

### 3.26.24 Food Committee

#### Open Session

**Attendance:** Larry, Dan, Jill (Blazing Salads), Caitlin, Kundari (Kundaris Pizza), Aaron (Veggie Heaven) Jewels (India House) Paxton (Board), Sue, Thom, Dave, Vanessa

**Upcoming Food Tastings:** still waiting for one more response from invitations. Two day tasting schedule for food carts and booths. Will be held at Unitarian Church on April 14th and 15th (Sunday & Monday). 11 applicants to sample.

**Vote Approve Minutes from February:** Larry motions to approve February 27th, 2024 minutes, seconded by Dan, minutes approved by committee

**Durables:** Encourage people to contact Alexis to support durables in interest of conservation. The Food Committee can reach out to Maya to see what kind of support the committee could provide for her. The Durables program needs organizational help and people to do the work. Durables takes a lot of work, people and time to execute during fair. It's important to invest in people for durables support. March Food Booth Town Hall highlighted obstacles with durables. Take a realistic look at the work involved and consider if more incentive is needed to get people on board. Anyone who can help identify who can help Maya move durables forward is encouraged to reach out. Would be coordinator work and would need to be approved. Eric Hope has hands-on experience with durables at fair and could be a strong candidate for a potential durables coordinator position.

**Volunteer Crew:** newer volunteer crew has an application program that accepts applications where people looking to work at Fair can list their skillset. Coordinators can reach out for help when they need it and volunteer crew identifies people with appropriate skill sets and initiates a meeting between potential crew and coordinators.

**Early Registration:** Registration is planning to have early banding available again for food booths on the Tuesday prior to fair [July 9th, 2024].

**Supplemental Camping Passes:** Food booths at fair are provided with up to 24 camping passes, carts entitled to 12 in accordance with the current guidelines. If someone needs more passes, they reach out to the food committee with the reasons why they need more. Fair is interested in reducing internal population to in turn reduce the stress of the facility, though it's unclear how much of an impact food booths have on contributing to internal fair population as the overall number of Booth wristbands has not increased. Food Committee can work on developing practical ways to measure actual booth needs while recognizing the needs of each food booth is subjective. The question was raised on whether the Food Committee is prepared to remove extra passes from booths that had previously been granted supplemental passes and may not have the same needs that they did at the time of the request. Responses to that include the difficulty in taking away passes that have already been given, and that reducing the amount of passes that a food booth is expecting to operate with has a ripple effect on menu and hours.

Increasing food booth use of day passes could help reduce internal fair population at night, in theory. Feedback from booths on effectiveness of using day passes includes limited hours that workers want to put in as they also want to experience fair while they are there and limited training, worker development that could benefit the growth of the booth. Question was raised on the possibility of extending hours for day passes if people would be willing to travel out later in the day; would need to find a way to enforce. Discussion included how increases to the internal population has an impact on all aspects of fair, including water, recycling and camping. For food booths specifically, increase to internal Fair population also increases a need for food booths to operate, especially during late hours when food availability is limited. Food Committee can consider if a more equitable solution may be to increase the base amount of Food Booth passes, and could make a proposal to increase food booth wristband allocation from 24 to 30-36 (after 2024 Fair).

Discussion on moving the managerial aspect of the food committee into a separate entity for oversight, such as passes, hours of operation and the food committee would focus on food booth advocacy. This division would be similar to what Crafts has done. Dividing these responsibilities would require the fair to create a new crew.

**Upcoming meetings:**

Food committee April 9th, 6:30 (closed meeting)

Food Tastings April 14th & 15th

Food committee April 23rd, 6:30