Events Subcommittee (Kay K., Lisa C., and Molly E.).

Kay said it would be next to impossible to find another space. We could possibly push back the boundaries up to 5 feet in a couple of places.

- The subcommittee would like to shift the time to 5:30 – 8:30 rather than 6 – 9, due to the difficulty of cleaning up in the dark.
- Molly thanked Eric for organizing the entertainment, Rick and John for bartending.
- Folks came at 2 p.m. to start prepping food. Two tables were missing, and we had to borrow two extra tables. Next year setup items will be brought in the day before rather than the weekend before Fair because folks take stuff.

2023 Elder Camping – Annemarie

Elder camp (at the Hub) went well. Many Elders felt that it was so great they didn't need to venture into the Fair. There were 83 tents and 112 folks camping. There are Elder camp guidelines that Annemarie would like the campers to read, as there are some changes and other important information.

Phone in from Kelly and David reporting on Del Boca Veneta and SWEATS

- Overall fantastic. It could not have gone better. All the campers who participated wish to come back. Kelly and David rated the overall experience a 9.7 out of 10!

There were 17 sites with approximately 34 folks camping. The site needs improvement. The ground is very uneven and needs to be leveled. Ann recommended reviewing the guidelines and working with the hippy bureaucracy.

Jon P. recommended that for the campsite improvements, we can place a request with Site Crew. This should be done the first day Main Camp opens. QM (at Main Camp) has sign up books. Requests can also be made to Vegemanics and Archeology. Annemarie is willing to put in those requests on the day Main Camp opens.

Spud (David) and Buck (Kelly) are working on finding someone to coordinate SWEATS. They are also working on creating some "rules" around these two campgrounds. SWEATS will allow Elders with kids. Boca Del Veneta is Elders only.

They would like to have designated pick-up areas for the Geezer Pleezer route. They would like to see a set time maybe twice an hour. (Logistics can be discussed under "Geezer Pleezer"). The boys would also like to see a shower service closer by. The nearest is Ms. Piggy's and it is a far way to go.

Per Annemarie, SWEATS has always allowed children to camp with Elders.

2023 Geezer Pleezer – Cathy P.

We definitely need two golf carts. Cathy would like us to obtain 2 gas carts via Mark Malaska (Motor Pool). Could someone with some influence step in and advocate Mark for us?

Cathy has data on how many people did and didn't get rides from the outer campgrounds.

There was a problem with the radios. The ones we were issued were the old radios (analog) which did not work very well.

Paxton reported that we got secondary (analog) radios without a repeater. We need digital radios with a repeater. Paxton doesn't recommend buying our own due to prohibitive price tag (around \$2k). The analog radios might work with a repeater, which we didn't have. Because the digital radios are rented, we have a strict deadline to return them by Monday after the Fair. The Fair uses around 300 of them. Paxton mentioned to Shell Bell that Elders will need three digital radios on 2024.

Follow up note from Paxton:

A formal application for radios should go in with this year's budget request. I would request 4 and expect to get three. The four would be Elder Central, Geezer Pleaser 1 and Geezer Pleaser 2 and the remote campground. Campgrounds in general do not get radios so you should have a remote Elder Central there.

Chris H. mentioned the gas fumes from gas powered carts are a problem. She would like to see us have at least one electric.

Cathy – Getting an electric cart was a huge hassle. We got the wrong type. Cathy had to go through a lot of trouble to get the cart to and from the rental place in Salem.

Diane stated we should definitely have 1 electric cart. When there are so many people around, gas fumes get generated.

Cathy wants to have designated Geezer Stops. Folks can give feedback on geezer stops during the break.

Kevin suggested that maybe we start earlier in the rental process for electric. Paxton mentioned that the fair is weak on our carbon initiatives. All of our gas carts do not meet our carbon reduction goals. Paxton recommends locking down electric carts EARLY. There was a big discussion around being pro-active.

What does an electric golf cart cost? Someone bought a used cart for \$1K.

Mouseman mentioned the “people mover” carts they use at airports. We may be chasing after the wrong vehicle. Paxton has investigated this type of cart. This is a Fair-wide problem, not just an elder problem. We are pushing camps out distance wise.

Kay – we started the GP for folks with mobility issues and questions that the carts are transporting folks for doing fair business and mobility issues. It wasn’t meant to be an all-purpose transportation system. The GP doesn’t need to evolve to be a full-service transportation system.

Diane – we started the GP service because Elder camp was a distance from Main Camp and the Sticker Booth. Those were the main transport points. Now we have remote Elder camps.

Annemarie – We do need the GP to get folks from outlying camps into the Fair.

Lisa – There are a lot of crews that have Golf Carts. We need to work together as a team with Chris and see if we can work with other groups who have carts. We can help each other out.

Remedios – We have a transportation problem and a carbon footprint problem. We have too many crew people driving around in carts. People are not thinking of the cart as a necessity but as a luxury.

Cathy – other crews cannot be contacted by our crew via radio. The radios don’t talk to each other.

10-Minute Break

2023 Still Living Room – Sandra B.

SLR was successful this year. We received a lot of great feedback on the new theater. Jerry Joffe and Sean Bonsell put together the video. Jerry Shultz installed the TV. And Eric helped.

Kay feels that SLR is one of our Crown Jewels in the Fair. It changes a bit every year. We continually improve the space. Two of our longtime benches have disintegrated and need to go. For next year, budget-wise, we need to get two replacement benches. One odd thing – all our ambient lighting disappeared. Terry Baxter did a lot of work. We ended up calling the theater the Magical History Tour. Banners and Signs made a banner for the theater.

Sandra referred to the new Angel Phone and thinks we should put it in a more private space; maybe place it in a quieter spot with a table and a couple of chairs.

Construction Crew built our benches for the theater. They were of a simple design. We would like to have chairs for the Angel phone to be a bit more comfortable (with backs on them).

Someone suggested an “Angel Phone Booth”.

Rita suggested that if folks have garden benches, they could loan them to the SLR. An idea was also made for having an altar. One fun idea could be to have a voice answer the Angel Phone.

Remedios has a phone booth. A lot more fun ideas were batted around. Paxton said the thing

that is key to getting things done is to get your requests on the books day 1 of Main Camp opening.

2023 Wristband Subcommittee Report – Nancy, Katie

Katie – Last month the Wrist Band subcommittee and Applications subcommittee got together to streamline processes. One thing agreed on was that when an application is approved by the Committee, the Applications subcommittee's work is done. Nancy is the maintainer of the master database and will input the applicant's information. The Wristbands subcommittee is no longer responsible for sending out the LOI.

The group also decided to place a phone call to every new Elder. Katie will take this on, answering questions and making sure their contact info is correct. After the call, Katie will send them a copy of the FAQ.

Katie would like to update the FAQ. The new Elders Application is currently on the OCF .net site, under "Applications and Forms". There is also a link to the Elders Application on the .net site's Elders Committee page. Send input to Katie. We need to get a copy of that application on the Elders Website.

Lisa had several questions concerning Elder Status, and Katie asked her to email the questions directly.

When asked how early banding went, Katie said it went very smoothly.

There was a discussion on the advantages of reaching out to new Elders to get them enrolled in activities, confirm we have correct contact information, and making sure they understand how the pass system works for Elders.

The new Elders Application has two pages. There's a question, "would you like to volunteer for elders? List skills..." Kay suggested that we inform new elders on the areas where we have volunteer opportunities. Peggy volunteered to print certificates.

Kay suggested forming a subcommittee that outreaches to new elders. We could also hold an event to educate new Elders, like an orientation or jobs fair.

Annemarie and Katie agreed that applicants who indicate a willingness to volunteer can be handed off to the Elder Volunteer subcommittee.

Remedios – Suggested a Zoom meeting if we are going to have an orientation for new Elders.

There was a general agreement about phoning new elders to get them oriented. Bring back the Elders Certificate!

Jenny – For the next zoom meeting, we (Jenny and Roberta) have about 40 new Elders vetted. During the meeting with Nancy and Katie, it was suggested that Jenny and Roberta meet with a quorum of committee members in person so they can read the applications and pre-approve. Mouseman would like to reconvene in-person.

Ann appreciates the opportunity to meet to read the applications and pre-approve them.

Budget - Nancy

We maxed out our budget for this year. Our 2024 budget request is due Oct. 31st. We need to get numbers together. We have no money left this year. We have \$50 already budgeted for Spirit Walk, and \$50 budgeted for the Holiday party. Nancy would like numbers submitted by 10/15 so she can prepare the budget to meet the 10/31 deadline.

Molly – Our Events subcommittee members take food seriously. We try to make it as organic as possible. Many of us throw in our own money.

Paxton – This year the Fair did not meet its budget goal. ~~We are several 100??? short.~~ That will impact budget requests for 2024. Paxton recommended that we keep any budget increase below \$1K.

Shower issues at the Hub - Annemarie

- Annemarie reported that the OCF Shower Crew thinks Elders should clean showers that everyone has been using pre-Fair before the showers are turned over to the OCF Shower Crew on Thursday.
- Annemarie asked if someone is well connected with the shower crew and do some advocacy for Elders. The Shower Crew cleans the showers near the Hub during the Fair. It seems odd that the shower crew thinks that the Elders should clean up the showers after Main Camp folks have been the primary users.
- Diane - All the other showers at the fair are clean and new when the shower crew comes on to shift on Thursday evening.
- Sandra suggested that this needs to be discussed with Main Camp. Sandra said she would be willing to network with some folks about this.
- Jon P. said that typically main camp pressure washes the shower. He suggested that someone talk to Main Camp about getting the showers cleaned.
- Rita offered to contact Main Camp/ QM about the Hub Shower situation. Paxton said it is QM who needs to step up on the Hub Shower situation.

Elder Central Teen Crew helpers at Elder Camp – Annemarie

Peggy originally brought on Teen Crews to help. Annemarie would like to have someone volunteer to supervise Teen Helpers at Elder Camp. Annemarie does not want to do this. She is already super busy with other things at Elder Camp.

Safety issues - Annemarie

- Eric from crew services came up to Annemarie and Larry Wednesday before Fair to report that a young woman complained that she was groped by a man who claimed to be an elder. She reported that the Elder told her he has attended the Fair since the second year of the Fair.
- Paxton said this should be reported to our BUM. Our BUM is Patty. Jon P. said that if you cannot get your BUM right away, it gets reported to Security.
- Remedios – Remind our community that if folks experience a situation that is untoward, they should do everything possible to document the situation – to report asap. It's difficult to go back later after an accusation has been made without documentation.
- Sandra – It might be appropriate right now to make a statement about unwanted touching and consent. Encourage people in the moment to deal with a situation. The Fair does have a process for dealing with these kinds of things. Annemarie believes that Eric (with Crew Services) filed a report.
- Paxton believes that the fair is working with CEDAR to develop a process. Also, Kirsten will start doing some sensitivity training sessions.

The meeting adjourned promptly at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Gsell