

Board of Directors Meeting

February 5, 2024, 7 pm

(Subject to approval by the Board at the March 2024, Board meeting)

Zoom remote online and live streamed on YouTube

YouTube recording link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qpknf-Gpx9o>

Board Directors present: John Alexander, Anthony “AJ” Jackson (President), Sandra Bauer, Paxton Hoag, Thomas Horn, Kevin Levy, Arna Shaw (Vice President), Sue Theolass, Lisa Parker, George Braddock, Jon Steinhart and Teresa Vaughn. Board Members John Alexander and Lisa Parker were present but had to leave before the meeting ended. Other Board officers present: Hilary Anthony (Treasurer), and Stephen Diercouff (Secretary). Staff present: Kirsten Bolton (Executive Director), Mark Malaska (Co-Event Manager), Alexis Maddock (Site and Facilities Manager), Vanessa Roy (Marketing Manager), Norma Sax (Office Manager), Alex Zabala (Office Assistant), Sunny Arthurs (Assistant Event Manager), Steven Berkson (facilitator) and Anna DiBenedetto (Board Scribe).

The meeting was facilitated by Steven Berkson.

Announcements

Stephen Diercouff: Same as last week: There are two new committees: Rules Committee (meets Feb. 6); and Joint Bylaws and Elections Committees, which has already met and created a draft. All the info is on the oregoncountryfair.net site and membership is invited to participate. February 26 is the next public meeting. There is a Board Work Session on March 18 to discuss proposed Bylaws changes.

Arna: Committee’s annual reports due March 15. Board liaisons should remind committees to finish them. Also, Jill Heiman Vision fund has put out the RFP (requests for proposals), category this year is “environment and sustainability.” It doesn’t need to go to environmental organizations, it can be an organization working on a sustainability *project*. Encourages Lane County nonprofits to apply. Deadline is April 1 and applications are available online at <https://www.oregoncountryfair.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/JHVF-RFP-2024.pdf>

AJ: Great news heard today: Eugene Weekly will be publishing their print edition this week after a hiatus. Please support this community partner.

Jon Steinhart: Is building a new computer system to manage parts of the Fair; he has room on his crew. Please apply if you have software experience.

Minutes Review

(YouTube video: 0:04:30)

**The Board approved the Minutes of the January 8, 2024, meeting.
The motion passed by unanimous consent.**

Agenda Review and New Business

(YouTube video: 0:05:31)

Jon Steinhart moved to swap Guidelines changes and Policy Privacy because Privacy Policy might be quicker and can be completed.

The motion passed: 8-4; Lisa, Sue, John Alexander and Teresa opposed.

Kirsten moved to separate Guideline changes #5 and #6 because they are either/or. Guideline changes #7 and #8 are also either/or. Changes #10 and #11 should be separated for

same reason. Moved that the Sound Policy be postponed to November 2024 Board meeting, giving more time for Member Input.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Steven Berkson: Guideline changes #5 and #6, #7 and #8 and #10 and #11 will be handled as separate motions.

Separate Amplified Sound Policy (#9) as its own motion.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Arna moved to deal with each remaining Guideline change separately.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

John Alexander moved to move #9 to top of list.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

The amended agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Member Input

(YouTube video: 0:18:18)

Amy Hand: Works for Fern Ridge School District, which is having a community engagement event at Veneta elementary school February 15 from 6 pm to 7:30 pm, and she would love to see a Culture Jam representative come to interact with the families in the district.

Staff Report — Executive Director

(YouTube video: 0:19:30)

Administration:

The 2024 Budget is complete.

Crew budget sheets have been emailed to Coordinators. Included was a link to submit Crew T-shirts sizes and a link to request \$3 food voucher denominations; both are due by February 29. Food vouchers are reported as \$6 increments on the Crew Budget sheets.

The 2024 Capital Improvement Requests were due January 31, 2024.

The Budget Committee will meet three times in February to review requests and set 2024 Capital Improvement spending limit. The Board will approve them at the March 4 Board meeting.

Emerald Ash Borer Response Planning Task Force is in motion: Thirteen volunteers have agreed to participate in the task force. They are coming from: Archaeology, Path Planning, LUMP, Fixed Assets, Fire, Camping, Stewardship, and Community Village. They include expertise in the areas of Forestry Management, Conservation Planning, Arborist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Archaeology, and Structured Decision-Making processes. We anticipate 10 two-hour work sessions and one Board Work Session. Meetings are scheduled for 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on the following dates: February 28, March 13, April 3, April 17, May 1, September 4, September 18, October 2, October 16 and October 30. We are taking a hiatus May-August. We resume in September until a strategic plan is finalized and ready to present to the Board and membership at a Work Session. All meetings are open to the membership and are on the .net site.

A database privacy policy is in the Board packet under Old Business and will be voted on tonight. As previously stated, this is an essential piece of policy; it will enable us to get all data onto the servers in the Eugene office, under one comprehensive database for the first time in OCF history. It will inform members, volunteers, artists, performers and restaurateurs of the data we collect, why we collect it, their rights to privacy and the measures we are taking to protect their personal data.

Event Management:

We are actively working on Contracts and Permits. 2024 Contracts:

1. LTD: Per the Federal Transportation Administration, LTD is required to post the route to “for-profit” companies before they can provide service. If one “for-profit” company submits a quote, LTD cannot provide service. A quote has been received and LTD has declared they will not provide bus service to our event this year. We have contacted the company that provided a general quote and are working on refining it to meet our needs and see if it comes in within our budget. We are working this from several angles and will update the Board as new information becomes available.

2. First Student.

3. Portable Toilets: contacted.

4. Bear Comm: contacted.

5. Lane County Sheriff’s Office.

6. Western States Flaggers.

7. Haying: Farside/Winery/Main Site: contacted.

8. City of Veneta: Banner.

9. Dodeca Art Barn: contacted.

10. Ritz Sauna: contract submitted to Board for Potential Conflict of Interest vote in March

11. Whitebird: contacted.

12. Life’s Best In Tents: Contract signed.

13. Staff T-shirts: Email went out to Coordinators requesting they submit crew T-shirt sizes via a link by February 29.

14. Commemorative Sales Merchandise.

15. Emerald Valley Towing.

16. Paragon Water: a) Dust Control during Fair; b) Dust Control Pre-Fair; c) Peachy is leaking and we may rent a pull-behind water tank.

17. Moo Lines.

18. Sunbelt Rentals: contacted. 19.

United Rentals: contacted.

20. Penske Rentals: contacted.

21. Enterprise: contacted.

22. AT&T COW: contacted and declined; working on ways to convince them to come.

23. Verizon: contacted and looking like a yes.

24. T-Mobile: contacted and looking like a yes.

25. City of Eugene: Water Meter.

2024 Service Providers — Santa Clara Farm Stand; Lane County Health Inspectors; ATMs; Ice: contacted Sherman Brothers, Cascade Ice, Arctic Ice and SnowTemp.

2024 Permits — Lane County Camping Permits for Farside, Zenn Acres, Alice’s, Marshall’s, Dahinda Acres, Far Side. Lane County Outdoor Assembly Permit: working on, submit early March. ODOT, Lane County Right of Way: working on, submit in early March.

2024 Tickets will go on sale on Friday, March 15, 2024. Three-day tickets will be offered for the first two weeks. General Admission Early Bird tickets will go on sale on Monday, April 1, to June 15. General Admission Regular Price tickets will go on sale on June 16 through the event. Tickets may be purchased at the Eugene office starting Monday, April 1. Tickets will be sold on Mondays and Tuesdays only of each week, from noon to 4 pm. Last day to purchase tickets through the Eugene office will be Tuesday, June 25.

The Spring Fling is set for Saturday, May 4, 2024.

Main Camp will open on Saturday, June 8, 2024.

The Teddy Bear Picnic is Sunday, August 18, 2024.

Culture Jam is moving forward by one day. The new dates are Thursday, August 1, to Thursday, August 8, 2024.

Site:

The ice storm caused extensive tree damage, but no structures were damaged. The site remains flooded and is dangerous due to downed trees. We encourage people not to access the site and if you do, it is at your own risk.

Marketing:

Printing — Guidelines: Expect out of printers 3/29/24. Vehicle Stickers: in the works. Food Vouchers: Pending denomination request from Coordinators; should go to print in mid-March. VIP Passes: These will be printed with a one-time use QR code. We will be able to track their usage for the first time. Worker Day Passes: These will be printed from the Afton ticket system. Stickers: Miss Piggy's, SCOF, Back Lot, Alice's and Mystery Machine. Wristbands: Three-Day, Staff, Teen, Teen Crew, Teen and Booth.

Treasurers' Report (YouTube video: 0:26:40)

Hilary: Thank everyone for turning in Capital projects. The Budget committee will look and bring back recommended list at the March meeting. They received almost \$350,000 worth of projects; all of them won't be able to be funded but there will surely be enthusiasm about the projects.

Committee and Working Group Reports

Committees should send their reports to Vanessa (vanessa@oregoncountryfair.org), to be posted on the .net site and included in the Board packet.

Bylaws Committee met January 24, 2023, and the summary is here: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/01.24.2023-Bylaws-Mtg-Minutes.pdf>

Bylaws Committee met February 21, 2023, and the summary is here: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/02.21.2023-Bylaws-minutes.pdf>

Bylaws Committee met March 21, 2023, and the summary is here: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/03.21.2023-Bylaws-Minutes.pdf>

Bylaws Committee met May 3, 2023, and the summary is here: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/05.03.23-Bylaws-Minutes.pdf>

Bylaws Committee met November 27, 2023, and the summary is here: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/11.27.2023-Bylaws-Minutes.pdf>

Craft Committee met November 8, 2023, and the summary is here: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/CC11-8-23.pdf>

Elders Committee met November 30, 2023, and the summary is here: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/01/EldersCommMtg113023.pdf>

Elders Committee met January 25, 2024. SUMMARY: Seven of 9 committee members were present. One absence was due to lack of power at the committee member's home. Both Board liaisons were present. There were an additional 13 people from the membership for a total attendance of 22. The November minutes were approved. (There was no meeting in December; we had our holiday party.) The group voted on holding the June in-person meeting on Wednesday, June 12. The tradition has been to meet at an Elder Committee member's home in Pleasant Hill. 23 new Elders were approved based on vetted applications. There was a discussion of the upcoming age change for the 2025 Fair. The names of our dearly departed OCF family that were read or shouted out during the October Spirit Walk are on a list held by the scribe and circulated only via ECOCF. A controversy arose over many people requested adding names after the event. This has turned into a sensitive issue. The original plan was to share all the names via the Wonderful OCF Elders

listserv. That plan has changed. The Elders' Committee and friends will think about and decide how much of this we wish to take on. Do we collect every name? Just Elders? Just those reported to us? One committee member pointed out that we are suffering from "mission creep." Some suggested forming a subcommittee. It was left for people to think about and discuss at the next meeting. The Timeline subcommittee reported that they are making real progress and expect to have the 2011- 2020 Timeline done in time for the 2024 Still Living Room display. Stay tuned. There was a discussion about potential guideline changes around the sound amplification issue. — Summary submitted by Carolyn Gsell, scribe for Elders Committee.

Old Business

(YouTube video: 0:27:35)

OCF Data Privacy Policy (Jon Steinhart & Arna Shaw)

Jon Steinhart moved and AJ seconded to approve replacing the current data privacy policy with the following Oregon Country Fair Data Privacy Policy: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/02/OCF-Data-Privacy-Policy-12-12-23.pdf>.

Member Input: None

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

2024 Guideline Changes (Kevin Levy & Paxton Hoag)

The 2024 Guideline Changes can be seen here:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-Guidelines-Policy-Proposals.pdf>.

Kirsten: Requests that #9 Amplified Sound Policy be postponed (leaving existing Guideline for this year) and referred to a Task Force that will be created by Kirsten to review existing policy and draft a new policy after hearing and participation from membership. Then the new policy can be brought to Board by November 2024. Testimony can be given tonight but there will be ample other opportunities as well.

Arna: Current policy around sound is not being followed or upheld. Doesn't mind postponing if we follow existing rules. Community agreement box shouldn't be checked if they haven't actually done one.

AJ moved and Paxton seconded that #9 Amplified Policy Guideline change be delegated to a Task Force that will be created by Kirsten to review existing policy and draft a new policy after hearing from membership. Then new policy recommendation will be brought to Board by November 2024.

Paxton: Sound summit was held before and would be helpful again, as long as it follows the normal Work Session process.

Lisa: Suggested to limit member input to 30 seconds or one minute, to respect the fact that so many members showed up to address this issue and should be heard.

Sandra: This is a good idea and Guideline recommendation to address amplified sound is needed to hit the sweet spot.

John Alexander: It will be important to hear from membership and history of the issue. Respect, tradition and compromise are all key here and we need to have a positive process.

AJ: It's important to give members a chance to speak about this at Fair this year, not just folks that attend Board meetings.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Member Input: Steven Berkson asked people to limit themselves to 90 seconds.

Craig Smith: Likes the idea of the task force because this is really important. Decision in November is quick enough. Getting input at Fair would be important. I am an Elder and Fixed Asset Committee and Carbon Neutral working group member.

Grumpy: Ditto what Craig said.

Tim Furst: Flying Karamazov brother and Stage Left Camp host. Used to have a vibrant evening scene with acoustic music, but amplified music has made their scene abandoned. Community agreements can work but have not been happening, with rare exception (Morningwood Odditorium). Mandatory community agreements would be better. Permits being posted at the stages might be helpful. Finding sound permits in advance has proved to be impossible. Would like to be on the Task Force because current policy has not worked.

Lawrence Taylor: Has some credibility for being sensitive. Shares concerns that Tim has. Process is essential with something so broadly impactful, so appreciates Kirsten's efforts. Hopes feedback can come at event. Agrees with Board's decision.

Nancy Levidow: Ditto much of what Tim Furst said. Elder and has had many roles at the Fair. Stage Left is blasted from many different areas all night. Current amplified policy is not working. We are a campground of musicians, but they cannot have acoustics jams or social hours at camp due to amplified sound. It's hard to sleep as well, which means they cannot present their art to the best of their ability and going home at night is not possible for many. Wants to be an event without amplified music.

Amy Hand: Wants to support the postponement and inclusion of more voices. Thank you, Kirsten. Looking at the future and as we move forward with sound policy, we want to be inclusive and include youth. Recycling wants to play music to keep crews enthusiastic, but they are open to negotiation. They are happy to have community agreements, but no one has approached them about it. Many people have answered their survey. Encourages speaking to many people.

Lia Holland; Spoken Word and Spirit Tower and Front Porch. Number and aggressiveness of complaints changes with type of music being played. Community agreements can be a tool of systemic racism because there is a sharp rise of complaints for hip hop and music that comes from a different cultures. Please don't move forward with plan to allow a minority to shut down shows. Phones have notoriously bad decibel readers. Recommends a form for complaints. Urges Board to speak to professional sound engineers. It's important for community building at Fair for volunteers to hear their co-campers' performances.

Rob Sample: Volunteer with Photo Studio. Started 11 or 12 years ago as path rover. Evening time is when volunteers can really enjoy the Fair and dance. Need to find something equitable for all. There are many quiet areas of Fair. Some areas could be for live amplified sound and others remain quiet.

Genevieve Middleton: Navajo nation citizen, gratitude to ancestors. Thank you for postponing and making opportunity to make decision more inclusive. Seconds Lia's comments. Community agreements are good for new groups of people but don't support section 50 without deeper conversations. What is a community agreement? What is an acoustic footprint? Are community agreements relational or operational? Has experienced ongoing regular discrimination at the Fair. Hopes that the Fair, which says they want to uphold BIPOC and LGBTQ voices and spaces, will support voices that are not always heard and not part of dominant culture.

Mikaela: Recycling Crew — music is huge part of what they do. They work for months before and after Fair and it's disgusting work, so the joy and camaraderie from music is crucial, including at 5 am when trucks get started. They work all day rolling multiple shifts, so evening is only time to recreate. Amplified music is part of joy at Fair in many different ways. Glad this is postponed because music cannot be removed from their crew if volunteers are going to continue doing the grueling work. Crews will be lost if amplified sound is lost. Please listen to demographic of young strong backs that could be lost without amplified music.

Dr. Dan: Proponent of postponing.

Jay: Fair member for more than 40 years involved with Entertainment. We need to keep music live. Keeping it live is a bigger issue than amplification. Booths with boom boxes and Spoken Word stages are playing pre-recorded music. Prohibition on amplified music needs to be expanded to not only include during public hours.

Kim Allen: Crafter behind creek from Spirit Tower. Five years ago, a rave moved in and it's loud, noisy and obnoxious. Charlie told them only acoustic music would be there. Amplified music most of every night. We have security issues so we can't leave at night. We have to be on all day long and we do need some sleep. We've had our booth space almost 40 years. It's not the *kind* of music, it's the volume.

Spirit: Thank you for postponing this motion. Supports community coming together. Sound permit: It's essential community listens to each other. Policy as written does not include impact on Operations crews. Glad Recycling has spoken up. Security Crew supports late night shows, but the crew is only informed about two hours before the show. Evening has skeleton crews these days. Some crews are needing to volunteer extra shifts. Management Team and Ops can improve things this year by prioritizing safety. Hopes outreach meetings happen and their needs will be heard and supported.

Beth: From Alice's Security, more than 40 years at Fair. Every night they fall asleep to amazing music. They are fans of people coming together to play music. Loves the tradition of Fair having live music. It's harder if you have earplugs to drown out the bass from rave music. Recycling trucks and their music and other live music can be muffled easier than bass from rave music. Understands need to evolve but traditions should be respected too.

Megatron: Thanks Board for giving this topic extra space and time that it deserves. Thanks to everyone for their feedback.

Dean Middleton: Engineer from radio station and Elder and on Path Planning Committee. Thanks Kirsten for doing this. It's been about 10 years since the sound guideline was created, so it's time to review it. Would like an in-person workshop.

AJ: Thanks everyone for their input and for being respectful.

(YouTube video: 1:10:40)

Guideline changes #5 or #6: Requesting a refund on unused crew passes by emailing the Office or #6: No refunds.

Jon Steinhart asked if the Board would consider Guideline changes #10 and #11 before Guidelines #5 and #6. There were no objections and the facilitator changed the order of consideration.

Consider Guideline changes #10 or #11: Regarding late fees. Asking Board to eliminate Booth late fees, which will eliminate incentive to buy early and overbuy and possibly need to request refunds. **Vote for 11 is to keep the late fee and vote for 10 is to remove late fees.**

Member Input: None

Jon Steinhart: Encourages Board to eliminate late fees, which don't make that much money but cause a lot of trouble for us.

AJ: How much money do we make on late fees, how will it relate to Budget?

Hilary: Doesn't have registration amount because they have so many refunds. She thinks it's under \$10,000, but not sure. It's not separated out in the accounting they get.

Sandra: Supports eliminating late fees. It might allow us to get better population count and allow for more admissions. This should eliminate over-buying when tickets are cheap to get refunds after Fair.

AJ: Kirsten, if there is overbuying now, might this cause an underbuying situation? Can they buy at any time?

Kirsten: New system will allow credit card purchases, so they can take more time and not rush to avoid the late fee. Late fees are nominal compared to total number generated due to pass sales. It will help Coordinators a lot. They can buy at any time, so underbuying shouldn't happen.

Motion passed (Guideline change #11, to keep the late fee): 11-0. (John Alexander left the meeting before this vote.)

(YouTube video: 1:21:32)

Guideline changes #5 or #6, Requesting a refund on unused crew passes by emailing the Office or #6: no refunds.

Member Input:

Dave Wagenheim: Food booth vendor and Food Committee member. Is concerned with policy changes that might pose financial hardship for food vendors. Food booths are unique operations and are among most challenging jobs at Fair, they can staff as many as 24 to 36 people per booth. There are often reasonable last-minute no-shows from food vendor crews, so they need flexibility without losing lots of money. Urges Board members to not remove refund policy, at least not right before Fair. Maybe they need to tailor each policy for different groups.

Jonathan Pincus: Be careful removing refunds for volunteers or crews. Life happens and sometimes people cannot come at the last minute. Proposals need more refining before making such a blanket change. Everyone is not trying to game the system. This could have a huge financial impact, although understands the need to look at this issue.

Kirsten: Currently, crew members are not eligible for refunds. Booths have always been eligible. Should they continue with no refund policy for crews? If booths get refunds, should crews be eligible?

Robbi Lira Rivero: Inventory Coordinator: suggests altering language of #6, if passed, take away qualifier and say refunds not available. Offering refunds until June 15 would complicate more than help. This would require staff manual labor during busiest time of year. Please don't do it this year, there is too much change this year already with new system and mountains of change. Name changes aren't that hard. Last year it was the worst year of escalated behavior at Sticker booth in 20 years, and this new policy would make things harder. Maybe next year. Troubleshooters are going to take the brunt of unhappy customers.

Hilary: Would like same policy for volunteers and booths. Many volunteers have legit reasons they need to change. Name changes are onerous. Would like to see even footing. Refunds for emergencies would be good. Booths get refunds without needing to prove there was an emergency.

Johnny Whiddon: From Childcare. Defer to Robbi after hearing her comments, even though was leaning towards #5 previously. Keep status quo for now.

Arna: Vehicle stickers (\$20) and SO passes are issue at hand.

Kirsten: Leaning toward dropping this year after Robbi's comments, but also agrees with Hilary that equality between booths and volunteers would be good. Recommend Board voting for #6, status quo, no refunds.

Jon Steinhart: Agrees with Hilary but supports #6. We are not a money-making event. Booth refunds are different.

Teresa: Wondering about approving #5 but not starting it until 2025, so we can give people time to think about what it would look like. Appreciates Hilary's point.

Arna: Equity across the Fair in terms of refunds. Volunteers and booths are very different entities. Craft fair vs. food booth are even very different. You can't treat everyone the same because they're not. We should try to develop equity. I will support #6 for this year. Next year we can look at other options.

Jon Steinhart: Does not support adopting #5 with future date. We could do that next year, if desired.

Lisa: In favor of equity for volunteers to get refunds. Name change process possible for changing SO, and likes that process going through Fair. Would support an amendment to implement in 2025, giving grace this year to Inventory crew.

Lisa moved and Teresa seconded to amend the motion to adopt #5 for 2025 Fair.

AJ: People are using the word "equity" a lot in this conversation. In this organization, we're talking a lot about serious equity issues. Please don't overuse this word when it doesn't fit.

Different business practices exist for different populations. If using "equity," make sure it applies; careful with language.

Member Input:

Robbi Lira Rivero: Good idea to have Fair involved in handoff, but straight refund might not be the way. We need more time to drill down.

Jon Steinhart: Likes the amendment in theory, but encourages no vote on amendment because there are a lot of moving parts and thinks we should revisit next year when we know what is going on.

Motion to amend failed: 1-10; Kevin, Arna, Teresa, Thomas, Sue, Jon Steinhart, AJ, Paxton, George, and Sandra opposed.

Sue: Wants to allow volunteers can get a refund. Seems fair.

A "yes" vote is a change to allow refunds; a "no" vote is status quo:

Main motion failed 2-9; Kevin, Arna, Teresa, Thomas, Jon Steinhart, AJ, Paxton, George, and Sandra opposed.

(YouTube video: 1:50:51)

Booth refunds: #7 or #8. Guideline change #7 moves deadline for booth and pass refunds for Booths to June 15. Guideline change #8 leaves deadline for booth fees to June 15 and no refunds on passes (removing late fee, so no need to overbuy). Neither is status quo.

AJ moved to extend the meeting until 9:30 and Arna seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Arna moved and Sue seconded to adopt #7 vs #8 and to amend #7 as follows: Booth Fee Refunds: If an emergency prevents a booth's participation in the Fair, the total booth fee and passes may be refunded if Booth Registration is notified by June 12. Emergencies may consist of severe health issues for the passholders or their family, death in the family, or transportation problems. After June 12 and up to two weeks before the Fair, if an emergency prevents a booth from participating in the Fair, the total booth fee and purchased passes may be refunded if Booth Registration is able to fill the space. Juried craftspeople who cannot attend the Fair because of an emergency **and food booth representatives may have their purchased pass and any passes they bought for helpers refunded if Booth Registration is notified up to two weeks before the Fair. After this time refunds may be given **for the same criteria as above at the discretion of booth registration** ~~on a case-by-case basis~~. Participant fees are nonrefundable if the Fair is cancelled because of events beyond the control of the Fair.**

Member Input: None

AJ: Last part is too vague, "case by case basis."

Teresa: Does this satisfy the Food booths?

Sue: In craft world, there is a waitlist to fill booths. Booths shouldn't be paid for twice. Refunds should be possible up until close to Fair if they cannot make it. If they reach out and booths can be sold, we should give refunds. Food booths are harder to fill last minute. Hardworking folks in booths, should be able to recoup fees if needed.

Kevin: Does this apply to food booths? Seems like it could.

Arna moved to amend instead of "on a case-by-case basis" "for the same criteria as above at the discretion of booth registration.**" Sue seconded.**

Motion to amend passed by unanimous consent.

Arna moved to add "and food booth representatives**" after "**emergency.**"**

Hilary: This is going to eliminate most refunds from booths. Thinks they need better reasons to get refunds.

George: Different groups of people have different needs. Was crafted for crafters more than food people and the food part seems incomplete. This doesn't address the need Hilary described. Not well designed.

Jon Steinhart: Agrees with Sue that we shouldn't double-charge booth fees. Would like to remove "purchased passes." For equality purposes, we're talking about pass sales. People shouldn't get to buy passes and ask for refunds because that keeps inventory unavailable to sell to public.

Jon Steinhart moved and George seconded to amend by removing "and purchased passes" from the amendment.

Norma asked if the emergencies listed are the only ones to be considered and suggested the amendment say "emergencies may include but are not limited to" (whatever the list is the amendment said).

Dave: Proportionality — Booth fee is \$350, but 24 passes might add up to \$3,500. Maybe this needs more work.

Jonathan Pincus: Agrees that this has gotten complex and confusing and is clearly not ready for voting. Urge to consider next year.

Sandra: Jon Steinhart's amendment to remove passes was June 12 deadline. Doesn't think we should remove booth's ability to get refunds by June 12.

Jon Steinhart: It's complicated and expensive to offer refunds, but with no late fee, they could just buy only what they need later.

Sue: If a booth cannot make it, they won't be using those passes and they should get a refund. Booth reps want to get crews together and know who is going to be there. Refunds should be quick.

Paxton moved and Sandra seconded to extend the meeting until 10 pm.

Motion passed: 8-2; George and Lisa opposed. AJ had temporarily left meeting.

Paxton: In favor of dropping Arna's amendment entirely.

Arna: Booth fees are the least of it. It's passes that add up, so if we don't refund passes, it's not helping booths very much. Maybe we should put this on hold and work on other Guidelines. Next year we should do Guidelines in January instead of so close to printing deadline.

Kevin: If it's an emergency, we should refund. We are tired and this might need to be postponed so we can give it our best energy.

Kirsten: This could be discussed at a task force as well instead of voting tonight, letting current Guideline stand.

AJ: Food Committee is aware and working on a proposal on this exact issue.

Amendment failed 2-8; Sandra, George, Paxton, Sue, Thomas, Teresa, Arna, and Kevin opposed. (Lisa left the meeting before this vote.)

Motion to amend (adopting Arna's language instead of #7 or #8) passed: 6-3-1; Teresa, Jon Steinhart, and George opposed; AJ abstained.

Paxton: Is change of date covered by Arna's new amendment?

Main motion failed: 6-4; George, AJ, Jon Steinhart, and Teresa opposed. No change to Guideline on #7 or #8.

(YouTube video: 2:40:37)

#1 regarding firearms and weapons prohibition

Member Input:

Heather Kent: Is there a list of what is a weapon somewhere? Imagines there is a story behind this. Do vendors sell any weapons?

Teresa: In public schools, most states have a policy against all weapons, utility knives would be included as a weapon, so this could cause confusion, to Heather's point. Props could be considered a weapon. Vendors sell things that could be considered a weapon.

Paxton moved and AJ seconded to remove "weapons" and keep firearms.

Member Input:

Tim Furst: Unless weapons are clearly defined, there are a lot of tools and props that could be considered weapons.

George: Clarifying that firearms of any kind are appropriate (to prohibit).

Amendment passed by unanimous consent.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

#2 Request to set minimum age of volunteer at 18 by Wednesday of week of Fair to be placed on crews. Status quo is vague; Teen Crew vs. volunteer crew members.

Member Input:

Johnny Whiddon: Coordinator for Child Care. We should not exclude 13-year-old minor teens from Teen Crew. Childcare Crew might be able to fill much-needed volunteer spots in a safe way. Thanks for your hard work.

Robbi: Status quo is that 19-year-old can be on crew. Some people fudge with incorrect birthdays. We will add more confusion to Inventory if we make this change.

Teresa: Appreciates Johnny's comments. Making a change that affects them the year they had been waiting for years to be able to do something. Wishes to grandfather people in.

Jon Steinhart: One reason we're trying to choose the date is because we've been wanting to do this since 1994. Does not care about Teen Crew ages as long as it's within the law.

Kirsten: This isn't changing the Teen Crew age. Teen Crew has always been 14-18. They occasionally allow a 13 year old. They occasionally allow a 19 year old. Those haven't been in our Guidelines. And they're fine if they want to do that on a case-by-case basis. But we are not redefining the age of Teen Crew.

Motion passed: 12-0.

AJ moved and Thomas seconded to extend to 10:15. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

#3 **All minors under the age of 18 by Wednesday of the week of Fair must be registered in the database. All teens age 13 and older by Wednesday of the week of Fair must have a wristband.**

Member Input: None

Jon Steinhart: Thought it was to replace Minor on Site form, even if too young to require a wristband.

Kirstin: Agrees with Jon Steinhart's clarification.

AJ: Seems weird to need to register babies and young children and put them in a database.

Jon Steinhart: This is not a change in policy, it's just a change from paper to computer. This would be a benefit for the organization to get a better population count. Volunteers should be filling out a Minor on Site form (for pre-Fair) filled out now, and this replaces it with computerized. There is no official process currently for identifying minors on site *during* Fair.

Teresa: Supports this guideline and thinks its an important change.

Arna: Likes knowing how many young kids are on site; there are lots of lost young kids. It could be helpful to find their adults and campsites. Supports it but could wait another year.

Paxton: Supports this, we need the information.

AJ: Are we talking about names or pictures? Some kids might not be able to say their full name. As a parent, this needs more work. There is already a policy that says young kids need to be with a caregiver.

AJ moved to remove sentence “all minors must be registered through the staff database...” and Sandra seconded.

George: Doesn't understand AJ's concern. It could help.

Member Input:

Heather: This is important if we really want to understand population. Kids 12 years old poop as much as adults.

Paxton: In favor of amendment.

Jon Steinhart: Lots of people put minors in the database to help.

AJ: Objection is not about numbers. It's about how we make policies, and not wanting to make ones we cannot enforce.

Amendment failed: 9-1; Sandra, George, Paxton, Jon Steinhart, Sue, Thomas, Teresa, Arna, and Kevin opposed.

Main motion passed: 9-1; AJ opposed.

Thomas moved and Sue seconded to extend the meeting by five minutes. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

#4: Guidelines apply wherever sponsored activities occur.

Member Input: none

Paxton: There are lots of activities that go beyond sponsored activities. Supports leaving as is.

Jon Steinhart: Can we clarify language? The way the Guideline is written appears to require us to police every Facebook page that covers the Fair.

Paxton: Fall Track meet in Elmira is an example of a non-sponsored event that has a lot of Fair family attendance. Wasn't thinking of regulating Facebook groups.

Kirsten: Jon Steinhart nailed it, we are just trying to change away from online presence, Committees meetings are online, track meet is at our property, so that could be considered OCF sponsored events. Want to clarify where third party platforms that OCF cannot manage people's behavior.

Motion passed: 10-0.

New Business

The Board moves to approve the 2024 Ritz Sauna Contract (Kevin Levy & Thomas Horn)

The Board moves to allow all open committee meeting recordings to be seen by the Fair community. This policy will start one month after its passage by the Board and will apply to future meetings. Committees that have no closed sections of meetings may vote to make their prior meetings public. No closed meetings may be made public. The mechanism for access to the recordings will be developed by operations and explained to the board and the Fair community next month. (Arna Shaw, Sandra Bauer, Thomas Horn, Jon Steinhart and AJ Jackson)

Next Board Meeting: March 4, 2024, 7 pm via Zoom