

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Approved at the 03/28/24 meeting

DATE: Thursday, February 22, 2024

LOCATION: Online

MEETING TIME: 7 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Albino, Jain Elliott, Nancy Hafner, Heather Kent, Kay Kintzley, Michael James Long, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Eric Nicholson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Ann Bennett-Rogers

BOARD LIAISONS PRESENT: Jon Steinhart

BOARD LIAISONS ABSENT: Kevin Levy (he checked in before the start of the meeting).

OTHERS PRESENT: Synnove Abrahamsen, Roberta Austin, Steven Berkson (facilitator), Lisa Cooley, Katie Cousins, Peggy Day, Jeff Eichen, Kehn “mambo” Gibson, Carolyn Gsell (scribe), “Village” David Hoffman, Sebastian Mekkadath, Jon Pincus, Jorjan Plimmer, Meg Schaefer, Jenny Wilson

Quorum – 8 of 9 committee members were present; thus, a quorum was established.

Agenda

- **Announcements**
- **Approve January minutes.**
- **Review/Approve vetted elder applications (76 applications for review) - Jenny & Roberta**
- **Emeral Ash Borer (EAB) brief update - Carolyn on behalf of Ann**
- **Elders Committee Mission Statement - do we have one already? – Carolyn**
- **Wrap-up**

Announcements:

- Ann reported prior to the meeting that she is unable to attend due to son’s accident.
- Nancy reminded everyone that the Letter of Intent (LOI) is due by March 15.

Approve January 2024 minutes.

The January 2024 minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

New vetted Elder applications for approval (76 total) – Jenny & Roberta

Michelle Dee, Age 54, (55 by 2024 fair)
Tim Kaiser, age 69
Jeff Gentile, age 57
Jeffrey Haloff, age 65
Kevin Moore: age 66
Stephan Barsotti, age 74
Robert Golden, age 64
Gregg Tilgner, age 68
Gerald Lippold, age 60
Chris Cassidy, Age 70
Daisy LaPoma, age 68
Wade Freitag: age 66
Stacy Green, age 65
Gregg Kleiner, age 64
Lori Salus, age 63

Jan Waldmann, age 74
Belinda Fulton, age 67
Darryl Harris, age 74
Kim Strahan. age 57
Stephan Wood, age 61
Janet Rosenberg, age 64
Thomas Nathanson, age 61
John Wilson, age 68
Belinda Fulton, age 67
Robert Stein, age 55
Marcus Castaing, age 72
Macdonald Dunbar, age 61
Terrence Waugh, age 65
Karinna French, age 58
C. Glenn Eckman, age 60

Gina Kahdahl, age 55
Peter Hermany, age 72
Helen Behrmann, age 70
Keron T. Marie, age 74
Kevin Fulton, age 69
Sheri Lundell, age 78
Hope Shepherd, age 58
David Reynolds, age 58
Bill Bennett, Age 54 - 55 by 2024 Fair
Rebecca Gourgey, Age 55
Mija Andrade Age 55
Eric Hagee, age 55
Jennifer Scott Age 55
Nicole Dominiacki, Age 55
Kristine Treanor-Weaver, Age 55
Otis Gray, Age 55
Juliet Douglas, Age 55 before the 2024 fair
Amy Wolfsen, Age 54, 55 by 2024 fair
Chris Dominiacki, Age 56
John Congdon, Age 56
David Ortiz (Rain), Age 58
Kyle Everit, Age 59
Tamera Hutchings, Age 59

Rick (Richard) Hutchings, Age 60
Annelise Kelly, Age 60
(Penny) Norma Jean Lawrence, Age 62
Robert Luna, Age 63
Philip Courtney Crawford, Age 64
Bonnie Gibson (Bon-Bon), Age 66
Madalyn Patterson (Maddy), Age 66
John Olufs, Age 67
Katy Keenan, Age 67
Carolee Lapeyre Age 69
Lothar Hoeper, Age 69
Bill Buchner, Age 70
Kendra Buchner, Age 71
Alan H. Hart-McArthur Age 71
Ganapati Olerich, Age 71
Nancy Schafer, Age 72
Joan Gold Cypress, Age 73
Greg Prull, Age 76
Geraldine Moreno, Age 77
Chris Helm, Age 77
Fred Nattkemper, Age 77
Mike Helm, Age 81
Lynn Henry, Age 75

Jenny and Roberta reported that each person listed above was vetted for the minimum 20 years of service and qualified for minimum age of 55 by first day of the 2024 Fair. Each name was read out in the meeting. Participants who are not on the ECOCF listserv were given the opportunity to see the details of each applicant on a shared screen.

There was a discussion around Annalise Kelly's two years of kitchen work for Culture Jam – does it count towards Elder Status? Does the Elders Committee decide? If yes, we need to codify – make a motion that volunteering at culture Jam counts towards Elder Eligibility.

Heather moved to approve all listed vetted Elders, except for Annalise Kelly. Kay Kintzley seconded. There were no objections. All accepted as Elders except Annalise Kelley by unanimous consent.

Heather made a motion to approve Annalise Kelly. Seconded by Nancy Hafner.

Discussion: Jain thinks this should be approved. Roberta referenced applicant Linda Reyrmer who did work for the board (and something else).

Michael Jame Long agrees w/ Heather that we need to decide. It does require some thoughtfulness and discussion and he recommended we take some time and hold off on approving the application. He is not in favor of arbitrarily approving this applicant.

Peggy – Is this something that needs to be changed per the board motion?

Jain – these are rare occurrences, and we should decide on a case-by-case basis.

Jon Steinhart suggested we talk to the board about this. Do they (the board) need to update the policy? Jon P. By accepting Linda Reymers, we set a precedent. He doesn't think the wording of the policy prohibits accepting the application.

Katie Cousins made a reference to our Bylaws.

Jon Steinhart highly recommends that the committee work with the board on this. Is uncomfortable in having policy getting randomly made. He is willing to bring this to the board or we can include this issue in our report.

Is this something that we need to handle today?

This has nothing to do with membership.

Jon Steinhart stated that If we retroactively approve this person, they can still get their wristband for the 2024 Fair.

MJL – In April 2011 – cited issue with folks who donate items.

Heather said that based on our approval for Linda Reymers, we should go ahead and approve this application, and we should also bring these issues to the board.

The motion at the beginning of the discussion was restated:

Heather made a motion to approve Annalise Kelly. Seconded by Nancy Hafner. The vote was 7 in favor, 1 against. The dissenting vote was by Michael James Long.

Emerald Ash Borer Report – Carolyn on behalf of Ann:

I have joined the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Task Force, as well as a number of other Elders and non-Elders with environmental planning backgrounds, a couple Board members and some BUMs. For those who do not know, the Emerald Ash Borer or EAB is a non-native invasive insect that has decimated ash forests throughout the east and mid-west. The LUMP Committee has been following the information and research on EAB for 10 years. There is no known treatment that can be used on ash forests at this time. In Oregon the EAB was found in Forest Grove. Kevin Hillary, the OCF arborist, and who is also on the EAB group as well as the state committees addressing the EAB. Our first meeting is February 28 at 6:30 to 8:30 and the link is posted on the .net site. In March I will start providing updates from our EAB meetings to the Elders Committee. If you want to acquire some background information please look at the November 20 special Board Meeting on EAB, which can be found at <https://oregoncountryfair.net/orange-nov-20th-board-of-directors-work-session-eab-7pm-9pm/> The YouTube link is at version is at the bottom of the page.

Beginning in March, Ann can start providing updates from EAB meetings.

Elders Committee Mission Statement - do we have one already? – Carolyn

Do we even need a mission statement? The Committee for Best Practices Working Group (CBPWG) asked for it in the Annual Report.

Jon Steinhart encouraged the committee to create a Mission Statement. The board is currently in discussion about what constitutes a good functional committee and what doesn't.

Jon P. expressed that the board's motion to form the Elders Committee answers the mission. Jon, who is a member of the CBPWG explained that the working group doesn't expect every question to be answered concretely. For example, if a committee doesn't have a Chair, just say so.

Steve B. – You can come up with something broad and direct. The mission statement is a guiding principle.

Lisa C. thinks it is a good idea to have a mission statement and suggested that there be a quick meeting to come up with a couple of statements that state the mission, run it through the listserv, and then bring it as a motion to the next meeting for a vote.

Simplicity is the strength of the statement.

MOTION: Kay proposed and made a motion that we add the committee mission statement as an agenda item for the spring retreat. Jain seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Wrap-Up

Jon P. reminded us that David sent a link on the WonderfulOCFelders listserv to a video on EAB. There are forest service arborists who have different approaches to dealing with this. Recommends we watch that video. (*scribe's note – the link now goes to a page that states "This page cannot currently be accessed".*)

There was a brief discussion about EAB reports at committee meetings. We don't listen to reports from other committees. It was suggested that for anyone who wishes to report on EAB, that the WonderfulOCFelders is the best place to do that (it will reach more people as well).

Eric thanked everyone for all the wonderful energy. There was general agreement that this was a well-run meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:17 **p.m.**

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PASSED:

- January 2024 meeting minutes approved 8 – 0.
- 75 of 76 vetted Elders approved by unanimous consent.
- Application for Annalise Kelly approved 7 – 1.
- Mission Statement as an agenda item for spring retreat approved by unanimous consent.

HOMEWORK (To-Do list):

- Post LOI to Elders website - Carolyn

PARKING LOT:

- Mission statement – Make this an agenda item for the spring retreat.
- Elders Volunteers Committee Report from Annemarie
- Spirit Walk List

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Gsell