

ELDERS SPRING RETREAT MINUTES - Approved at the 5/23/24 meeting.

DATE: Saturday, May 11, 2024

LOCATION: Alice's, Oregon Country Fair site

MEETING TIME: 10 a.m.

HOSTS: Elder Events Subcommittee (Kay, Molly, Lisa)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jain Elliott, Kay Kintzley, Robert "Mouseman" McCarthy, Eric Nicholson, Ann Rogers

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Diane Albino, Nancy Hafner, Hether Kent, Michael James Long

BOARD LIAISONS ABSENT: Kevin Levy, Jon Steinhart

OTHERS PRESENT: Synnove Abrahamsen, Roberta Austin, Marianne "Malka" Barber, Steve Barnes, Sandra Bauer, Tom Boyatt (facilitator for Mission Statement agenda item), Anna Brown, Tom Clark, Grisha (Tom's S.O.), Amber Coates, Darlene Colborn – Facilitator, Paul E. Compton, Katie Cousins, Kelly "Buck" Daugherty, Peggy Day Fitzgerald, Molly Elliott, Leone Gholston, Carolyn Gsell – Scribe, Chris (Howe) Harrison, Percy Hilo, Annemarie Hirsch, Paxton Hoag, Lois Inman, Jerry Joffe, Bob Kennedy, Jim May, Suzanne Philips, Cathy Piazza, Jorjan Plimmer, Jane Robin, Jerry Shultz, Patricia VanEsso, Jenny Wilson.

AGENDA

- Housekeeping - Kay
- Introductions
- Announcements
- Elder Volunteers Subcommittee Quick Report – Annemarie
- Elders Website quick update - Annemarie
- Meet and Greet - Events Subcommittee
- Geezer Pleezer – Pre-Fair Organizing Cathy P
- Elder camping: Hub, SWEATS, Del Boca Veneta (DBV), Elder Central – Annemarie, David (Spud), Kelly (Buck)

POTLUCK LUNCH – 12:30 p.m.

- Elders Budget Discussion – Kay
- Forming a fundraising subcommittee for events - Kay
- 1983 Map – Chris H.
- Still Living Room – Counterculture History Coalition (CHC) at the Magical History Theater (MHT) – Jerry Joffe
- Still Living Room Decorating – Sandra
- Still Living Room Staffing needs a coordinator – T.B.D.
- Still Living Room Setup and Decon – Eric or Jerry S.
- Mission Statement for Elders Committee – Darlene or Amber C.
- Meeting wrap-up and evaluation

Housekeeping – Kay

Review of meal plan, sleeping accommodations, clean-up, and Sunday closing at 2 p.m.

Introductions - Each attendee gave their name and Fair affiliation prior to becoming an elder.

Announcements

⇒ **Katie Cousins** – Katie is accepting payment for wristbands today, during the lunch break. She explained that an auto-generated email will be sent to any elder entered into the database,

explaining that folks can login and make their payment. Katie made it clear that you only need to set up and login to the database IF you want to pay online.

She also noted that the database has us classified as a “crew”, with SOPs (not called companion or helper passes, but the same thing).

If you made a note on your Pass Request Form that you plan to pay online but have not received an email, talk to Katie about this. It is likely that your incorrect email address is in the new database.

⇒ **Kay K.** – has some size 8 Romeos and size 8 Keen black sandals to give away.

Ann R. – Is on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) taskforce. EAB is a metallic green bug the size of a penny. Washington County has a ruling that any wood taken out of the county is punishable up to \$10,000. There is to be NO OUTSIDE firewood brought to the Fair. Kirsten, our Executive Director, made this an emergency decree at the May board meeting. Folks needing firewood can get it onsite from Wood World. The EAB is killing ash trees in the NE. Maine just got hit hard with EAB this year. The larvae live on the cambium of the tree. Currently Forest Grove is the first place in Oregon showing signs, and Forest Grove is currently removing ash trees. Beetles are currently dormant but typically come out at the end of May and June.

⇒ **Ann R.** - Dennis Todd passed away in late 2023. The Path Planning Meeting next Sunday from noon – 2 p.m. will be followed by a potluck to honor Dennis. The group will plant a white oak tree in his honor. Dennis was also the person who, 10 years ago, warned that the EAB was coming.

⇒ **Peggy Day** – Peggy is collecting money for the Elder T-shirts. Many of the forms show the cost at \$25, but we really need to charge \$30. Peggy will follow up with the office to make sure they print out and distribute the updated forms (showing the cost at \$30) and ask each person who paid \$25 to bring an extra \$5 when they pick up their shirts.

⇒ **Chris Harrison** – Chris found a Fair map from 1983 and brought it to the meeting. The map was pinned up for everyone to see. Chris is thinking about offering this map to fundraise for elders.

⇒ **Jain** – The U of O Pow Wow is traditionally held on Mother’s Day weekend, which is when our Spring Retreat is scheduled for this year and for 2025. Jain would like to see if our 2025 Spring Retreat can get moved to a different weekend. Kay said she is working on this.

⇒ **Malka** - Asked about an OCF wildflower poster she had seen in the past. A few Elders have info about this.

Elder Volunteers Subcommittee Quick Report – Annemarie

Carolyn and Annemarie headed up this subcommittee in 2020. The main purpose was to provide a way for Elders to plug in to volunteer positions. They keep a database of Elders who have expressed a willingness to volunteer. They plug people in to positions for Still Living Room (SLR), Geezer Pleezer, Meet & Greet, Elder Camp, etc. The subcommittee does outreach to Elders and works towards getting people comfortable with volunteering. Elder Wristbands started collecting

volunteer info from new Elders this year to find out if they are willing to volunteer. Katie has already given Annemarie the information about folks who expressed an interest in volunteering.

Annemarie has a new volunteer survey that will be emailed to folks who expressed an interest in volunteering. The subcommittee's dedicated email is eldervolunteers@gmail.com. Synnove is assigned as liaison for the Meet and Greet, Carolyn for SLR, and Annemarie for GP and Elder Camping.

Elders Website quick update – Annemarie

The website address is: www.ocfelders.weebly.com.

The PRF and T-Shirt order forms can be found via a link on the website home page.

The website contains all kinds of information for Elders. There were several complaints from folks who don't have connectivity.

A request was made for the Website subcommittee to put together a printed list of contacts for distribution at the June meeting.

Geezer Pleezer – Pre-Fair Organizing - Cathy P.

There is a planning meeting for the Geezer Pleezer program tomorrow (Sunday) at 10 a.m. We are only getting one gas powered cart. We can also request 1 from the motor pool. We will also get a service vehicle sticker. Kelly will have the sticker which will allow him to help Elders get their camping gear down to Del Boca Veneta.

Rather than 2 people on a shift, we can have 3 folks. That way, if one cart is out on pick-ups, the 3rd volunteer will be available to try to get a cart from the motor pool.

This year there will be designated Geezer Pleezer STOPS. There will be stops around the parking lot, around the Ritz, etc. There will be a map at the Hub (by Elders Central) showing the GP Stops. A request has been made to obtain three radios, but we may only get two.

Cathy needs a few new drivers/radio dispatch people this year. Anyone volunteering to drive a cart needs to provide Cathy with their contact info and Driver's License #, including which state the license is from, and expiration date.

Paul C. provided a good argument for Elders to have a 3rd radio. If we have an emergency, it is difficult to communicate with the Fair without one.

Cathy shared that the GP is not exclusively for Elders. We are willing to help other people.

Cathy expects our cart to have 4 seats.

The Sticker Booth people said that on Weds. And Thursday evenings after the sticker booth shuts down, the volunteers out there need a Geezer Pleezer ride back to the Fair.

There is a place at Hub/Elder Central to post when and where you need a ride. If we only have one cart, we should be careful about making commitments to help other groups, simply because with only one cart, the demand will be too high.

It was mentioned that Alexis is considering a shuttle system for South Woods. It is a goal of his – not sure if he can make it happen this year.

Cathy expects to have more information concerning Golf Carts at the June meeting.

Meet and Greet – Kay/Mollie

The theme for this year's Meet and Greet is "FUN FAMILY OF FRIENDS."

We come from every aspect of the Fair. Name tag stickers will be distributed at the party.

Attendees will also be asked to write where they are from at the fair before becoming an Elder.

Volunteer prep starts at 4 p.m. The work includes setting up decorations and lights, cutting up fruits and veggies, and building food trays. Kay will also be giving away vintage aprons. Rick Valley and

Jim Higby will be the Wine stewards this year. Please donate money to the collection pot for wine, etc. Or bring an unopened bottle of wine to the June meeting or the M&G. Jim H. will properly store the wine and bring it to the party.

Kay will discuss logistics for bringing in supplies to M&G at the June meeting. For the event, they will need 4 – 5 banquet tables. We need to own our own tables and store them onsite in our Storage trailer. Lois is part of an organization that is replacing old tables. Maybe in a year she can obtain some of the old tables.

Eric is bringing in the Never Never Band, same as last year. They have their own sound system. Melanie Reed, singer/songwriter (she needs G&P transport from the 8 to the M&G) will also perform. Radar Angels will also provide entertainment. They need sound and Eric is hoping that the Never Never Band can accommodate the sound. Eric was advised that he could run electricity from the Screen House. Paxton has a back-up PA on-site.

This will be Molly's 4th year on the Events Subcommittee. They are switching up this year's M&G menu so that it will all be finger food.

Cathy P. mentioned how crowded it was last year. The event has become more inclusive, and so more people have been showing up. There is not much we can do about this.

The June in-person committee meeting and potluck: Kay is looking forward to sharing her home for hosting the June meeting. Bring your own chairs and table service. Weds. June 12. 4 p.m. for helpers and 5 for socializing. 6 for potluck and 7 for starting the meeting.

Dates for next year's events 2025:

Spring Retreat May 9,10, 11 unless Kay can manage to trade with another group.

June meeting – 19th

M&G July 10

Fall retreat September 19

SPIRIT Walk – Close to full "Hunter" Moon Saturday, October 4.

Fall retreat Sept 20, 21, 22

The 2024 Spirit Walk is scheduled for Saturday, October 19.

The 2024 Winter Solstice Party is set for December 7.

Mollie – For the Winter Solstice party, there is very little money available out of the budget for paying a rental fee. At the June meeting the events subcommittee will be fundraising by selling ice cream floats and possibly ice cream sundaes.

Elder camping: Hub, SWEATS, Del Boca Veneta (DBV), Elder Central – Annemarie & Kelly (Buck) Annemarie/Elder Camp near The Hub – Has been the Elder camp host since 2017. She took over from Peggy Day. Annemarie has been co-hosting with Larry. As the host, she is currently waiting to hear from Elder Camp folks who have seniority for obtaining a camp space (they have camped in Elders Camp the previous year(s)).

She and Kelly are recruiting folks to help clear the camp. Annemarie has ordered wood chips for leveling the site.

One of the issues is that some folks apparently have been “inviting” friends to camp with them in Elders Camp, and THIS IS NOT OKAY. How do we reinforce the guidelines? Everyone has “a story.” Annemarie would also like to find someone to take over the Elder Camp Hosting position.

Kay feels this is something to be discussed with the Elders Committee. Put it on the agenda for the June meeting. Kay mentioned she was the first Elder Camp host. It is very stressful and labor and commitment intensive. There is a protocol for processing folks into Elder Camp.

Lois said that 4A needs more support for camping and suggested we form a coalition with 4A, given most Elders are alter-abled, stating that possibly a camp could be created at Dug’s Green.

Annemarie said that they did talk about Dug’s Green and Philip said that this area is not available to the Elders. It is used by management.

Paxton doubts that Elders expansion to Dug’s green is viable.

It was suggested to speak with our board liaisons.

Amber stated that the Fair has limited resources for camping. Could we consider an off-site camping situation for the overflow of campers. The Fair doesn’t have the resources to fulfill our camping needs. Communication and Transportation would need to be taken into consideration for a remote camp to work.

Mouseman – When and where is this discussion going to take place? Amber suggested discussing this at the fall retreat. It was pointed out that Amber’s suggestion is completely different from Lois’s camping issue.

Paxton reminded that the OCF Camping Crew is good at finding camping spaces for people. They run the SCOFLOT (Staff, Crafts Over-Flow LOT).

Jane - 1500 Elders, 120 camping spaces. What about leasing offsite camping with a Geezer Pleezer, funded by the wristband fees we pay to be at the Fair. How about a Hospice camping spot?

We were reminded that currently there are 1700 Elders.

The Committee needs to give the approval for a “new” camping subcommittee to be formed. If people wish to pursue this, then the topic needs to put this on the May meeting agenda to see if the committee will approve a subcommittee to investigate this. Paxton can bring some information about the camping situation to the next meeting.

KELLY – SWEATS and Del Boca Veneta.

DBV had 22 camp spots last year. There is a potential for 15 more spots.

SWEATS has 20 spots.

People are still showing up in these camps who never signed up.

Kelly would love, if a person has an S.O., they should camp in the same tent. Tent footprints are an issue.

There is a meeting about camping and Geezer Pleezer at the hub on Sunday at 10 a.m.

Peggy also reminded that she will be at Elder Central on Friday or Saturday before Fair, and people who camp there can set up their tents in advance.

POTLUCK LUNCH – 12:30 – 2 p.m.

Elders Budget Events SC report - Kay

Specific to the Events subcommittee – We are allotted \$750 to support our events. With respect to that, Kay would like to do some private fundraising through the Events subcommittee. At the 2023 Holiday Party, we raised \$300 for the raffle of a gift basket.

Our budget for this retreat was \$100. Because the potluck is becoming so successful, the events subcommittee would like to cut back to a \$50 budget for the spring retreat and allocate the other \$50 to the Meet and Greet.

The events SC will be fundraising at the June mtg. selling Ice cream floats and ice cream sundaes.

Paxton recommended that we call the Events SC an Events Work Group (or Wine Group).

Forming a fundraising subcommittee for events - Kay

Kay would like to approach the Elders Committee about forming a fundraising subcommittee, separate from events.

1983 Map – Chris Howe

As mentioned during announcements, Chris has this very large 1983 map in her possession. The question came up about the map relative to archives. Jerry explained that Archives is planning to speak with the Fair about the thousands of posters they are holding. Archives likes to have at most 3 copies of an item. There is a bigger discussion to be had about using old items from the Fair for Fundraisers. This discussion will likely take place this fall and winter. What are we going to do with the inventory that the Archives group no longer needs?

Jerry explained that many years ago (in the past decade) we had official archives run by Terry Baxter. Jerry and Terry have been taking in many donations. Collaborating with the Fair's IT dept, they are working on digitizing the archives.

Chris Howe's map belongs to her. She can decide to do with it what she wishes. There are many possibilities. Currently we have an '87 map in the SLR. We can discuss this at a committee meeting once Chris decides how she would like to see her 1983 map used.

Still Living Room – Counterculture History Coalition (CHC) at the Magical History Theater (MHT) – Jerry Joffe

Jerry gave an overview of how the CHC will participate in the Still Living Room by way of the MHT.

Jerry had a write up of the CHC mission statement to pass around, and another article plus some other information about the CHC.

Jerry read the article that will appear in the Peach Pit. The Peach Pit article includes a program of events in the MHT. The MHT regular video will run in a loop, except during the 1 and 4 p.m. Fri., Sat., and Sunday presentations. Live presenters from the CHC will discuss various topics of interest to the CHC and the Fair. This group has the largest collection of counterculture materials in the world.

Jerry has written to the Video Crew about getting some of these meetings video-recorded.

The group encouraged Jerry to invite the CHC folks to the Meet and Greet. They are camping near Sandra (not an Elders camp). Kay suggested we should announce the CHC program at the Meet and Greet.

They will have 6 x 6 paneled posters to display in the MHT.

More information about the Counterculture History Coalition can be found here:

<https://chcoalition.org/>

Still Living Room Decorating - Sandra

The MHT was very successful last year. We are just starting to get the word out about it. This year our décor setup will be mostly the same as last year.

Décor Setup is Wednesday at 2 p.m. The main furniture is already set up and the boxes of décor are delivered from Dug's Green. The old, huge benches have disintegrated. Jerry S. is making 3 new benches. Putting up the lights and decorations takes 3 – 4 hours. Then on Sunday at 7 p.m., a group comes in to take the décor down and put it away in the storage box.

Money from the budget for SLR this year is going to batteries and materials for building furniture.

Still living Room Staffing - Carolyn

Carolyn went through the chain of events that take place for the SLR:

- Saturday pre-fair - Items stored at Dug's Green are loaded onto a trailer and delivered to the SLR site. Volunteers at the SLR site install the furniture in preparation for décor.
- Saturday afternoon – Timelines are installed (these are stored at the Fair office and delivered to the site).
- Wednesday before Fair, Décor is installed.
- Friday, Saturday, Sunday – Elder volunteers staff the SLR in shifts.
- Sunday night – Décor items are taken down and placed in storage boxes.
- Monday morning at 10 a.m. – All SLR items are loaded onto a trailer and returned to storage at Dug's Green. There are typically two loads.

Jorjan P. will gather a list of volunteers to staff the SLR on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and create a schedule. Carolyn will follow up with volunteers to confirm their shifts.

Contact info: Jorjan22@gmail.com. Ph. 503-936-2819 Jorjan gave Carolyn permission to post contact info on both listservs.

Still Living Room Setup and Decon – Eric and Jerry S.

Jerry and Eric are in charge. The setup is on Saturday before the Fair. The job has been made easier with the storage trailer at Dug's Green. Saturday is when all the big furniture is put up. Jerry suggested recruiting younger family members to help with the labor.

On Sunday the soft goods and artwork are taken down and placed in storage containers. Then on Monday the containers are hauled over to Dug's Green.

Typically, Kevin McCormick picks up the Timelines on his trailer, and they come out on Saturday. Eric suggested that Jerry J. follow up with Kevin McCormick about getting the timelines out to the Fair.

Setup is Saturday July 6 10 a.m. Meet at Dug's Green to load or arrive at 11 a.m. at the SLR to set up.

Jerry J. could use some help with getting the timelines out of the Fair office. They are buried behind a lot of items in the upstairs office. Tentatively 10 a.m. on Saturday AT THE OFFICE. Elder Volunteers will recruit. (scribe's note – Tom Boyatt volunteered to assist with this project).

Sandra will look into the possibility of the flower crew supplying flowers.

MISSION STATEMENT – Darlene and Amber

Facilitator for this segment – Tom Boyatt

Tom asked – is this up for discussion and feedback or is this to just let people know what has been developed thus far and folks can decide if they want to make recommendations.

Here is a draft of the statement:

The Mission Statement of the Oregon Country Fair Elders:

Based on counterculture and grassroots movements, the mission of The Oregon Country Fair Elders is to foster a living legacy based on the principles of sustainability, diversity, and inclusion. While continuing to evolve as an entity, the Elders support the Fair, its members, and the community by sharing ourselves, our stories, our inspiration. On-site, on-line or through community outreach, we cultivate and manifest by example, encouraging others to do the same.

Mouseman made a distinction that there is a mission statement for the Elders Committee and then there is a mission statement for the OCF Elders. He likes the draft as it pertains to Elders as a whole.

Tom recommended that the committee identify if they need a mission statement. The statement we are talking about today is for OCF Elders. Paxton feels that a mission statement for the committee could be discussed at a committee meeting.

Paxton recommended that the committee draft a mission statement in time for the submittal of the annual report.

Jon P. recommended that the committee statement be informed by the original policy set forth by the board. Sandra recommended that any mission statement written be approved by the board.

Peggy reminded the group that to fulfill best practices, the mission statement is needed for the committee. A mission statement for Elders at large does not need to be approved by the Fair.

Paxton – what we are talking about right now is a statement for overall Elders. The committee members are responsible for the committee's mission statement.

Darlene wants to see the statement coalesce around community. She further went on to define what a mission statement is:

- A simple and brief description that encompasses the purpose of an organization, defining its culture, goals, and values.
- A clear vision of the society's top priorities
- A formal summary of the aims and values to which all participants can subscribe.
- What we do
- Our purpose
- How we go about achieving our goals.

A vision statement is what an organization desires to achieve, its aspirations for the future.

Input from the group:

- One criteria of a mission statement is that it is pie in the sky. It is an aspiration.
- The mission statement should pertain to the elders in the context of the Fair. The Fair already has a Mission Statement.
- We really need an Elders Committee Mission statement. She suggested that we read other committees' mission statements.
- The committee needs to satisfy the requirements of Best Practices. We Elders are not an organization. We are a collection of individuals.
- The missions statement overall should be general.
- We need to think about what makes us (elders) unique. What is it that we bring to the Fair?
- One person likes the larger group discussion of our values. There is nobody discussing the values of the OCF right now. Elders is just one small segment. In the past there was a Council of Elders.
- Under .net site for each committee it should show their mission statement.
- The Council of Elders was formed and commissioned to meet when called upon. It hasn't met in many years.
- Why are Elders important? That's something to consider in a mission statement. It is also about recognition.
- By working with the Teen crew, Elders are passing down knowledge.
- What makes Elders unique?
- Why are we passionate about being Elders?
- What are our values?
Why are we important?

Meeting wrap-up:

The meeting ended 4:30ish

HOMEWORK

- Printed list of important contacts for Elders – Website subcommittee
- Add "Extra Camping" to May meeting agenda.
- Add "subcommittee for Elder Event Fundraising" to May meeting agenda.
- Add Committee mission statement to May agenda.