

ENERGY PARK MEETING

February 18th, 2024 - OCF office

In attendance: Brian, Jude, Thomas Brex, Jeremy Ray, Layne, Gaelen, Nick Sky, Laura Sky, Sherman (+Raina), Quinland (new to EP), Lelia, Georgiana, Sue, Cleven, Anna Scott, Larry, Kory, Robert, Rountree, Nancy, Roselynn (new to EP), Ron

Zoom attendees: Ryan, Juliette, Alexis, Michaela, Josh Hagen (new to EP), Sally Lammers, Gabrielle, Zach

Phone: Linda

Facilitator: Larry

Scribe: Kory

Action items

1. The “What is Kesey Stage? What will Kesey Stage be?” sub-committee will try to get answers to the big question of how Kesey Stage impacts the main Fair’s 501(c)3 status

Announcements

- Sherman - it’s very likely that Michael may not attend Fair this year, so Sherman is looking for some pre-Fair support, if interested reach out to Sherman (Michael usually arrives a week before Fair)
- Sherman - EP and our camping areas look quite different because of the storm, we have a lot of work to do :)
 - Georgiana - whose responsibility is it to deal with the downed trees/limbs?
→ Vegematics crew is in charge of this (Rick Valley is a longtime EP member and someone to reach out to if desired)
- Thomas - Ryan and Thomas both submitted capital projects applications
- Michaela - booth applications were sent out a few weeks ago, they are still open until early April, if you or anyone you know is interested the [booth application is here](#)
- Anna - Land Use Management and Planning Committee (LUMP) is looking for a scribe, their meetings are Tuesdays after the OCF meetings, reach out to Anna (anna.ocf@icloud.com)
- Gabrielle - the camera/mic setup in the OCF office is really valuable and nice for the people participating in the meeting via Zoom, thanks!
- Rountree - we have a *huge* construction year coming up and we’re going to need a lot of skilled help, call in your buddies if you got ‘em, this will likely be one of our biggest years in a while
 - Sherman - does that warrant more work parties?
- Anna - if you’re going out to the EP site, let Blake know, and check in with the site manager (Alexis) so we don’t ruffle any feathers
- Thomas - we’re looking for lumber that’s roughly 8ft long 9” diameter

Staff coordinators confirmations

- Webmaster - Loren confirmed
- Security - Philip confirmed
- Operations - Layne confirmed
- Teen Coordinator - Leah cannot serve in this role this year so we're looking for a volunteer
- Camp Host-ish - Sherman is looking for a pre-Fair "Michael" to help check on EP the week(s) leading up to Fair, reach out to her if interested (stretchsherman@gmail.com)

Temporary staff fill-in policy

- Larry drafted a document laying out the parameters by which EP will take on last-minute temporary staff as needed. The text of the document is at the end of the minutes.
- Georgiana - "I love it", if this will be published, make sure that it's clear upfront that this policy is only relevant if EP is short-staffed in a particular year
- Layne - how will we know if we're short-staffed?
 - Larry - get in touch with Larry if there's someone you're wanting to bring as a temporary person and would be able to come on short notice (we often don't know about vacancies until a few days before Fair), Larry will consult the list as needed

Kesey Stage discussion #1 - should it function more like other stages (e.g. passes & parking for performers, etc.)?

- Thomas - it's a tough sell to get quality acts because of the resource limitations we're working with, it'd likely be a multi-step process to approach the appropriate people to increase our pass count and whatnot. Should we take initial steps to head in that direction?
- Anna - there's a long running debate at Fair about sound as well as the question of where acoustic acts go to connect with their audience. If we're going down the route to becoming a full artist sponsor, Anna would like us to consider being a space for acoustic music during the public Fair hours?
- Rountree - do we have the space for more people
 - Brian - if we let in entertainers who do they replace in EP or where do they go?
- Layne - Kesey Stage and Community Village help keep the 501(c)3 status of the main Fair, what ramifications does this have for that? It's an OCF legal question.
 - Thomas - what about Saturday Market as an example, the main entity is a nonprofit yet vendors sell things there
 - Brian - the rules are looser now where 501(c)3 status is concerned
 - Larry - the Fair does a lot of their own community work that EP and Community Village might not be the keystones anymore

- Larry - who pays for the passes? Where do they come from?
- Linda - the parking passes and letting artists sell things seem like a no brainer and not a huge change that requires us to shakedown the right people
- Kory - just to zoom out, Thomas and I really want to know if this is a direction people are interested in going, fully knowing that there are *many* things to figure out and lots of hurdles to get over, we just don't want to invest the time and energy if this is not a direction people want Kesey Stage to head
 - Michaela - if we are a more resourced stage, do we still retain our autonomy and booking of Kesey Stage?
 - Sue - Energy Park has an autonomy that is very unique at the Fair, concerned that there might be strings attached or control ceded if we're getting passes/resources
 - Nick - should we ask some of these questions first (e.g. does the 501(c)3 status matter?) before we go further
 - Layne - hasn't heard anyone say they're against this idea so long as we don't give up our autonomy
 - Larry - everybody works their butt off to be at EP, he would feel a little miffed if someone comes in and does a 1-hr performance at Kesey Stage, if EP is giving out passes we'd want more performances out of them which then reduces that number and variety of acts at Kesey Stage
 - Nancy - if we share the load with another stage this might offset some of the concern about the amount of work/payoff the entertainers are getting
 - Georgiana - will the new identity/resources supplant the vibe and character of what we already have going on?
 - Jeremy - can we ride the coattails of bigger stages and get some of their acts to perform at Kesey since they're already at Fair
 - Anna - (1) pull entertainers into this process, hear them out on their gripes/concerns/ideas (2) consider starting small and sponsoring one artist/group
 - How many people are interested in getting a sub-committee going to explore some of these questions? Large majority are in favor.
 - Kory & Thomas will form a sub-committee

Kesey Stage discussion #2 - should we allow entertainers to sell merchandise?

- Larry - booths can't sell goods, will that cause friction?
 - Jeremy - shouldn't be an issue
 - Gaelen - there have been complaints in the past from booths about not being able to sell things if people on the stage can?
 - Sherman - isn't there a difference and isn't it made clear to booths that their participation is educational and facilitates connections?
- Georgiana - get the performers away from the stage if they're selling things to not clog up the stage after a performance, her friend said to be cautious about what kind of merchandise people are allowed to sell

- Larry - send a note out to booth folks, let them know that we're wanting to allow performers to sell CDs and ask if they're okay with that?
 - Jeremy - we are the hosts and it's our decision
- Brian - the 501(c)3 status is kind of tangential, we need to think in principal if we want EP to be a commercial space or keep it commerce-free? There's probably a good middle ground, where we could create a limited commercial space (maybe near the Info Booth) where performers can conduct business and maybe booths can do something there too
- Anna - the excitement that people get at the end of a performance where they're wanting to support the act they just saw is different from the more languid conversations that Fairgoers are having with booths
 - Sue - her philosophy when running a booth at EP was to get contacts and appointments, it wasn't about financial transactions and goods exchanged on-site

2nd vote on weight of remote meeting attendance

- The motion passed at our previous meeting is: Remote meeting attendance counts as full meeting attendance for permanent staff and half meeting attendance for waitlisted personnel. Meetings don't count for shift sign-up requirements for waitlisted personnel.
 - Georgiana - really appreciates this change to allow staff to fully participate remotely
 - Rountree - it's also more inline with what EP stands for in terms of sustainable living
- **THE MOTION PASSES!!!**

Proposals for upcoming post-Fair meetings

- Jude - Would like to have a September meeting to have things more fresh in people's brains

Upcoming EP Meetings

- April 7th @ Energy Park
- May 19th @ Energy Park
- June 9th @ Energy Park

EP temporary staff parameters (as mentioned above)

In the unlikely event of Energy Park being short-staffed due to Staff illness or last-minute cancellations, the following parameters will apply for Temporary Energy Park Staff. This is meant as an opportunity for EP Staff Members to bring a close friend or Family member to the Fair for a single year. It may be someone who lives too far away to get involved in the Fair long term.

1-The Energy Park Staff Coordinator can accept a few temporary staff members who have not met the minimal criteria for getting a pass from the waitlist.

2-There must be nobody on the waitlist who will meet the criteria.

3-They will be sponsored by a Permanent Staff Member who will attend the fair with them. They will be a family member or close friend of that Staff Member, who will camp with or near them and be responsible for “showing them the ropes” during the Fair.

4-They will be expected to camp at EP, work the standard 6 shifts + 1 sweep during the Fair, attend morning meetings, arrive early enough to help with Thursday setup, and stay late enough to help with Monday take down.

5- They will pay the standard EP Staff registration fees , although parking passes may be very difficult to get.

6- This does not count toward gaining seniority to get a Permanent Staff Position, as they have not met the criteria to do so. It is a temporary position to help us through a Staff shortage. They can certainly come back in the future by earning a pass from the Waitlist.

Contact the EP Staff Coordinator directly if you have such a person. If there are more potential Temp Staff folks than there are open spots, we will figure out a “Fair” way to evaluate them based on your recommendations.