

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Approved at the 01/25/24 meeting

DATE: Thursday, November 30, 2023

LOCATION: Online

MEETING TIME: 7 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Albino, Ann Bennett-Rogers, Jain Elliott, Nancy Hafner, Heather Kent, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Eric Nicholson, Michael James Long

BOARD LIAISONS PRESENT: Kevin Levy, Jon Steinhart

OTHERS PRESENT: Roberta Austin, Chewie Burgess, Darlene Colborn (facilitator), Katie Cousins, Peggy Day, Jain Elliott, Kehn “mambo” Gibson, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Chris Harrison, Percy Hilo, Annemarie Hirsch, Paxton Hoag, David “Village David” Hoffman, Kay Kintzley, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Jenny Wilson

All committee members were present; thus, a quorum was established.

Agenda

- Announcements
- Approve October minutes.
- New Elder Applications (10) – Jenny & Roberta
- Events Subcommittee Report - Elders Holiday Party, etc. - Kay
- Elder Volunteers subcommittee update – Annemarie (tabled to January Meeting)
- Wristband Logistics update – Jon St.

Announcements:

- There are fundraisers set up for Spirit and Byron, and their granddaughter Naomi. Their daughter died from a mental illness and over-medicating herself. Click here for the [GO FUND ME link](#). There is also a silent auction at Crazy Al’s Bar & Grill in Veneta on Saturday, Dec. 2. Click [HERE](#) for more info.
- Paxton – A new set of videos has been uploaded that can be accessed on the home page of the .net site. Click on the TV icon. The video runs on YouTube and is a constant stream of a variety of videos (you cannot select an individual video). There are elder interviews, musical numbers performed at the Fair, and much more. The first half of the Sugar Beets set from Teddy Bear Picnic is also included.
- Kay’s acceptance to the Elders Committee will be approved at the DEC 4 board mtg.
- Carolyn has not yet published the list of names read out for the Spirit Walk although Lisa C. already provided all the information. She plans to get this done sometime next week.

Approve October 2023 minutes.

Kevin made the motion to approve the minutes, Diane seconded it. passed 7-0 with two abstentions. Ann Rogers and Michael James Long abstained as they were not present at the October meeting.

Upcoming - Elders Holiday Party, etc. – Kay

The Spirit Walk was a great success. Because some folks couldn’t walk down to Main Stage, next year we will hold the bell ringing at Alice’s. Having the venue at Alices work out very well, and given the deteriorating condition of the yurt, going forward we will reserve Alice’s for this event.

We also need to set a date for the June 2024 meeting. Kay is proposing the 3rd Thursday in June and would like to host it again.

At the Nov. meeting we talked about fundraising for the events, given we no longer have sufficient funds, nor do we have in-person meetings that allow us to pass the hat. At the Oct. meeting we discussed various ways to raise funds. At the Dec. 16 holiday party, we will have a bountiful holiday basket for a raffle. Tickets are \$5 each and the basket will include over \$200 worth of items. Money will go towards the Meet and Greet budget.

Holiday Party: Washington Park Community Center (Jeferson and Washington St.) Saturday, December 16, 2 – 5 p.m.

Come early to decorate. Stay late to clean up.

Percy mentioned his experience with the Zoom at the party. He suggested that we not bother with the zoom unless there can be a real connection.

Paxton is willing to bring his camera equipment. Darlene suggested that we have a 1-hour window for Zooming in. Once Nancy confirms the exact times for the rental, we will nail down a specific time for the Zoom call.

Per info at the October Meeting, the space is reserved from 1 – 6 p.m. No alcohol is to be served at this event. It is not in the contract.

BRING: Savory and sweet Finger Foods.

Peggy would like to have the Zoom set up given she will be in Texas at that time.

The suggestion was made to contact Dean Middleton for tech assistance at the party.

New vetted Elder applications for approval (10 total) – Jenny & Roberta

The committee and friends of the committee received an advance list of the vetted applicants, along with the criteria that qualifies them to become elders.

- Jeya Aerenon, age 57, 28 years total.
- Edward Martin Chilla III, age 55. 21 years total.
- Moira McKenna, age 55. 21 years total.
- Jill Nishball, age 63, 21 years total.
- Jill Schwimmer, age 75, 22 yeas total.
- Ian Stoy, age 57, 23 years total.
- Mike Barkhuff, Age 74, otal 23 years.
- Luis Valls. Age 66, 28 years verified.
- Christian Watchie, age 59. Total 26 years.
- Tyler Riopelle, Age 57, 30+ years verified. (He has worked at fair at least 50 years)

Diane and Annemarie left the meeting by 7:38 p.m. Both were not feeling well. Diane reported via the chat that she broke her leg on November 19.

Michael James Long moved to approve the 10 vetted applicants. Nancy seconded.

A request was made to have a discussion before the final vote. There was a brief discussion.

The motion passed 8 – 0 (Diane left the meeting prior to the vote; Kevin Levy voted on the motion).

There was a bit of confusion about when Liaisons should vote. There was a question – do liaisons vote only when there is lack of a quorum, or can they vote whenever they wish.

Per Ann, it is in the bylaws that board liaisons can vote. Has the committee for best practices working group weighed in on this? Ann said that she has been through this before. Ann will send the section of the Bylaws that spells out the conditions for liaisons voting on committee motions so that they can be included in the minutes. This subject will go on the agenda for the January meeting if not resolved. Someone chimed in that this information is not in the bylaws.

A request was made to have the scribe include the Elder Eligibility motion that was approved by the board at the September 2023 board meeting. The motion will be included at the end of the minutes.

Elder Volunteers Subcommittee News - Annemarie **TABLED** (Annemarie had to leave the meeting early)

Wristband Logistics update – Jon Steinhart

A new staffing management system to handle wristbands is being rolled out by the Fair. The old system can't handle the large number of people. Going forward, the Fair will need a date of birth for each person receiving a wristband. The DOB is especially helpful to differentiate members with the same names.

Jon's crew and the inventory crew will be super busy this year. There won't be much time for personal attention if people aren't getting with the program. It's important to communicate questions early in the process. The biggest change affecting everybody is that the Fair is going to take money online. People can still pay cash if they wish to. Elders may want to think about policy. The system would allow any Elder to pay for a pass without going through any formalities with Elders. The issue is limited resources (meaning total number of companion passes (and vehicle stickers available to Elders). The "Companion" passes will now be called S.O. passes.

Unless Elders come up with a different policy, getting passes will be first come, first serve. The place where this will be especially challenging is for vehicle stickers. With the new system and the "first come, first serve" scenario, Jon recommended that Elders may want to think about how to manage this. The new system will change a lot of Fair behavior. It will no longer be necessary for the Wristband Subcommittee to collect money for all passes. It will all go through the new system.

Per Jon St., Elders are allowed 75% of total issued Elder wristbands to be companion (now called S.O.) passes. So until the total number sold Elder Wristbands is known, it is impossible to know how many companion passes will be available. One way to at least get things moving would be to make a limited number of companion passes available, and then make additional S.O. passes available as more Elder Wristband passes are sold. Jon emphasized that Elders should determine how to manage the S.O. passes and the vehicle stickers.

Jon's SLOGAN for this year is, "Have policies that work rather than policies that get worked around."

When will updated information about the new wristband and vehicle sticker purchasing procedures be established? The Wristband Subcommittee would like to know so they can communicate with Elders. The Fair is hoping to "turn on" this system sometime in January. He could not give a timeline of when Nancy would be given more specific information that could be shared with Elders.

Jon expects that he will know by early February whether the new system will be implemented for 2024. In the long run, this should be much less work for the Wristband Subcommittee. Bottom line, Nancy wants to communicate with Elders what the exact logistics will be – how to work with snail mailers, non-emailers etc.

If a person wants to pay by cash or check, they will be able to do that. The coordinator will have the ability to collect cash and checks. Eventually each member of the Fair will have an account. They will be able to keep their contact info updated. It will be up to the individual to do this. The payment system will be designed so that anyone with a cell phone can make their transaction.

Will PayPal be accepted? Probably yes. PayPal purchased Venmo. Venmo is used by younger people, so most likely these two platforms for payment will be accepted. Payment platforms have not been finalized.

While a budget for 2024 has been presented, the board will meet on Jan. 29 to approve the budget. So until then, we don't have firm price passing (*a link to the proposed budget is here [BOARD BUDGET MOTION](#)*).

A request was made for board members to really understand the ramifications of all these changes, and how important it will be to communicate. Jon pointed out that the downside of using online payment apps is that there is a fee associated with each transaction. On the flip side, because the membership is so large, the use of online payments will be much more secure, compared to coordinators carrying around large amounts of cash and checks, which makes a coordinator susceptible to theft and loss

Jon doesn't think we will need a pass request form with the new system. What will be most important for Elders is to come up with preferred processes and policies for SOP's (companion passes) and Vehicle stickers, bring that information to Jon St., and he will figure out a way to meet Elders' criteria.

Nancy reiterated her concern about the ability to communicate with Elders. Jon St. thinks that he should have the information Nancy needs in the first part of January.

Meeting wrap-up – Evaluation

Ann would like to try to arrange for an Elders Committee hybrid meeting in January. She would like some help from someone else on the committee, or anyone who regularly attends our committee meetings. The in-person portion of the meeting would take place at the Fair office.

There was a reminder and encouragement to support Spirit and Byron.

It was noted that putting on a good hybrid meeting is hard, in that there are a lot of things to take into consideration that aren't a problem will all Zoom or all in-person meetings.

There was a late announcement about the shocking news that Amy Erenberger passed away a few weeks ago.

It was pointed out that we can save a lot of time approving the minutes by asking if anybody objects. Same for approving the elder applications. If there is not a lot of questioning about the applicants, asking if anyone objects rather than asking for everyone to approve.

There was a request and a reminder to send comments about hybrid meetings to Ann. Here email is ann2ocf@stoneromance.net.

Jon St. pointed out that with the new membership software, after the next fair, we may be able to collect work history through the membership database (as opposed to calling various coordinators to verify participation).

There was a mention of committee members missing the reading of vetted applications at the in-person meetings. It was also expressed that, to save meeting time, we should only read the most basic information about each applicant at the meeting. All the details for the vetted applicants are spelled out in a document that is sent in advance of the meeting.

The meeting ended shortly before 9 p.m.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PASSED:

- October meeting minutes passed.
- 10 new Elder applications approved.

HOMEWORK:

- Nancy to confirm specific hours of Washington Park rental – Nancy.
- Find volunteer to update EC decision log – Carolyn.
- Donate old Peach Pits to Elder Applications subcommittee, attn. Jenny or Roberta – Everyone
- Publish list of Spirit Walk names on ECOCF and Wonderful Elders Listservs – Carolyn
- Place Holiday Party announcement inf Dec. FFN – Carolyn
- Arrange for Zoom presence at Holiday Party & designate specific hour – Paxton, Carolyn
- Announce holiday party via ECOCF and Wonderful Elders Listserv. Add info to .net site calendar – Carolyn/Annemarie
- Ann to provide section of bylaws that addresses liaisons voting on committees – Ann
- Send feedback to Ann (ann2ocf@stoneromance.net) regarding hybrid meetings - Everybody

PARKING LOT:

Add to Jan. agenda: Confirm date for June in-person committee meeting.
Elders Volunteers Committee Report from Annemarie

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Gsell

ADDENDUMS:

From Ann – the information about Liaisons voting at committee meetings was not included in the bylaws. It was in a motion passed at the December 2011 board meeting. The motion is as follows:

Indigo moved, Bear seconded, the following understandings and agreements are clarified and established for Board Committee Liaisons: After each Board election cycle, the Board shall appoint Board members as committee liaisons to committees. Liaisons shall serve for one year and may be reappointed so long as they continue to serve as a Board member. Liaisons serve as important communication links between the Board and committees. In order to aid policy deliberations,

liaisons can share information between the Board and committees. A liaison cannot make decisions on either the Board's or a committee's behalf. Rules of confidentiality apply to any confidential information the liaison shares. It is the liaison's responsibility to inform their respective committees of Board processes and how to present issues and proposals to the Board. Liaisons will endeavor to ensure that their respective committee fulfills its reporting responsibilities to the Board. In general, liaisons will sponsor any motions coming out of their respective committee's work. A liaison has voting rights on a committee while they are an active liaison. If there is a desire to continue as a voting member of a committee after the liaison role ends, a letter of interest requesting appointment to that committee is to be submitted to the Board. After discussion the motion passed 10-0. This motion is not about control but about clarity and the role of a liaison with a committee (Indigo).

Elder Eligibility Motion passed at the September 11, 2023 Board Meeting:

The motion to approve the Elders Eligibility Work Group recommendation for the process for raising the Elders eligibility to age 60 as amended: We recommend a 10-year plan that would gradually increase age eligibility every two years, over a 10-year period. If implemented now, an applicant would need to be at least 56 years of age for the 2025 and 2026 Fairs. They would need to be 57 years of age for the 2027 and 2028 fairs, 58 years of age for the 2029 and 2030 fairs, and 59 years of age for the 2031 and 2032 fairs and 60 years of age from 2033 and after. No one is delayed longer than one year till age 60 is reached. Potential Elders with health issues that interfere with their ability to perform their volunteer duties from 55 to 59 years of age would be eligible for the Compassion Pass program managed by the ED. The passes would be paid for at the same rate as the Elders passes. There would be a yearly application for Compassion Passes and they are eligible until the age of 59 as long as they cannot perform their volunteer duties. A Compassion Pass would count as part of the 20 years needed to become an Elder. Medical records or doctor referrals are not required. The motion passed as amended: 10-0.