

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Approved at the 02/22/24 meeting

DATE: Thursday, January 25, 2024

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Kay Kintzley, Michael JamesLong

BOARD LIAISONS PRESENT: Jon Steinhart, Kevin Levy

OTHERS PRESENT: Synnove Abrahamsen, Roberta Austin, Alan Cohn, Darlene Colborn (facilitator), Peggy Day, Jeff Eichen, Kehn “mambo” Gibson, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), Percy Hilo, Paxton Hoag, Jonathan Pincus, Jerry Shultz, Jenny Wilson

Kay Kintzley briefly came into the meeting to explain she is unable to stay. The power just got restored to her home after more than a week of no electricity.

Opening statement from facilitator – Darlene

Darlene said that watched the last board meeting and was impressed by how well the meeting was conducted. She shared that she is not up to par on Robert’s Rules. She is trained on the Quaker method of running meetings. She is willing to continue as a facilitator in the best way she knows how and welcomes feedback. If the group wants to change the style of how the meeting is run, she is open.

Quorum - 7 of 9 committee members were present; thus, a quorum was established.

Agenda

- Announcements
- Approve November Minutes
- Confirm date for June meeting at Kay’s – some object to holding it on Summer Solstice (6/20/24 @ 1:50 p.m. PDT).
- Approve vetted Elder applicants (23) – Roberta and Jenny
- Spirit Walk List – Carolyn
- Timeline subcommittee report – Mouseman/Jain
- Decision Log – Carolyn
- Snapshot from Jon Steinhart regarding the amplified sound policy – Jon St.
- Letter of Intent - Nancy
- Meeting wrap-up/evaluation

Announcements:

- Jon Steinhart shared that he submitted some suggested changes to the 2024 guidelines concerning the amplified sound policy. This is a very controversial subject. He encouraged engagement on the topic.
- The Holiday Party was a wonderful gathering. There were about 50 people in attendance. Roberta won the basket and expressed her gratitude.
- Mouseman informed that Melanie Salka (Candles in the Rain) just passed away. Several in the group spoke of their experience seeing listening to her music and seeing her in concert.

Approve November 2023 minutes.

Draft 2 of the November minutes were considered for approval. There were no objections. The minutes were accepted by everyone on the committee as approved.

June Meeting at Kay’s - Carolyn

There were some objections to having the meeting on June 20, the summer solstice. Kay is open to a different date. Jain would like to have the meeting on a Wednesday due to the village meeting being on Thursday, June 13th.

Heather made a motion to hold the June meeting at Kay’s on Weds. June 12. Nancy seconded. The motion passed 6 – 0 (Eric was out of the Zoom room when the motion was made).

The Potluck will start at 5 p.m. and the meeting will commence at 7 p.m. Attendees can come out early to help with setup and to socialize.

New vetted Elder applications for approval (23 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.

It was decided to read out the names of each vetted person vetted, and total number of years of service verified:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Carol Cashman – 20 years | Sherri Theiben – 23 years |
| Beverly LaFae – 20 years | TR Kelly – 20 years |
| Darryn Lagaipa – 38 years | Anna Lisa Couturier – 24 years |
| David Shore – 23 years | Melissa Kahn – 20 years |
| Phil Miotto – 23 years | Mia Driscoll – 27 years |
| Eillen Thomas – 25 years | Jennifer Wells – 27 years |
| Amanda Punton – 23 years | Laurie Card – 20 years |
| Laurie Turner – 20 years (+ another 6 not verified) | Rachelle Sarfati – 21 years |
| Geoffrey Turner - 20 years (+ another 6 not verified) | Hidemi “Susan” Gabbert – 21 years |
| Jim Christiansen – 26 years | Jacob Frankfort – 28 years |
| Michael Carlson – 32 years | Tia Matthies – 36 years |
| | Chris Turner – 23 years |

Mouseman made a motion to approve the 23 applicants for Elders status. Kevin seconded. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Starting for the 2025 Fairs, an applicant must be at least age 56 by the first day of the 2025 Fair to qualify for Elder Status.

Darlene asked if Jenny and Roberta had enough help. They are getting some assistance from Jan R. Darlene requested that Jenny and Roberta Let us know if you need more help. Are people aware that even though they are eligible to become an elder, they are not obliged to apply?

Jon St. mentioned that he will need a list of all the new Elders approved over the past year. Nancy will send him the list.

Nancy assured the group that the DOB is requested on the current application.

The request was made to place a reminder on the Elders' website that the age change is coming up for 2025. Also post on the .net site. Also post a notice in the FFN. Carolyn will take care of this. (scribe's note – it is too late to post because the January issue is already out, and the February issue will be published after Feb. 1).

There was some back-and-forth discussion about the age requirements and the fairness/unfairness of the new policy.

Carolyn will post the motion that was passed by the board regarding Elder Eligibility to the ECOCF listserv.

The question was asked of how many living elders have a son or daughter who is ready to become an elder?

SPIRIT WALK LIST – Carolyn

We have a list, but it is a work in progress. After the Spirit Walk people wrote in about other names that were either shouted or mentioned names that should have been on the list. Carolyn proposed that before publishing the list, we could create a shared google doc. That way people could access the shared document and add names (or make corrections). How does this group want to handle this?

It was suggested that we all think about what we want to do and put this topic on the agenda for the next meeting. This is not an urgent situation. There was a recollection of the past Spirit Walk being a great experience. The current list we have is not exclusively Elders. Spirit Walk Questions considered were, should we reach out to the Fair at large? Ann said that the conversation about a memorial garden has resurfaced with the Path Planning Committee in the light of the passing of Dennis Todd, who was active with that committee.

It was pointed out that this project suffers from mission creep. It was originally supposed to be just the names of folks mentioned at the Spirit Walk Ceremony. During the ceremony, after the list was read, people called out names of others not on the list. There was no way to record that information so those trying to manage the list had to rely on memory. Now, the list of names mentioned at Spirit walk has morphed into something bigger. Does this belong to Elders? Or is it just what was read at the spirit walk or something bigger?

We were reminded of the Fair Family Beloved Facebook page. Reggie wanted to engrave all the names on a yew log tree by Archeology. Unfortunately, the yew tree is now hard to get to, but Paxton likes the idea of a carved list somewhere at the Fair.

It makes sense that if a comprehensive list of deceased Elders is taken on, it needs to be discussed and who will do it. A suggestion was made to form a subcommittee to come up with an idea of how to manage this.

Carolyn said she is willing to continue to accept names. That is all she is recording. In the meantime, those of us who have an interest can discuss amongst ourselves and propose this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Timeline subcommittee report – Mouseman/Jain

There will be a timeline (2010 – 2019) this year. Jain shared that the subcommittee has made significant progress. Materials have been gathered, a prototype of the layout is done, and funding is being determined. The report was enthusiastically received by the group.

Decision Log – Carolyn

Carolyn informed the group that volunteer Mark Schwebke took on the task of updating the decision log using the committee meeting minutes posted to the .net site. She will share the updated documents with the ECOCF listserv to get feedback. At the next meeting the group can decide if they like the style of the new entries, or they want to see some modifications. Mark's entries are much more detailed compared to previous entries.

Snapshot from Jon Steinhart. regarding the sound amplification – Jon St.

Every year at Fair evaluation there are increasing complaints about the noise level of live amplified and recorded music. Jon has made some specific recommendations to the board:

1. Remove the prohibition about tape recorders because nobody has tape recorders anymore.
2. The existing policy requires that someone requesting a permit for amplified sound is supposed to get a "community" agreement with the folks that camp around the stage/space where the sound permit is requested (the folks who are affected by the sound around you) but it never happens. There is not a clear definition for what "community" means in this context. Jon St. wants to make the Community agreement with signatures a requirement.
3. The second minor recommended change is that blue tooth speakers, boom boxes, any recorded amplified music etc. needs to be prohibited. The loud sound makes it difficult for folks to connect with each other. He would like to see the sound permit application posted on the .net site to bring more awareness to the membership. He has a friend who is a sound expert and is willing to attend the fair this year to measure the sound.

Paxton is supportive. He would love to see the eight become acoustic, but he also sees exceptions where folks using amplifiers in some booths along the eight are not producing intrusive sound (i.e. electric guitar maker who allows folks to demo his instruments using an amp). We need to enforce community agreements. We haven't been doing a good job with that.

It seems like we need to create different standards for different parts of the Fair. We can attend the next board meeting to give our input. The Elders Committee Meeting is a forum to discuss these issues prior to board meetings so that we can be better prepared.

The question was asked how we can best prepare to make comments at the board meeting. where can we find the documentation around the sound issue? Where can we find a copy of the community agreement? Jon responded that much of the information does not exist. That is why he is requesting specific changes to the guidelines. (To see the proposed changes, find the document on board motions for the Feb. board meeting, page 5 "Guidelines Policy Change #9 <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/02/2.5.24-Board-Motions-1.pdf>)

Jon St. said that the sound issues need to be addressed in the guidelines. Jon wants to look at the 2015 or 2016 sound study and also at the sound permits that were issued in the past, to see how the two interface. Where is “community” defined? Nobody could answer this question.

Kevin pointed out that there are so many people who attend the fair and this information is very challenging to communicate. Synnove pointed out that we are having a big party, but we need boundaries. Having been involved with Whitebird, she has many safety concerns. She pointed out to how packed in with people the Front Porch stage was at night. This is a safety concern, and she feels that these concerns should be addressed in the guidelines.

Paxton said the sound problem is a perennial discussion. The 2014/2015 sound summit produced information on “Sound Corridors” throughout the Fair. He also reported that people blatantly state they are not going to follow the rules. We need to revisit the sound summit. We can work this out. There has been some progress made with permits, though the issues have not been resolved.

Jon P. pointed out that it may take us a very long time to work difficult issues out, but in the end we usually do.

Jon St. encouraged everyone to attend the next board meeting and provide member input.

Steven B. pointed out that there are a couple of things to pay attention to around the sound issues. One is that everyone involved since the sound summit, what needs to remain clear is the impact of others around them. When one thing substantially suppresses everything else, or suppressing activities in other areas, then there needs to be adjustments to make room for everyone. A camp outside of the Fair created sound issues at one Fair that impacted the Main Stage area. We also need to pay attention to our noise levels pre-fair.

Letter of intent - Nancy

After speaking with Jon St. and staff, the letter of intent will go out mid-February stating that there are changes coming. There will be email (via MailChimp) and snail mail. At this point, things are as usual for the Wristband Subcommittee.

Meeting wrap-up – Evaluation

Eric – Thank you to everyone for the input in this wonderful meeting.

Kevin thanked Darlene for her facilitation. Ann also thanked Darlene for facilitating and Carolyn for her efforts, and Jenny and Roberta for their work on the applications, and Nancy for her work with the Wristband Subcommittee.

The meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PASSED:

- November meeting minutes approved.
- 23 new Elder applications approved.
- The date for the June in-person meeting at Kay’s was approved for Wednesday, June 12.

HOMEWORK (To-Do list):

- Post the Elder application deadline on the .net site and the Elders' website - Carolyn.
- Post the board's passed motion to change Elder age eligibility to the Elders' website – Carolyn.
- Best way to manage a Spirit Walk list (more broadly an OCF member deceased list). How far do we take the list and how do we manage it? – Everybody
- Prepare any input we have regarding sound issues for the February Board Meeting.

PARKING LOT:

- Elders Volunteers Committee Report from Annemarie
- Spirit Walk List (February meeting agenda?)

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Gsell