

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Draft 2 approved at the 6/12/24 meeting

DATE: Thursday, May 23, 2024

LOCATIONS: Online and OCF Office

MEETING TIME: 7 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT ONLINE: Diane Albino

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON: Nancy Hafner, Kay Kintzley, Michael James Long, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Eric Nicholson (arrival @ 7:25 p.m. after minutes approved), Ann Rogers

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Jain Elliott, Heather Kent

BOARD LIAISONS ABSENT: Kevin Levy, Jon Steinhart

OTHERS PRESENT ON-LINE: Synnove Abrahamsen, Roberta Austin, Maida Belove, Amber Coates, Alan Cohn, Darlene Colborn, Lisa Cooley, Carolyn Gsell – scribe, Chris Harrison, Tom Heneghan, Percy Hilo, David Hoffman, Peggy Isaacs, Jorjan Plimmer, Jen Wells, Jenny Wilson, Cynthia Wooten.

OTHERS PRESENT IN-PERSON: Tom Boyatt – Facilitator, Katie Cousins, Peggy Day Fitzgerald, Patricia Van Esso

Quorum – 6 of 9 committee members were initially present; thus, a quorum was established with 6 voting members. A 7th committee member arrived after motions were approved.

Agenda

- Announcements
- Approve April meeting minutes.
- Approve May retreat minutes.
- Extra (2nd) Geezer Pleezer – Ann
- Elder Camp Host(s) - Kay
- Kids in Elders Camps – what is the policy? Kay
- ~~Extra Camping (topic requested at spring retreat) – Who belongs to this one?~~
- Forming a subcommittee for Elder Events fundraising - Kay
- Pre Post Security Guidebook Oral History Project - Jennifer Wells, Pre/Post Security
- Still Living Room Saturday setup - Carolyn
- Still Living Room Staffing – Jorjan
- Elders Committee mission statement – Tom
- Wristband question for specific Elder – Michael JL
- Meeting evaluation

Announcements:

- Kay - Spring Retreat acknowledgements. We had 38 people at the retreat. Thank you to everyone who pitched in. We had the best volunteer help ever at this retreat. The potluck was so fantastic that the Events Subcommittee will spend less money on food at retreats so that those dollars can be used elsewhere.
- Ann – Meeting etiquette reminder - With the passage of a motion by the board, committee meeting recordings will now be uploaded to the .net site. Please be careful about revealing any personal information in the meeting. The Lump Committee’s last recording included a screen shared document that contained personal information that had to be rubbed out”.
- The in-person attendees went around the room to introduce themselves.
- Kay – Good response on T shirts. The original cost was \$25 but now they are \$30. Peggy is asking those who paid \$25 to bring an additional \$5 when they come to pick up their ordered shirts.

- Nancy – Tomorrow is the deadline for sending in your PRF. Provide ALL the information requested on the form. She reminded the group that if you request an S.O., you are required to name the person who is your designated S.O.
- Kay – The 2025 Spring Retreat date has moved from Mother’s Day weekend to the weekend of May 2, 3, and 4.

Approve April 2024 minutes:

Kay made a motion to approve the April 2024 minutes. Ann seconded. *The motion passed by unanimous consent.*

Approve Spring 2024 retreat minutes:

Kay made a motion to approve the spring 2024 retreat minutes. Mouseman seconded. The motion passed 5 – 0. Nancy Hafner abstained.

Extra (2nd) Geezer Pleezer – Ann

Mark told Ann that if Elders paid for an extra GP (\$800) we could get a second cart. He did offer an additional service vehicle pass. There is no time this year to get an extra GP. The extra service vehicle pass could come in handy for an emergency.

Nancy – has been working with Cathy, Fran and Daniel about reserving a second vehicle. The second GP would come from the Motor Pool. We can reserve the second cart from the Motor Pool in advance, but we need to submit our schedule to the motor pool folks.

It was mentioned that we could really use a 6 – 8-person vehicle.

Kay Kintzley on behalf of Annemarie H. – there is a chance we may get a Pedi-Cab. We will know in about a week.

Nancy announced we will receive 3 high quality (digital) radios this year, per Bear Wilner.

Cynthia – might be a useful process to have a regular schedule for the alter-abled lot. Nancy responded that this year Geezer Pleazer will post a schedule. FARTS transportation has already published a schedule.

Cynthia asked for the contact info for the GP folks. Carolyn will send contact info to Cynthia along with the FARTS schedule.

Elder Camp Host(s) – Kay (On behalf of Annemarie H.)

Annemarie damaged her Achilles tendon and is working the Fair this year at limited capacity. This will also be Annemarie’s last year as Elder Camp Host. Two people have stepped in to take over as the camp hosts starting in 2025, and they will be in training for the 2024 Fair. The plan is to get the two people in training to get approved by the Elders Committee.

Kids in Elders Camps – what is the policy? Kay

This came up a long time ago when Elder Camp was first established. Since Covid, we have been making some compromises. Kay proposes that the Elders Committee establish guidelines for all the Elder camps so that they have documentation. In the remote camps, people have been allowed to bring babies.

As a committee we need to back up our Camp Hosts with a protocol in place.

Tom – Do you want to carve out time to discuss this? Kay – Let’s discuss this in time for the 2025 Fair. Even though the Elder camp was originally a kid-free camp, the rule has slipped, and she would like to see it tightened up for 2025.

The question was asked, was the rule compromised last year? Was it a single incident? Kay believes there have been a few “violations” of the rules with babies and, teenagers. Per Michael JamesLong, we have never allowed teenagers to camp in Elders. Put this on the agenda for the June meeting – so we can discuss it. Peggy Day has some documentation around rules for Elders Camp re. kids, babies, children, teens, etc. One year an elder gave their camp space to some teens. Bottom line – What is current written policy? What do Elders want to see for the camp? The committee can update a policy.

~~Extra Camping (topic requested at spring retreat) – Who belongs to this one? Nobody stepped up to take this topic.~~

Forming a subcommittee for Elder Events fundraising – Kay

Kay would like to see the committee approve a subcommittee to do fundraising for Elder Events and other Elder needs.

Kay made a motion to form a fundraising subcommittee. Michael seconded. Amber – Has ideas on fundraising and is interested in being on the subcommittee to discuss some ideas and how to bring them to reality.

Mouseman would like to move this conversation to the June meeting.

Pre Post Security Guidebook Oral History Project - Jennifer Wells, Pre/Post Security

Jen introduced herself. This is her first year as an Elder. She would like to get the stories from earlier volunteers from pre and post Fair. These would go in a guidebook that Jen is putting together. Michael suggested that Jen write up the type of information she would like to collect. Peggy stated there is a lot of history written on the Elders website. Carolyn suggested Jen join wonderful OCF Elders, and that Jen work with Carolyn and Annemarie to set up a web page on the OCF Elders website for her project. Ann suggested that Jen get in touch with archivist Terry Baxter. Also research earlier FFN’s using keyword searches. Another good source of information is archived board minutes.

Still Living Room Saturday pre-Fair setup - Carolyn

Carolyn will bring lunch fixings for the Saturday pre-Fair setup. She also reminded the group that even if we are donating money and resources to perform an activity, we should report the cost to the committee so that the group knows what things cost, for future reference.

Still Living Room Staffing – Jorjan

Jorjan will repost the staffing sign-up. There are shifts to be filled for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Elders Committee Mission Statement – Tom

There are 2 mission statements that have been discussed: 1 for the committee to conform to best practices, and another mission statement for the Elders at large. Tom is willing to write up a mission statement for the committee in time for the 2025 Annual Report. Mouseman reminded us that the committee’s job is to verify the eligibility of new Elders. He liked the mission statement that was read at the retreat for Elders at large. There’s no mandate for a mission statement. Tom is willing to put something out on the table and then step back and let other people work on it.

Darlene mentioned that Amber was going to look at what other groups in the Fair have done in terms of a mission statement.

Amber reported that she did not find much on the .net site concerning mission statements for other committees.

Ann said she is on a few other committees, and some have mission statements, but they may not be accurate.

Tom advised that a Mission statement should be "Short and sweet".

CHANGE OF MEETING TIME – Ann

Several people would like to see our committee meeting begin at an earlier time of day. Maybe during standard time, when it gets dark early, we could start our meeting at 6 p.m. There was another suggestion for starting at 5 p.m.

We have some active meeting participants who have job obligations and cannot meet before 6 or 6:30 p.m.

The discussion will be pushed to the June meeting.

June Meeting Fundraiser Reminder – Lisa C.

Lisa reminded the group to bring extra cash to the June meeting at Kay's for the Ice Cream Float and Sundaes Fundraiser. Assorted toppings will be made available.

Wristband Question for specific Elder – MJL

Michael James Long reported that Chewie reported that he was offered a wristband for the 2024 Fair, which was then rescinded by "the people at the office", but nothing in writing. He was told he could get a \$10 day pass. Michael said that the tradition is that an Elder who requests a wristband gets one. The GM some time ago said that he was not to be issued a wristband.

The reason Michael is bringing this up is that he doesn't like a "behind the scenes process" where things are not up front. Apparently, Chewie was asked to meet certain prerequisites and according to the Fair, he did not. Michael stated that he cannot speak for Chewie. Michael doesn't like the process. We either need to change the grievance procedure or? Michael feels like the process that was used is worthless. Can he apply for a wristband through Elders or not?

Ann said she spoke with the management and got pretty much the same answer. She thinks that the staff probably looks at this issue as an HR problem. By Oregon Law, Personnel issues are not to be discussed with any outside parties. It is a personnel-type issue. The problem is at a roadblock.

Kay recalls that a couple of years ago Chewie came to the committee, and we offered someone from our group to accompany him to a meeting to address this issue. Michael reported that Chewie did say he had someone with him at his most recent meeting with management at the Fair office. Apparently, Chewie was told he could have a worker day pass but not a wristband, which is like telling an Elder they cannot attend (camp at) the Fair.

Peggy would like to see a process in place. If the Fair decides that an Elder is banned from obtaining a wristband through Elders, then the Fair should inform us.

Tom read the following that was posted in the Chat by Lisa:

"This is very special and specific exception. It is not clear. Bc it's Chewy. And bc it pertains to diversity / equity and personal responsibility. We can't involve ourselves in personnel matters."

Nancy reported that last year there was an incident where one of the S.O.'s of an Elder was banned from the Fair, and a BUM reported this to Nancy (who is in charge of Elder wristbands).

Diane would like to see Chewie come back and she wishes he would do “whatever the things are” that were requested to get him back. She worries that this could happen to other people where we never get to know why someone is banned from the Fair.

The question was asked if there is a specific request on the table or are we just shooting the breeze about this.

Michael said he wanted to bring the topic up, because, in the past, if an Elder requested a wristband, they could get one, unless the General Manager stated that a specific person is banned from the Fair. Tom recommended that If the committee wishes to follow up on this issue, they should take it to our board liaisons for finding a solution.

MEETING EVALUATION

The Owl Camera automatically points at the person speaking.

The folks on Zoom felt that the meeting went well, and there was a general agreement that attendees behaved well.

The group at the office did a very good job of avoiding crosstalk.

Kudos to Tom for facilitating.

The meeting ended at 8:43 p.m.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PASSED:

- The April 2024 meeting minutes were approved 6 – 0.
- The May spring retreat minutes were approved 5 – 0 and 1 abstention.

HOMEWORK:

- Send FARTS schedule and GP contacts to Cynthia W. – Carolyn
- Post FARTS schedule on OCF Elders website – Carolyn
- Elders Committee follow up with board liaisons regarding Chewie – Who?

PARKING LOT:

- Elder Eligibility - what constitutes a volunteer year? – Subcommittee unable to meet prior to April meeting
- Spirit Walk List

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Gsell