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FAIR FAMILY CALENDAR

MARCH

- 4 Board of Directors Meeting, 7 pm
- 6 Fair Family News Deadline

APRIL

- 1 Board of Directors Meeting, 7 pm
- 3 Fair Family News Deadline

For additional events see:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/events/>

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KEEP IN TOUCH

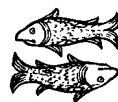
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(541) 343-4298

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OREGONCOUNTRYFAIR.ORG (EVENT INFO)

OREGONCOUNTRYFAIR.NET (BUSINESS SITE)



Happy Birthday Pisces



Here's a shout out to all our great Fair family members! Every one of you deserves recognition for your hard work for the Fair!

Get on the FFN and/or Voting Membership List

Tell us your name and your email address to be notified of the online version of the newsletter; your crew or booth number; name of your leader or booth rep; name of person who can verify your participation, and your mailing address if applying for membership.

Mail to: OCF, Membership/Mailing,
442 Lawrence Street, Eugene, 97401.

Or Email to: info@oregoncountryfair.org



FFN S.W.A.K.

Brad "Buss" Lerch
Trisha "Snog" Burbaum
Daniel "Smootch" Cohn
norma "french kiss" sax
Suzi "Pucker Up" Prozanski
Michael "Peck" Ottenhausen
Kim "Rubbing Noses" Griggs
Mary "Make Out" Doyon
Alex "Air Kiss" Zabala
Vanessa "Smack" Roy



FAMILY LETTERS

This newsletter is for the Oregon Country Fair Family and all material is volunteered from the membership.

Opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Fair or the FFN.

Letters must be limited to 300 words. They will be edited for length and clarity. Please include name, Fair Affiliation and a method of communication (i.e. phone number or e-mail).



Sound at the Fair

Dear Fair Family,

I wrote a letter to the FFN a couple months ago. This is such an important issue and I've been talking to a lot of people and would like to clarify: Digital recorded music is a problem because digital recorded music and tiny speakers are so commonplace. They are great, but not everywhere all over at the Fair.

We have many stages and entertainers who dream and work hard, going through an application process and so much more to perform at the Fair. Recorded music drowns out the Fair family, and the public who come to play

together with other live musicians. Live music is the history and culture of the Fair. It's part of what makes the Fair unique.

The Board, management and Fair volunteers are working on how to resolve the ongoing issues with amplified sound.

Here's what I think so far: **Priority should be given to stages and live musicians.**

In the best scenario, amplified music, both live and digital, should have a sound permit and a community/neighborhood agreement.

Because it is complicated, we should have more outreach and awareness around the issue of amplified sound. There could be little messages in outgoing emails to crews and staff, reminders of the simple basics. The amplified sound guidelines could be posted at crew check-in, at booth registration, anywhere Fair family stands in line. And it's not just Fair family — guests and the public also bring in portable digital sound units.

It's going to take a village knowing what the guidelines are and to follow them, like we did with glow-sticks.

If we all remind each other, maybe we can hear the birds and give our live musicians, including some of our children, a chance to play.

[Laura Stuart](#)

[Co-Co of Spoken Word](#)



Photo © 2023 Imagerium



Fair Thee Well: Edward Ross “Doc Ross” Schwartz

The White Bird crew is heartbroken to announce that Doc Ross has joined our Fair Family Beloved after losing his struggle with bipolar disorder. Dr. Ross Schwarz has been a volunteer physician with White Bird Rockmed for 21 years, as well as White Bird Medical Clinic in town. He was a brilliant combination of good medicine and great silliness.

He raised his kids at the Fair and was deeply devoted to being part of the Fair family. His kids, Finn and Ellis, have precious memories of him making sure to find the dragon at night, wandering the paths, eating artichokes and waffles, and of him lighting up camp waving a flashlight so the kids could have a dance party.

His wife, Tamara, remembers him making sure to find all the magic in the Fair, adding his stepchildren through their marriage to this. They had visions of a mellower camp at Far Side as he maybe tried to not work so hard.

We all on White Bird crew remember him as one of our favorite docs — he would always bring Fair enthusiasm to his shifts. In true White Bird form, he signed his communications with “Until the Revolution.” At the medical clinic in town, he served our marginalized community with compassion. He was proud of all the right things — his kids, family, and his community.

As we grieve this loss, in his honor, please check in with each other. Please open your circles to make more room because it is community that keeps us strong and safe.

Here’s his formal obituary with more about his life:

Dr. Edward Ross Schwarz passed away on January 19, 2024, after a long struggle with bipolar disorder.

Born November 30, 1971, to Sally and Burt Schwarz in Louisville, Kentucky, Ross is survived by his wife, Tamara Hughes Schwarz; children Ellis Schwarz, Finn Schwarz, Gavin Hughes and Alayna Hughes; parents Burt and Sally Schwarz; and sisters Tina Schnapper (Marc) and Beth Kastner (Patrick).

Ross grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, attending Parkway South High School where he excelled academically and played drums in the marching band. Ross was an



© 2007, Heidi Schultz

Eagle Scout, which fostered a lifelong love of camping and the outdoors. During high school, you could often find Ross speeding around town in his beloved “Betsy,” a 1954 Chevy gifted to him by his grandfather.

A lover of all things related to space and sci-fi, Ross was a man of science from an early age. He followed his passion first into a biology degree from the University of Illinois and next into a degree from the Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University of Chicago. After completing his residency in Chicago, Ross moved to Eugene, Oregon, in 2001 to begin his medical practice.

A treasured physician who touched countless lives in his community, Ross practiced as a hospitalist and primary care physician with the Oregon Medical Group, where he gained a reputation as an intelligent, compassionate caregiver among his patients. Ross volunteered at the White Bird Clinic, which provides primary health care services for at-risk populations. He also volunteered at his beloved Oregon Country Fair, where he was sure to be found enjoying his summer days every year.

Ross especially enjoyed spending time with his wife and family at their home on the Oregon coast, which he often described as their “happy place.” Ross loved travel in general. His favorite adventures included trips to Alaska with Tamara and camping with his children. He admitted to being a “sucker for sunsets” and was passionate about astronomy, which was evident to all who followed his social media accounts. Ross is also remembered for his green thumb as he lovingly cared for his many plants.

At his best, Ross was a devoted father, husband and friend. He will be greatly missed by all who loved him. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Transponder (www.transponder.community), The Trevor Project (www.thetrevorproject.org) or the White Bird Clinic (www.whitebirdclinic.org).

A celebration of life will be held from 2 pm to 5 pm March 3 at the McDonald Theater in Eugene. If interested in speaking at the event to share your memories of Ross, please contact his sister Tina Schnapper at tschnapper12@gmail.com.

In OZ Dorothy clicks her heels and finds herself transported back home in Kansas. Though the Fair is more magical than OZ with more crafts, food, and entertainment, if fewer monkeys, Fair Family can't click their Birkenstocks, sandals or boots and return home after a great day at our annual celebration.

BUT, we can take the LATE NIGHT TRIPS bus after the sweep for a comfortable ride back to Eugene to sleep in our own beds.

Watch this space for more information about how easy it is to register, ride and relax on the "mellow quick" road back to Eugene.





Oregon Country Fair Announces 2024 Endowment Fund Recipients

by Linda Reymers, Bill Wooten Endowment Fund

The Oregon Country Fair's Bill Wooten Endowment Fund has awarded a total of \$20,000 in grants in 2024 to nonprofit organizations serving youth in the Fair's neighboring Fern Ridge area. This funding tangibly represents the Fair's deep appreciation of our home community. Endowment Fund supported projects reflect the Fair's commitment to the arts, education, cultural diversity, peace, community building and the environment.

- **Culture Jam**

Fern Ridge youth will receive scholarships to attend the eight-day arts-based Culture Jam empowerment camp for teenagers held each summer at the Fair site. The camp helps each youth discover their talents in a supportive environment.

- **Elmira Elementary School**

Their "Shake A Leg Dance Project" will allow all K-5 students to learn about and practice different types of dance from a professional dancer/teacher. Students will explore moving with intention and staying connected to their bodies, and will have the opportunity to take risks and try new things.

- **Lane Arts Council**

For a reading/arts collaboration with the Fern Ridge Public Library consisting of three free workshops focusing on the intersection of science and art. The program will engage students' creativity in their learning, connect more families to the summer reading program, deepen participants' understanding of ecology and conservation, and provide high-quality arts experiences to children.

- **Rural Arts Center**

The Crow-Applegate-Lorane School District depends on the Center to provide after school multi-cultural art instruction on shortened school days — which is espe-

cially valuable for elementary students who have no art teacher at their school. Older students will develop playing skills and socialize at the Center's Ukulele Club.

- **SMART – Start Making A Reader Today**

Community volunteers will be trained and supported in helping students at Elmira and Veneta Elementary Schools develop a love of reading, with books representing diverse identities. Teachers with participating students consistently report increased reading engagement, enjoyment and confidence, which are all closely linked to overall literacy success.

- **Veneta Elementary School**

For "Bend It, Build It, Be Creative with Wire Sculpture," in which students will create an animal or human inspired sculpture. Children will learn about anatomy, 3D design, and basic color theory, as well as how to use proportions, construct a frame, and a build a body around the frame. Students will employ problem solving, fine motor skills, dexterity, and hand-eye coordination.

- **Wordcrafters**

This collaborative project with Elmira High School will provide an arts residency focusing on creative writing/spoken word performance. Teachers welcome Wordcrafters' residencies for their ability to engage students and enlarge their writing experience and skills – skills that help build school success.

The annual **Leslie Scott Imagine Grant Award** is given to the funded project that best represents former OCF General Manager Leslie Scott's contributions to the Fair, which include providing opportunities for youth, reaching out to our neighbors, and nurturing creativity. This year's awardee is **Elmira Elementary School**.



Jill Heiman Vision Fund Seeks Grant Proposals

The Oregon Country Fair's Jill Heiman Vision Fund is accepting proposals from area nonprofit organizations for grants related to Environment and Sustainability for the 2024 grant cycle. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2024. Funds will be available in the autumn of 2024.

The fund comes from generous donations made by the thousands of Oregon Country Fair participants who make the Fair possible. The Board of Directors matches these donations with a portion of the Fair's revenue.

The fund honors the memory of Jill Heiman, the Oregon Country Fair's founding attorney. Although she passed away in 1991, the Oregon Country Fair remembers Jill's vision for philanthropy and the positive impact our organization can have on our community.

For more information go to: <https://www.oregoncountryfair.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/JH-VF-RFP-2024.pdf>



UNDERWRITERS

Recently Unclassified Material

We accept UnClassifieds up to 30 words for \$5 each, per issue. Send listing with \$5 to O.C.F.-F.F.N. 442 Lawrence St. Eugene, OR 97401. For questions, information about display underwriting and to submit listings, Email: ffnunderwriting@gmail.com

Coast springtime camping / Elder needs help and company pulling ivy and spring clean up. No texts. Call mornings / evenings. Charlie T. 541-547-4129

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2/16 - WOW Hall Sweetheart Dance
2/17 - DeVotchKa: A Valentine's Celebration
2/20 - Trousdale with Abbey Cone
2/23 - Bhangra Fundraiser w/ Anjali & the Kid
2/24 - Kalan.FrFr
3/1 - Sleepytime Gorilla Museum with special guests Kayo Dot and Todd Sickafoose's CITAOS
3/2 - Tommy Castro & The Painkillers w/ Ben Rice
3/3 - Rhododendron w/ Swing, Confluence, Senza
3/5 - Coco Montoya 3/6 - Mount Eerie
3/7 - ZOSO: The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience
3/9 - MAOLI - with Special Guest MISHKA



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Proposed Elections Bylaw Changes

by Stephen Diercouff, Secretary of the Oregon Country Fair

The joint Bylaws/Elections committee is working on several Bylaws changes intended to improve our elections process. There is a working draft of the proposed changes posted on the oregoncountryfair.net website. The Board asked the joint committee to address six specific issues, and I'd like to explain here why these changes are being considered.

1. Changing the method of selection of Directors to election by direct ballot.

Currently our Bylaws are written to reflect how we chose our Directors in the early years of the Fair — we would hold an in-person Annual Meeting of the membership, where the members would elect their new Directors. Members may appoint the Membership Secretary as their proxy and cast a ballot for them if they cannot attend the meeting in person. The reality today is that all ballots are cast by proxy. The Elections Committee did not issue a single ballot to a member at this past fall's annual meeting. Only a half dozen or so ballots were cast at the meeting. All the rest were mailed in or delivered to the office.

To reflect what we actually do, we need to change our method of choosing Directors from election at the annual meeting to election by direct ballot. We would still have the Annual Meeting of the members, and would still introduce the candidates at that meeting, but the actual election would be by direct ballot, with a ballot deadline after the annual meeting. This later deadline gives folks who do not attend the Annual Meeting time to cast their ballots if they wish to hear the candidate statements given at the meeting before making their decision. Members would still have the opportunity to cast their ballots at the Annual Meeting, and would still be able to cast ballots by proxy.

This change is also necessary change should we decide in the future to move to online voting.

2. Establishing a minimum age for OCF membership.

Currently our Bylaws state that anyone who receives a wristband is eligible to be a voting member. An age requirement to receive a wristband is not part of our Bylaws. Our proposal would stipulate a minimum age for voting membership eligibility that is not tied to the wristband age. It's important that it be a part of the Bylaws, in case the wristband age is

changed significantly, or if we stop using wristbands.

3. Clarifying the election certification process and the effective beginning of terms of newly elected Directors.

We have a tradition going back to the early days of the Board where at the first Board meeting after an election the old Board would approve the minutes of the previous meeting, certify the election, and then seat the new Directors. When the Board was meeting in person, the outgoing Directors would actually walk away from the table and the new Directors would take their seats at this point.

Our Articles of Incorporation and our Bylaws are silent on when the term of office begins, and because of this, technically the term of office begins when the ballots are due at an election. We need a Bylaw that specifies when the term of office actually begins.

4. Changing the voting participation requirement to count voting in any election vs. only the annual election as fulfilling the requirement,

Currently our Bylaws require members to vote in at least one of the previous three annual elections to retain their membership status. We had a Removal Action by Direct Ballot last year, which was an election, and several members voted in that action who had not voted in the previous three annual elections. Those members had to be purged from the voting roll for this past fall's annual election. They were all offered the opportunity to reapply for voting membership, and several did, but changing the Bylaw would allow voting in ANY election to count as participation, not just the annual election.

5. Changing the petition signature requirement from a hard number to a percentage of members voting in the last election.

We changed the Bylaw to require 100 signatures on an advisory or removal petition a couple years ago. That was a good thing — the old requirement was 25, and was set when our membership was much smaller. Having a hard number embedded in the Bylaws does not allow for any flexibility as the number of voting members changes. We propose basing the signature requirement on a percentage of members who voted at the last annual election, keeping 100 as the minimum

number. This way, if the voting membership grows, we would not have to change the Bylaws again to reflect that larger number.

6. Setting a time limit to submit the required number of signatures for a petition.

Currently, there are no limits to the signature gathering process for a petition. A petitioner could submit signatures, not reach the threshold of valid signatures, and submit supplementary petitions for an unlimited time period. We would like to put some constraints on that — perhaps limit the number of submissions, or limit the amount of time between the first submission and the last one. The joint committee decided that this was more a Policy issue than a Bylaw issue, and will recommend that the Board send this issue to the Elec-

tions Committee for further consideration.

Please feel free to contact me or the committee at elections@oregoncountryfair.org if you have any questions about any of the proposed changes. We'll keep the draft working document up to date as we clarify the proposed language.

The next meeting of the joint Bylaws/Elections committee will be held on Monday, February 26, from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. There will be a Board Work Session on Monday, March 18, from 7 pm to 9 pm to discuss the proposed Bylaws changes. The membership are invited to attend both meetings.

Thank you.





Board of Directors Budget Meeting

January 29, 2024, 7 pm

(Subject to approval by the Board at the February 2024 Board meeting)

Zoom remote online and live streamed on YouTube

YouTube recording link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9V9wo9G_pp8

Board Directors present: Anthony “AJ” Jackson, (President), Sandra Bauer, George Braddock, Paxton Hoag, Tom Horn, Kevin Levy, Arna Shaw (Vice President), Sue Theolass, Lisa Parker, Jon Steinhart and Teresa Vaughn. Absent Board Members: John Alexander. Other Officers present: Hilary Anthony (Treasurer), and Stephen Diercouff (Secretary). Staff present: Kirsten Bolton (Executive Director), Mark Malaska (Co-Event Manager), Alexis Maddock (Site and Facilities Manager), Vanessa Roy (Marketing Manager), Norma Sax (Office Manager), Alex Zabala (Office Assistant), Sunny Arthurs (Assistant Event Manager), Steven Berkson and Anna DiBenedetto (Board Scribe).

The meeting was facilitated by Steven Berkson.

Announcements

Arna: Committee annual reports are due March 15.

Stephen: Just want to let members know that the two new Committees are beginning their work. Meeting dates, Zoom links, and documents are posted on the .net site.

Agenda Review

The Board approved the January 29 Board Budget agenda. The motion passed: 11-0.

Committee and Working Group Reports

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

Budget Committee met on October 4, 2023, and here are the minutes:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/Budget-Committee-Minutes-Oct-4-2023.pdf>

Budget Committee met on November 29, 2023, and here are the minutes:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/Budget-Committee-Minutes-Nov-29-2023.pdf>

Budget Committee met on December 6, 2023, and here are the minutes:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/Budget-Committee-Minutes-December-6-2023.pdf>

Budget Committee met on December 11, 2023, and here are the minutes:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/Budget-Committee-Minutes-December-11-2023.pdf>

Budget Committee met on December 13, 2023, and here are the minutes:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/Budget-Committee-Minutes-December-13-2023.pdf>

Budget Committee met on January 3, 2024, and here are the minutes:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/Budget-Committee-Minutes-Jan-3-2024.pdf>

Budget Committee met on January 10, 2024, and here are the minutes:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/Budget-Committee-Minutes-Jan-10-2024.pdf>

Treasurers' Report/Budget Items

(YouTube video: 0:05:38)

Hilary: Thanks staff and Budget Committee members and attendees and all their efforts and time. It went smoothly, despite difficult choices to make. Stuck with initial agreements. Presented what they had to Coordinators last month and took notes, part of notes being returning to old process of returning to Coordinators if their full requests are not accepted, before this meeting.

Tonight, we ask you to vote on the Operating Budgets. Capital Budgets will come later. Groupings include revenue projection, which is up about \$400,000 in 2023 due to fee increases and changes to way advanced sale tickets will be done. Bulk of revenue increase is being absorbed by contracts that increased a lot last year (toilets and buses). Mostly the net income (or excess revenue in nonprofit world) is similar to last year. We should be OK even if we don't meet higher sales.

We kept capacity limit fairly similar to last year. Board can find that on Capacity reports; keeping overall people on property similar to number budgeted for last year. Budget numbers are consistently higher than actuals when it comes to internal population (don't sell all SOs, etc.) Seeing a trend from 2023 into 2024 away from comp day passes, teen passes and trade passes into crew and SOs but kept overall pass numbers the same. Budgeted numbers are less than 2,000 higher than 2018. We are almost 5,000 below 2019 — a really big year. We are experiencing the friction of being more cautious about adding more passes. Some crews removed trades and added crews, but we will have to continue to discuss if we are managing growth.

2024 Budget – motions (George Braddock & Sandra Bauer)

Board Budget - \$97,700

Sandra moved and Paxton seconded to approve the 2024 Board Budget in the amount of \$97,700.

Member Input:

Hilary: Budget Committee recommends increase to Endowment giving. Consistent disbursements from principal have been received. Suggests increasing from \$15,000 to \$20,000, which is less than we are getting each year. Task force is working on details of Board giving requirement, if it is to be reinstated.

Board Discussion:

Lisa: Reviewing this budget compared to 2023, noticed change from last year of \$13,900. Asked Hilary to summarize overall change. For instance, Spring Fling and other things have gone up. Why is that?

Hilary: Less consulting in here. Change line item is lower than it is sometimes. Less spending on retreats and meetings, but philanthropy and annual meeting is being restored as Hybrid with in-person component. Biggest changes are return of in-person meetings and endowment going up.

AJ: When we were considering the previous budget, the Board had input on what they wanted to see that year. Strategic planning was requested, so that was an additional \$25,000 to last year vs. this year, which was on the low end for that kind of work.

The motion passed: 11-0.

Crew Budget - \$1,103,404

Sandra moved and George seconded to approve the Crew Budget in the amount of \$1,103,404.

Member Input:

Hilary: Increase consists of approximately \$55,000 increase, including 10 percent increase to kitchens and increases to entertainment and teens that turned to crew members. Mostly inflation and re-creating crews. No increase to food vouchers at this point.

Board Discussion:

AJ: Hilary question: Do crews usually use entire budget or is there ever a surplus?

Hilary: Coordinator expenses are often not all spent (25 to 30 percent). All food vouchers are not usually used (approximately \$10,000) and then get converted to Jill Heiman Vision Fund. There are crews that underspend and some that overspend, including Main Camp kitchen. There are patterns and we usually stay under budget but lately there have been exceptional years where we have not stayed in budget, especially pre-Fair crews. Inflation and wood price increases have contributed to strain on budget.

AJ: Is 2023 budget the actual or the requested budget?

Hilary: Budget given to Budget Committee is based on last year's actuals.

Paxton: Appreciates work and presentation of Crew Budgets. Thanks to whole Budget Committee for all the hard work with so many crews.

AJ: Reiterates that as we go through these budget items, questions may be asked without it signifying any lack of appreciation for hard work. It's our job to ask questions; appreciates all.

The motion passed: 11-0.

Culture Jam Budget - \$77,700

George moved and AJ seconded to approve the Culture Jam Budget in the amount of \$77,700.

Member Input:

Hilary: Few items went up and a few went down. We used to rent a kitchen trailer that is no longer in budget. Used to have an employee and now we have a contractor running it.

The motion passed: 11-0.

Office Management Budget - \$71,000

George moved and Arna seconded to approve the Office Management Budget in the amount of \$71,000.

Member Input: None

The motion passed: 11-0.

Site & Facilities Budget - \$642,800

Sandra moved and Sue seconded to approve the Site & Facilities Budget in the amount of \$642,800.

Member Input: None

Board Discussion:

Paxton: Wondering since the ice storm if there is sufficient contingency in the budget?

Hilary: Hasn't assessed the site. Sometimes it's addressed in Capital Projects, which would give Alexis time to assess the site.

Alexis: Wind storm in the forecast, so more trees may still come down.

AJ: Praise the Board for paying attention to each item and having done their homework.

Hilary: This is the budget with big increase to toilets (\$300,000). A couple other items went up a bit. We are trying to consolidate contingency and other random items.

Kirsten: Dust control increased too.

Kevin Levy: Is the porta potty budget set in stone?

Kirsten: Contract is still being negotiated. Basing this number on last year's number, which we expect to be similar.

The motion passed: 11-0.

Event Management Budget - \$566,213

George moved and Sandra seconded to approve the Event Manager Budget in the amount of \$566,213.

Member Input: None

Board Discussion:

Lisa: Only increased by \$140,000, which isn't a lot compared to other increases. Hoping Hilary can tell us where biggest increase came from.

Mark: LTD buses- 2023 had budgeted \$50,000 and bill came in at \$147,000. This year we are budgeting \$110,000 increase. Saw 5 percent increase in cost of rented equipment due to inflation only (forklifts and golf carts). Sheriff contract also increased 10 percent.

The motion passed: 11-0.

General Management Budget - \$1,027,395

Sandra moved and George seconded to approve the General Management Budget in the amount of \$1,027,395.

Member Input: None

The motion passed: 11-0.

Total 2024 Expense Budget: \$3,586,212

Meeting Evaluation

(YouTube video: 0:42:00)

Last round for the good of the peach

Grumpy: Thank you (rest of message was garbled).

Arna: Great budget meeting! People had done homework and didn't ask irrelevant questions! As quick as any budget meeting she's ever seen.

Sandra: Same as Arna. It was a lot of work that Budget Committee and staff did and thanks everyone for all their efforts, making this a good budget season, despite difficult decisions. Thanks, Steven, for well-run meeting!

Kirsten: Thanks Budget Committee for all their hard work, working with staff and crews to come up with today's budget. Thanks to the Board for diligence in approving. Another year we will hope things go well and we make a profit. We haven't made a profit since 2019, so hopefully this is the year we stabilize after the pandemic; feels optimistic. Thanks to the crews that make this event happen and are mindful of the budget.

Next Board Meeting: February 5, 7 pm via Zoom

President's Peace

(YouTube video: 0:46:45)

AJ: Thanks everyone for being here. Shout out to volunteers who show up and have their voices heard at Committee meetings and Board meetings. Shout out to Board for doing their homework. Elephant in the room: It's OK that we have a boring meeting, because that means we are working together. For those missing excitement, there is a Super Bowl coming up. Appreciates everyone.





Board of Directors Meeting

February 5, 2024, 7 pm

(Subject to approval by the Board at the March 2024, Board meeting)

Zoom remote online and live streamed on YouTube

YouTube recording link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qpknf-Gpx9o>

Board Directors present: John Alexander, Anthony “AJ” Jackson (President), Sandra Bauer, Paxton Hoag, Thomas Horn, Kevin Levy, Arna Shaw (Vice President), Sue Theolass, Lisa Parker, George Braddock, Jon Steinhart and Teresa Vaughn. Board Members John Alexander and Lisa Parker were present but had to leave before the meeting ended. Other Board officers present: Hilary Anthony (Treasurer), and Stephen Diercouff (Secretary). Staff present: Kirsten Bolton (Executive Director), Mark Malaska (Co-Event Manager), Alexis Maddock (Site and Facilities Manager), Vanessa Roy (Marketing Manager), Norma Sax (Office Manager), Alex Zabala (Office Assistant), Sunny Arthurs (Assistant Event Manager), Steven Berkson (facilitator) and Anna DiBenedetto (Board Scribe).

The meeting was facilitated by Steven Berkson.

Announcements

Stephen Diercouff: Same as last week: There are two new committees: Rules Committee (meets Feb. 6); and Joint Bylaws and Elections Committees, which has already met and created a draft. All the info is on the oregoncountryfair.net site and membership is invited to participate. February 26 is the next public meeting. There is a Board Work Session on March 18 to discuss proposed Bylaws changes.

Arna: Committee’s annual reports due March 15. Board liaisons should remind committees to finish them. Also, Jill Heiman Vision fund has put out the RFP (requests for proposals), category this year is “environment and sustainability.” It doesn’t need to go to environmental organizations, it can be an organization working on a sustainability *project*. Encourages Lane County nonprofits to apply. Deadline is April 1 and applications are available online at <https://www.oregoncountryfair.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/JHVF-RFP-2024.pdf>

AJ: Great news heard today: Eugene Weekly will be publishing their print edition this week after a hiatus. Please support this community partner.

Jon Steinhart: Is building a new computer system to manage parts of the Fair; he has room on his crew. Please apply if you have software experience.

Minutes Review

(YouTube video: 0:04:30)

The Board approved the Minutes of the January 8, 2024, meeting.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Agenda Review and New Business

(YouTube video: 0:05:31)

Jon Steinhart moved to swap Guidelines changes and Policy Privacy because Privacy Policy might be quicker and can be completed.

The motion passed: 8-4; Lisa, Sue, John Alexander and Teresa opposed.

Kirsten moved to separate Guideline changes #5 and #6 because they are either/or. Guideline changes #7 and #8 are also either/or. Changes #10 and #11 should be separated for same reason. Moved that the Sound Policy be postponed to November 2024 Board meeting, giving more time for Member Input.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Steven Berkson: Guideline changes #5 and #6, #7 and #8 and #10 and #11 will be handled as separate motions.

Separate Amplified Sound Policy (#9) as its own motion.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Arna moved to deal with each remaining Guideline change separately.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

John Alexander moved to move #9 to top of list.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

The amended agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Member Input

(YouTube video: 0:18:18)

Amy Hand: Works for Fern Ridge School District, which is having a community engagement event at Veneta elementary school February 15 from 6 pm to 7:30 pm, and she would love to see a Culture Jam representative come to interact with the families in the district.

Staff Report — Executive Director

(YouTube video: 0:19:30)

Administration:

The 2024 Budget is complete.

Crew budget sheets have been emailed to Coordinators. Included was a link to submit Crew T-shirts sizes and a link to request \$3 food voucher denominations; both are due by February 29. Food vouchers are reported as \$6 increments on the Crew Budget sheets.

The 2024 Capital Improvement Requests were due January 31, 2024.

The Budget Committee will meet three times in February to review requests and set 2024 Capital Improvement spending limit. The Board will approve them at the March 4 Board meeting.

Emerald Ash Borer Response Planning Task Force is in motion: Thirteen volunteers have agreed to participate in the task force. They are coming from: Archaeology, Path Planning, LUMP, Fixed Assets, Fire, Camping, Stewardship, and Community Village. They include expertise in the areas of Forestry Management, Conservation Planning, Arborist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Archaeology, and Structured Decision-Making processes. We anticipate 10 two-hour work sessions and one Board Work Session. Meetings are scheduled for 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on the following dates: February 28, March 13, April 3, April 17, May 1, September 4, September 18, October 2, October 16 and October 30. We are taking a hiatus May-August. We resume in September until a strategic plan is finalized and ready to present to the Board and membership at a Work Session. All meetings are open to the membership and are on the .net site.

A database privacy policy is in the Board packet under Old Business and will be voted on tonight. As previously stated, this is an essential piece of policy; it will enable us to get all data onto the servers in the Eugene office, under one comprehensive database for the first time in OCF history. It will inform members, volunteers, artists, performers and restaurateurs of the data we collect, why we collect it, their rights to privacy and the measures we are taking to protect their personal data.

Event Management:

We are actively working on Contracts and Permits. 2024 Contracts:

1. LTD: Per the Federal Transportation Administration, LTD is required to post the route to "for-profit" companies before they can provide service. If one "for-profit" company submits a quote, LTD cannot provide service. A quote has been received and LTD has declared they will not provide bus service to our event this year. We have contacted the company that provided a general quote and are working on refining it to meet our needs and see if it comes in within our budget. We are working this from several angles and will update the Board as new information becomes available.

2. First Student.

3. Portable Toilets: contacted.

4. Bear Comm: contacted.

5. Lane County Sheriff's Office.

6. Western States Flaggers.

7. Haying: Farside/Winery/Main Site: contacted.

8. City of Veneta: Banner.

9. Dodeca Art Barn: contacted.

10. Ritz Sauna: contract submitted to Board for Potential Conflict of Interest vote in March

11. Whitebird: contacted.

12. Life's Best In Tents: Contract signed.

13. Staff T-shirts: Email went out to Coordinators requesting they submit crew T-shirt sizes via a link by February 29.

14. Commemorative Sales Merchandise.

15. Emerald Valley Towing.

16. Paragon Water: a) Dust Control during Fair; b) Dust Control Pre-Fair; c) Peachy is leaking and we may rent a pull-behind water tank.

17. Moo Lines.

18. Sunbelt Rentals: contacted. 19.

United Rentals: contacted.

20. Penske Rentals: contacted.

21. Enterprise: contacted.

22. AT&T COW: contacted and declined; working on ways to convince them to come.

23. Verizon: contacted and looking like a yes.

24. T-Mobile: contacted and looking like a yes.

25. City of Eugene: Water Meter.

2024 Service Providers — Santa Clara Farm Stand; Lane County Health Inspectors; ATMs; Ice: contacted Sherman Brothers, Cascade Ice, Arctic Ice and SnowTemp.

2024 Permits — Lane County Camping Permits for Farside, Zenn Acres, Alice's, Marshall's, Dahinda Acres, Far Side. Lane County Outdoor Assembly Permit: working on, submit early March. ODOT, Lane County Right of Way: working on, submit in early March.

2024 Tickets will go on sale on Friday, March 15, 2024. Three-day tickets will be offered for the first two weeks. General Admission Early Bird tickets will go on sale on Monday, April 1, to June 15. General Admission Regular Price tickets will go on sale on June 16 through the event. Tickets may be purchased at the Eugene office starting Monday, April 1. Tickets will be sold on Mondays and Tuesdays only of each week, from noon to 4 pm. Last day to purchase tickets through the Eugene office will be Tuesday, June 25.

The Spring Fling is set for Saturday, May 4, 2024.

Main Camp will open on Saturday, June 8, 2024.

The Teddy Bear Picnic is Sunday, August 28, 2024.

Culture Jam is moving forward by one day. The new dates are Thursday, August 1, to Thursday, August 8, 2024.

Site:

The ice storm caused extensive tree damage, but no structures were damaged. The site remains flooded and is dangerous due to downed trees. We encourage people not to access the site and if you do, it is at your own risk.

Marketing:

Printing — Guidelines: Expect out of printers 3/29/24. Vehicle Stickers: in the works. Food Vouchers: Pending denomination request from Coordinators; should go to print in mid-March. VIP Passes: These will be printed with a one-time use QR code. We will be able to track their usage for the first time. Worker Day Passes: These will be printed from the Afton ticket system. Stickers: Miss Piggy's, SCOF, Back Lot, Alice's and Mystery Machine. Wristbands: Three-Day, Staff, Teen, Teen Crew, Teen and Booth.

Treasurers' Report

(YouTube video: 0:26:40)

Hilary: Thank everyone for turning in Capital projects. The Budget committee will look and bring back recommended list at the March meeting. They received almost \$350,000 worth of projects; all of them won't be able to be funded but there will surely be enthusiasm about the projects.

Committee and Working Group Reports

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

Bylaws Committee met January 24, 2023, and the summary is here:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/01.24.2023-Bylaws-Mtg-Minutes.pdf>

Bylaws Committee met February 21, 2023, and the summary is here:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/02.21.2023-Bylaws-minutes.pdf>

Bylaws Committee met March 21, 2023, and the summary is here:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/03.21.2023-Bylaws-Minutes.pdf>

Bylaws Committee met May 3, 2023, and the summary is here:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/05.03.23-Bylaws-Minutes.pdf>

Bylaws Committee met November 27, 2023, and the summary is here:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/11.27.2023-Bylaws-Minutes.pdf>

Craft Committee met November 8, 2023, and the summary is here:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/CC11-8-23.pdf>

Elders Committee met November 30, 2023, and the summary is here:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/EldersCommMtg113023.pdf>

Elders Committee met January 25, 2024. SUMMARY: Seven of 9 committee members were present. One absence was due to lack of power at the committee member's home. Both Board liaisons were present. There were an additional 13 people from the membership for a total attendance of 22. The November minutes were approved. (There was no meeting in December; we had our holiday party.) The group voted on holding the June in-person meeting on Wednesday, June 12. The tradition has been to meet at an Elder Committee member's home in Pleasant Hill. 23 new Elders were approved based on vetted applications. There was a discussion of the upcoming age

change for the 2025 Fair. The names of our dearly departed OCF family that were read or shouted out during the October Spirit Walk are on a list held by the scribe and circulated only via ECOCF. A controversy arose over many people requested adding names after the event. This has turned into a sensitive issue. The original plan was to share all the names via the Wonderful OCF Elders listserv. That plan has changed. The Elders' Committee and friends will think about and decide how much of this we wish to take on. Do we collect every name? Just Elders? Just those reported to us? One committee member pointed out that we are suffering from "mission creep." Some suggested forming a subcommittee. It was left for people to think about and discuss at the next meeting. The Timeline subcommittee reported that they are making real progress and expect to have the 2011- 2020 Timeline done in time for the 2024 Still Living Room display. Stay tuned. There was a discussion about potential guideline changes around the sound amplification issue. — Summary submitted by Carolyn Gsell, scribe for Elders Committee.

Old Business

(YouTube video: 0:27:35)

OCF Data Privacy Policy (Jon Steinhart & Arna Shaw)

Jon Steinhart moved and AJ seconded to approve replacing the current data privacy policy with the following Oregon Country Fair Data Privacy Policy: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/02/OCF-Data-Privacy-Policy-12-12-23.pdf>.

Member Input: None

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

2024 Guideline Changes (Kevin Levy & Paxton Hoag)

The 2024 Guideline Changes can be seen here:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-Guidelines-Policy-Proposals.pdf>.

Kirsten: Requests that #9 Amplified Sound Policy be postponed (leaving existing Guideline for this year) and referred to a Task Force that will be created by Kirsten to review existing policy and draft a new policy after hearing and participation from membership. Then the new policy can be brought to Board *by* November 2024. Testimony can be given tonight but there will be ample other opportunities as well.

Arna: Current policy around sound is not being followed or upheld. Doesn't mind postponing if we follow existing rules. Community agreement box shouldn't be checked if they haven't actually done one.

AJ moved and Paxton seconded that #9 Amplified Policy Guideline change be delegated to a Task Force that will be created by Kirsten to review existing policy and draft a new policy after hearing from membership. Then new policy recommendation will be brought to Board by November 2024.

Paxton: Sound summit was held before and would be helpful again, as long as it follows the normal Work Session process.

Lisa: Suggested to limit member input to 30 seconds or one minute, to respect the fact that so many members showed up to address this issue and should be heard.

Sandra: This is a good idea and Guideline recommendation to address amplified sound is needed to hit the sweet spot.

John Alexander: It will be important to hear from membership and history of the issue. Respect, tradition and compromise are all key here and we need to have a positive process.

AJ: It's important to give members a chance to speak about this at Fair this year, not just folks that attend Board meetings.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Member Input: Steven Berkson asked people to limit themselves to 90 seconds.

Craig Smith: Likes the idea of the task force because this is really important. Decision in November is quick enough. Getting input at Fair would be important. I am an Elder and Fixed Asset Committee and Carbon Neutral working group member.

Grumpy: Ditto what Craig said.

Tim Furst: Flying Karamazov brother and Stage Left Camp host. Used to have a vibrant evening scene with acoustic music, but amplified music has made their scene abandoned. Community agreements can work but have not been happening, with rare exception (Morningwood Odditorium). Mandatory community agreements would be better. Permits being posted at the stages might be helpful. Finding sound permits in advance has proved to be impossible. Would like to be on the Task Force because current policy has not worked.

Lawrence Taylor: Has some credibility for being sensitive. Shares concerns that Tim has. Process is essential with something so broadly impactful, so appreciates Kirsten's efforts. Hopes feedback can come at event. Agrees with Board's decision.

Nancy Levidow: Ditto much of what Tim Furst said. Elder and has had many roles at the Fair. Stage Left is blasted from many different areas all night. Current amplified policy is not working. We are a campground of musicians, but they cannot have acoustics jams or social hours at camp due to amplified sound. It's hard to sleep as well, which means they cannot present their art to the best of their ability and going home at night is not possible for many. Wants to be an event without amplified music.

Amy Hand: Wants to support the postponement and inclusion of more voices. Thank you, Kirsten. Looking at the future and as we move forward with sound policy, we want to be inclusive and include youth. Recycling wants to play music to keep crews enthusiastic, but they are open to negotiation. They are happy to have community agreements, but no one has approached them about it. Many people have answered their survey. Encourages speaking to many people.

Lia Holland; Spoken Word and Spirit Tower and Front Porch. Number and aggressiveness of complaints changes with type of music being played. Community agreements can be a tool of systemic racism because there is a sharp rise of complaints for hip hop and music that comes from a different cultures. Please don't move forward with plan to allow a minority to shut down shows. Phones have notoriously bad decibel readers. Recommends a form for complaints. Urges Board to speak to professional sound engineers. It's important for community building at Fair for volunteers to hear their co-campers' performances.

Rob Sample: Volunteer with Photo Studio. Started 11 or 12 years ago as path rover. Evening time is when volunteers can really enjoy the Fair and dance. Need to find something equitable for all. There are many quiet areas of Fair. Some areas could be for live amplified sound and others remain quiet.

Genevieve Middleton: Navajo nation citizen, gratitude to ancestors. Thank you for postponing and making opportunity to make decision more inclusive. Seconds Lia's comments. Community agreements are good for new groups of people but don't support section 50 without deeper conversations. What is a community agreement? What is an acoustic footprint? Are community agreements relational or operational? Has experienced ongoing regular discrimination at the Fair. Hopes that the Fair, which says they want to uphold BIPOC and LGBTQ voices and spaces, will support voices that are not always heard and not part of dominant culture.

Mikaela: Recycling Crew — music is huge part of what they do. They work for months before and after Fair and it's disgusting work, so the joy and camaraderie from music is crucial, including at 5 am when trucks get started. They work all day rolling multiple shifts, so evening is only time to recreate. Amplified music is part of joy at Fair in many different ways. Glad this is postponed because music cannot be removed from their crew if volunteers are going to continue doing the grueling work. Crews will be lost if amplified sound is lost. Please listen to demographic of young strong backs that could be lost without amplified music.

Dr. Dan: Proponent of postponing.

Jay: Fair member for more than 40 years involved with Entertainment. We need to keep music live. Keeping it live is a bigger issue than amplification. Booths with boom boxes and Spoken Word stages are playing pre-recorded music. Prohibition on amplified music needs to be expanded to not only include during public hours.

Kim Allen: Crafter behind creek from Spirit Tower. Five years ago, a rave moved in and it's loud, noisy and obnoxious. Charlie told them only acoustic music would be there. Amplified music most of every night. We have security issues so we can't leave at night. We have to be on all day long and we do need some sleep. We've had our booth space almost 40 years. It's not the *kind* of music, it's the volume.

Spirit: Thank you for postponing this motion. Supports community coming together. Sound permit: It's essential community listens to each other. Policy as written does not include impact on Operations crews. Glad Recycling has spoken up. Security Crew supports late night shows, but the crew is only informed about two hours before the show. Evening has skeleton crews these days. Some crews are needing to volunteer extra shifts. Management Team and Ops can improve things this year by prioritizing safety. Hopes outreach meetings happen and their needs will be heard and supported.

Beth: From Alice's Security, more than 40 years at Fair. Every night they fall asleep to amazing music. They are fans of people coming together to play music. Loves the tradition of Fair having live music. It's harder if you have earplugs to drown out the bass from rave music. Recycling trucks and their music and other live music can be muffled easier than bass from rave music. Understands need to evolve but traditions should be respected too.

Megatron: Thanks Board for giving this topic extra space and time that it deserves. Thanks to everyone for their feedback.

Dean Middleton: Engineer from radio station and Elder and on Path Planning Committee. Thanks Kirsten for doing this. It's been about 10 years since the sound guideline was created, so it's time to review it. Would like an in-person workshop.

AJ: Thanks everyone for their input and for being respectful.

(YouTube video: 1:10:40)

Guideline changes #5 or #6: Requesting a refund on unused crew passes by emailing the Office or #6: No refunds.

Jon Steinhart asked if the Board would consider Guideline changes #10 and #11 before Guidelines #5 and #6. There were no objections and the facilitator changed the order of consideration.

Consider Guideline changes #10 or #11: Regarding late fees. Asking Board to eliminate Booth late fees, which will eliminate incentive to buy early and overbuy and possibly need to request refunds. **Vote for 11 is to keep the late fee and vote for 10 is to remove late fees.**

Member Input: None

Jon Steinhart: Encourages Board to eliminate late fees, which don't make that much money but cause a lot of trouble for us.

AJ: How much money do we make on late fees, how will it relate to Budget?

Hilary: Doesn't have registration amount because they have so many refunds. She thinks it's under \$10,000, but not sure. It's not separated out in the accounting they get.

Sandra: Supports eliminating late fees. It might allow us to get better population count and allow for more admissions. This should eliminate over-buying when tickets are cheap to get refunds after Fair.

AJ: Kirsten, if there is overbuying now, might this cause an underbuying situation? Can they buy at any time?

Kirsten: New system will allow credit card purchases, so they can take more time and not rush to avoid the late fee. Late fees are nominal compared to total number generated due to pass sales. It will help Coordinators a lot. They can buy at any time, so underbuying shouldn't happen.

Motion passed (Guideline change #11, to keep the late fee): 11-0. (John Alexander left the meeting before this vote.)

(YouTube video: 1:21:32)

Guideline changes #5 or #6, Requesting a refund on unused crew passes by emailing the Office or #6: no refunds.

Member Input:

Dave Wagenheim: Food booth vendor and Food Committee member. Is concerned with policy changes that might pose financial hardship for food vendors. Food booths are unique operations and are among most challenging jobs at Fair, they can staff as many as 24 to 36 people per booth. There are often reasonable last-minute no-shows from food vendor crews, so they need flexibility

without losing lots of money. Urges Board members to not remove refund policy, at least not right before Fair. Maybe they need to tailor each policy for different groups.

Jonathan Pincus: Be careful removing refunds for volunteers or crews. Life happens and sometimes people cannot come at the last minute. Proposals need more refining before making such a blanket change. Everyone is not trying to game the system. This could have a huge financial impact, although understands the need to look at this issue.

Kirsten: Currently, crew members are not eligible for refunds. Booths have always been eligible. Should they continue with no refund policy for crews? If booths get refunds, should crews be eligible?

Robbi Lira Rivero: Inventory Coordinator: suggests altering language of #6, if passed, take away qualifier and say refunds not available. Offering refunds until June 15 would complicate more than help. This would require staff manual labor during busiest time of year. Please don't do it this year, there is too much change this year already with new system and mountains of change. Name changes aren't that hard. Last year it was the worst year of escalated behavior at Sticker booth in 20 years, and this new policy would make things harder. Maybe next year. Troubleshooters are going to take the brunt of unhappy customers.

Hilary: Would like same policy for volunteers and booths. Many volunteers have legit reasons they need to change. Name changes are onerous. Would like to see even footing. Refunds for emergencies would be good. Booths get refunds without needing to prove there was an emergency.

Johnny Whiddon: From Childcare. Defer to Robbi after hearing her comments, even though was leaning towards #5 previously. Keep status quo for now.

Arna: Vehicle stickers (\$20) and SO passes are issue at hand.

Kirsten: Leaning toward dropping this year after Robbi's comments, but also agrees with Hilary that equality between booths and volunteers would be good. Recommend Board voting for #6, status quo, no refunds.

Jon Steinhart: Agrees with Hilary but supports #6. We are not a money-making event. Booth refunds are different.

Teresa: Wondering about approving #5 but not starting it until 2025, so we can give people time to think about what it would look like. Appreciates Hilary's point.

Arna: Equity across the Fair in terms of refunds. Volunteers and booths are very different entities. Craft fair vs. food booth are even very different. You can't treat everyone the same because they're not. We should try to develop equity. I will support #6 for this year. Next year we can look at other options.

Jon Steinhart: Does not support adopting #5 with future date. We could do that next year, if desired.

Lisa: In favor of equity for volunteers to get refunds. Name change process possible for changing SO, and likes that process going through Fair. Would support an amendment to implement in 2025, giving grace this year to Inventory crew.

Lisa moved and Teresa seconded to amend the motion to adopt #5 for 2025 Fair.

AJ: People are using the word "equity" a lot in this conversation. In this organization, we're talking a lot about serious equity issues. Please don't overuse this word when it doesn't fit.

Different business practices exist for different populations. If using “equity,” make sure it applies; careful with language.

Member Input:

Robbi Lira Rivero: Good idea to have Fair involved in handoff, but straight refund might not be the way. We need more time to drill down.

Jon Steinhart: Likes the amendment in theory, but encourages no vote on amendment because there are a lot of moving parts and thinks we should revisit next year when we know what is going on.

Motion to amend failed: 1-10; Kevin, Arna, Teresa, Thomas, Sue, Jon Steinhart, AJ, Paxton, George, and Sandra opposed.

Sue: Wants to allow volunteers can get a refund. Seems fair.

A “yes” vote is a change to allow refunds; a “no” vote is status quo:

Main motion failed 2-9; Kevin, Arna, Teresa, Thomas, Jon Steinhart, AJ, Paxton, George, and Sandra opposed.

(YouTube video: 1:50:51)

Booth refunds: #7 or #8. Guideline change #7 moves deadline for booth and pass refunds for Booths to June 15. Guideline change #8 leaves deadline for booth fees to June 15 and no refunds on passes (removing late fee, so no need to overbuy). Neither is status quo.

AJ moved to extend the meeting until 9:30 and Arna seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Arna moved and Sue seconded to adopt #7 vs #8 and to amend #7 as follows: Booth Fee Refunds: If an emergency prevents a booth’s participation in the Fair, the total booth fee and passes may be refunded if Booth Registration is notified by June 12. Emergencies may consist of severe health issues for the passholders or their family, death in the family, or transportation problems. After June 12 and up to two weeks before the Fair, if an emergency prevents a booth from participating in the Fair, the total booth fee and purchased passes may be refunded if Booth Registration is able to fill the space. Juried craftspeople who cannot attend the Fair because of an emergency **and food booth representatives may have their purchased pass and any passes they bought for helpers refunded if Booth Registration is notified up to two weeks before the Fair. After this time refunds may be given **for the same criteria as above at the discretion of booth registration** ~~on a case by case basis~~. Participant fees are nonrefundable if the Fair is cancelled because of events beyond the control of the Fair.**

Member Input: None

AJ: Last part is too vague, “case by case basis.”

Teresa: Does this satisfy the Food booths?

Sue: In craft world, there is a waitlist to fill booths. Booths shouldn’t be paid for twice. Refunds should be possible up until close to Fair if they cannot make it. If they reach out and booths can be

sold, we should give refunds. Food booths are harder to fill last minute. Hardworking folks in booths, should be able to recoup fees if needed.

Kevin: Does this apply to food booths? Seems like it could.

Arna moved to amend instead of "on a case-by-case basis" "for the same criteria as above at the discretion of booth registration." Sue seconded.

Motion to amend passed by unanimous consent.

Arna moved to add "and food booth representatives" after "emergency."

Hilary: This is going to eliminate most refunds from booths. Thinks they need better reasons to get refunds.

George: Different groups of people have different needs. Was crafted for crafters more than food people and the food part seems incomplete. This doesn't address the need Hilary described. Not well designed.

Jon Steinhart: Agrees with Sue that we shouldn't double-charge booth fees. Would like to remove "purchased passes." For equality purposes, we're talking about pass sales. People shouldn't get to buy passes and ask for refunds because that keeps inventory unavailable to sell to public.

Jon Steinhart moved and George seconded to amend by removing "and purchased passes" from the amendment.

Norma asked if the emergencies listed are the only ones to be considered and suggested the amendment say "emergencies may include but are not limited to" (whatever the list is the amendment said).

Dave: Proportionality — Booth fee is \$350, but 24 passes might add up to \$3,500. Maybe this needs more work.

Jonathan Pincus: Agrees that this has gotten complex and confusing and is clearly not ready for voting. Urge to consider next year.

Sandra: Jon Steinhart's amendment to remove passes was June 12 deadline. Doesn't think we should remove booth's ability to get refunds by June 12.

Jon Steinhart: It's complicated and expensive to offer refunds, but with no late fee, they could just buy only what they need later.

Sue: If a booth cannot make it, they won't be using those passes and they should get a refund. Booth reps want to get crews together and know who is going to be there. Refunds should be quick.

Paxton moved and Sandra seconded to extend the meeting until 10 pm.

Motion passed: 8-2; George and Lisa opposed. AJ had temporarily left meeting.

Paxton: In favor of dropping Arna's amendment entirely.

Arna: Booth fees are the least of it. It's passes that add up, so if we don't refund passes, it's not helping booths very much. Maybe we should put this on hold and work on other Guidelines. Next year we should do Guidelines in January instead of so close to printing deadline.

Kevin: If it's an emergency, we should refund. We are tired and this might need to be postponed so we can give it our best energy.

Kirsten: This could be discussed at a task force as well instead of voting tonight, letting current Guideline stand.

AJ: Food Committee is aware and working on a proposal on this exact issue.

Amendment failed 2-8; Sandra, George, Paxton, Sue, Thomas, Teresa, Arna, and Kevin opposed. (Lisa left the meeting before this vote.)

Motion to amend (adopting Arna's language instead of #7 or #8) passed: 6-3-1; Teresa, Jon Steinhart, and George opposed; AJ abstained.

Paxton: Is change of date covered by Arna's new amendment?

Main motion failed: 6-4; George, AJ, Jon Steinhart, and Teresa opposed. No change to Guideline on #7 or #8.

(YouTube video: 2:40:37)

#1 regarding firearms and weapons prohibition

Member Input:

Heather Kent: Is there a list of what is a weapon somewhere? Imagines there is a story behind this. Do vendors sell any weapons?

Teresa: In public schools, most states have a policy against all weapons, utility knives would be included as a weapon, so this could cause confusion, to Heather's point. Props could be considered a weapon. Vendors sell things that could be considered a weapon.

Paxton moved and AJ seconded to remove "weapons" and keep firearms.

Member Input:

Tim Furst: Unless weapons are clearly defined, there are a lot of tools and props that could be considered weapons.

George: Clarifying that firearms of any kind are appropriate (to prohibit).

Amendment passed by unanimous consent.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

#2 Request to set minimum age of volunteer at 18 by Wednesday of week of Fair to be placed on crews. Status quo is vague; Teen Crew vs. volunteer crew members.

Member Input:

Johnny Whiddon: Coordinator for Child Care. We should not exclude 13-year-old minor teens from Teen Crew. Childcare Crew might be able to fill much-needed volunteer spots in a safe way. Thanks for your hard work.

Robbi: Status quo is that 19-year-old can be on crew. Some people fudge with incorrect birthdays. We will add more confusion to Inventory if we make this change.

Teresa: Appreciates Johnny's comments. Making a change that affects them the year they had been waiting for years to be able to do something. Wishes to grandfather people in.

Jon Steinhart: One reason we're trying to choose the date is because we've been wanting to do this since 1994. Does not care about Teen Crew ages as long as it's within the law.

Kirsten: This isn't changing the Teen Crew age. Teen Crew has always been 14-18. They occasionally allow a 13 year old. They occasionally allow a 19 year old. Those haven't been in our Guidelines. And they're fine if they want to do that on a case-by-case basis. But we are not redefining the age of Teen Crew.

Motion passed: 12-0.

AJ moved and Thomas seconded to extend to 10:15. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

#3 All minors under the age of 18 by Wednesday of the week of Fair must be registered in the database. All teens age 13 and older by Wednesday of the week of Fair must have a wristband.

Member Input: None

Jon Steinhart: Thought it was to replace Minor on Site form, even if too young to require a wristband.

Kirstin: Agrees with Jon Steinhart's clarification.

AJ: Seems weird to need to register babies and young children and put them in a database.

Jon Steinhart: This is not a change in policy, it's just a change from paper to computer. This would be a benefit for the organization to get a better population count. Volunteers should be filling out a Minor on Site form (for pre-Fair) filled out now, and this replaces it with computerized. There is no official process currently for identifying minors on site *during* Fair.

Teresa: Supports this guideline and thinks its an important change.

Arna: Likes knowing how many young kids are on site; there are lots of lost young kids. It could be helpful to find their adults and campsites. Supports it but could wait another year.

Paxton: Supports this, we need the information.

AJ: Are we talking about names or pictures? Some kids might not be able to say their full name. As a parent, this needs more work. There is already a policy that says young kids need to be with a caregiver.

AJ moved to remove sentence "all minors must be registered through the staff database..." and Sandra seconded.

George: Doesn't understand AJ's concern. It could help.

Member Input:

Heather: This is important if we really want to understand population. Kids 12 years old poop as much as adults.

Paxton: In favor of amendment.

Jon Steinhart: Lots of people put minors in the database to help.

AJ: Objection is not about numbers. It's about how we make policies, and not wanting to make ones we cannot enforce.

Amendment failed: 9-1; Sandra, George, Paxton, Jon Steinhart, Sue, Thomas, Teresa, Arna, and Kevin opposed.

Main motion passed: 9-1; AJ opposed.

Thomas moved and Sue seconded to extend the meeting by five minutes. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

#4: Guidelines apply wherever sponsored activities occur.

Member Input: none

Paxton: There are lots of activities that go beyond sponsored activities. Supports leaving as is.

Jon Steinhart: Can we clarify language? The way the Guideline is written appears to require us to police every Facebook page that covers the Fair.

Paxton: Fall Track meet in Elmira is an example of a non-sponsored event that has a lot of Fair family attendance. Wasn't thinking of regulating Facebook groups.

Kirsten: Jon Steinhart nailed it, we are just trying to change away from online presence, Committees meetings are online, track meet is at our property, so that could be considered OCF sponsored events. Want to clarify where third party platforms that OCF cannot manage people's behavior.

Motion passed: 10-0.

New Business

The Board moves to approve the 2024 Ritz Sauna Contract (Kevin Levy & Thomas Horn)

The Board moves to allow all open committee meeting recordings to be seen by the Fair community. This policy will start one month after its passage by the Board and will apply to future meetings. Committees that have no closed sections of meetings may vote to make their prior meetings public. No closed meetings may be made public. The mechanism for access to the recordings will be developed by operations and explained to the board and the Fair community next month. (Arna Shaw, Sandra Bauer, Thomas Horn, Jon Steinhart and AJ Jackson)

Next Board Meeting: March 4, 2024, 7 pm via Zoom

