

Board of Directors Meeting

June 30, 2024, 4 pm

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

In person only at Alice's Fire pit, no zoom or YouTube.

Board Directors present: John Alexander, Anthony "AJ" Jackson, (President), Sandra Bauer, George Braddock, Paxton Hoag, Tom Horn, Kevin Levy, , Sue Theolass, Jon Steinhart, and Lisa Parker. Absent Board Members: Arna Shaw (Vice President) and Teresa Vaughn. Other Board officers present: Hilary Anthony (Treasurer), and Stephen Diercouff (Secretary). Staff present: Kirsten Bolton (Executive Director), Vanessa Roy (Marketing Manager), Norma Sax (Office Manager), Sunny Arthurs (Assistant Event Manager) and Steven Berkson (Facilitator).

The meeting was facilitated by Steven Berkson.

Announcements

Stephen D: Knows we're all busy getting ready for our big event but after that is another big event in the Fall: our annual election. Deadline for Advisory Petitions to go on the ballot is July 31. For anybody interested in running for Board of Directors, there are 4 positions that will be voted on, August 18 is deadline for candidate statements. Annual membership meeting is October 12. Ballots due October 19. Elections page will go on web page after the event.

Norma: Teddy Bear picnic is August 18.

Paxton: Traditional evaluation meeting the morning of the picnic.

Minutes Review

Jon Steinhart moved to correct the spelling of his name on page 17 of the minutes, removing an "h."

Approved by unanimous consent.

Sue pointed out that Jon S's announcement was trimmed, leaving out "that's what I love about our community" and after saying people spouting vitriol on facebook don't represent our community, the comment about those people taking their attitude elsewhere and start their own misery festival." Would like both parts of his comments put back in the official minutes.

Approved by unanimous consent.

The Board approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the June 3, 2024 meeting as amended.

Agenda Review and New Business

Sandra moved and Tom seconded to postpone all Old Business to the August meeting.

Jon Steinhart is really disappointed because he drove 200 miles just to vote on the Carbon Neutral Motion.

AJ: Received word for Carbon Neutral folks that they didn't have a representative who could attend today, so they asked for the postponement, not a Board decision.

The motion passed: 8-0-2; Paxton and Sue abstained.

Member Input

Lawrence Taylor: The meeting is pronounced June-LIE, portmanteau of June and July. All June-ly meeting has tradition of expressing gratitude for OCF Board of Directors. Sat where each of them sat for 18 years. It might be tougher now than it used to be. Disagreement exists between them and membership but we need to deeply appreciate and love our common community. Their role is embodiment of will of membership through their election. Thank you to BoD. I love you and keep at it.

Sean Bonsell: Fair TV, which can be found on .net site. It is live streaming on Youtube from video archives, with main stage performances, ambient and interviews. Streaming 24-7 and through Fair as well.

Staff Report – Executive Director

We are 11 days from opening day of OCF 2024. The excitement is building. Everyone is working hard to make this another spectacular Fair. I want to give a heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers, artists, entertainers and restaurateurs for their dedication and contributions. It takes all of us to make the magic happen every year.

Administration:

Sunshine Database: The database will close on July 5 at 11:59 pm. This means no more entry into the database by Booth Reps, Coordinators or Crew Leads. Wristband lists will be printed at the Eugene office on Saturday, July 6. Any changes after July 5 will be done the old-fashioned way, on paper and through the Inventory Yurt or at the Sticker Booth. Credit cards and cash are the only forms of payment accepted for inventory purchases after July 5 and must be done by the Inventory Yurt or the Sticker Booth. We are excited for next year's database upgrades. This is a three-year project and each year we will be enhancing the user experience, as well as the back end for reporting. Our goal is to be paperless by the third year. To date we have 7,289 active users. 16,603 people in the system. \$1M+ processed through the database. Has met the goal in base form, making it easier for people to pay for inventory. First year of anything is always hard and we appreciate everyone's commitment. It will improve every year.

Culture Jam:

We have registered 50 youth for this year's camp. It runs August 1 – 8. Fundraising has been very successful and we are able to offer many scholarships to youth this year.

Sound Task Force: The Sound Task Force will be doing monitoring for "conversational levels" at permitted performances. There will be three professionals monitoring decibel levels at permitted performances, as well. All amplified sound permits end at 2 am, or earlier

If you experience amplified sound after 2 am, please report it to the nearest Information Booth or Security personnel so that they can follow up. Acoustic music is allowed without a sound permit, but if it gets too loud, we will request the volume be lowered after 2 am. Let's all do our

part to ensure that the beautiful music we all enjoy happens at a volume and time that doesn't cause disruption to those trying to get rest for the next day's responsibilities and activities

2024 Permits: All permits are approved. Inspections take place Wednesday – Friday of crunch week.

Event & Site Management: Met with the City of Veneta management team and Lane County Sheriffs for lunch at Main Camp kitchen on Friday, June 21. This is always a productive meeting where we share what's new. The site is looking amazing. Lots of clean up, but also lots of projects that enhance the event are being done. We have created a Native Craft area in Xavanadu this year. Added and rebuilt several artist booths. Installed two 5k gallon water storage tanks for the water system. Upgraded showers. Permitted four existing structures in Xavanadu. This is a long-term project to bring all booths in Xavanadu to be code compliant. Internet upgrades. Completed the compost slab at the Winery. Purchased 40 portable toilets to increase coverage during Pre-Fair and reduce rental costs during the Fair.

Marketing:

2024 Tickets: We are up 25% in revenue and 1000+ tickets over 2023. We are sitting at 60% sold (this will be higher by the Board meeting). We moved to General Admission - Regular Price tickets at \$60 each day, on June 16 through the event. Tickets are no longer available to purchase through the Eugene office. We have sold 9,846 for Fri, 10,457 for Sat and 6,091 for Sunday. Friday and Sunday have higher ticket sales, which is a change from previous years, when Saturday is more popular.

Treasurers' Report

Hilary: We are not sure how dust will settle this time of year. What we do know is that this year has been a big lift with ice storm and new database, both making it and learning to use it. It will help us with cash collection and to stay in contact with all members rather than just coordinators. Important project that will get easier. Still working to controlling growth. Major projects were catchup, which is great to be able to focus on now that we're not trying to grow. We need to focus on getting infrastructure. Many crews helped over the weekend.

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.

Elders Committee met May 23 and the minutes are here: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/06/EldersCommMtg052324.pdf>

Energy Park met on May 7 and the minutes are here: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2023/06/Energy-Park-meeting-5-7-23.pdf>

Energy Park met May 19 and the minutes are here: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/06/ENERGY-PARK-MEETING-5-19-24.pdf>

Energy Park met on June 9 and the minutes are here: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/07/Energy-Park-Minutes-6-9-24.pdf>

Food Committee met on April 23 and the minutes are here: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2024/06/4.23.24-Food-Committee-Notes.pdf>

The Board approved the Committee Reports by unanimous acclamation.

Old Business- POSTPONED until August meeting

Clarify the effective beginning of terms of newly-elected Directors (John Alexander, George Braddock, Paxton Hoag, Kevin Levy, Lisa Parker, Sue Theolass, and Teresa Vaughn)

Change the petition signature requirement from a hard number to a percentage of members voting in the last election (John Alexander, George Braddock, Paxton Hoag, Kevin Levy, Lisa Parker, Sue Theolass, and Teresa Vaughn)

Update goal of being a Carbon Neutral Event by the year 2030 (Lisa Parker, Sandra Bauer, Sue Theolass, AJ Jackson, John Alexander and Teresa Vaughn)

New Business

Establish a minimum age for OCF membership (John Alexander, George Braddock, Paxton Hoag, Kevin Levy, Lisa Parker, Sue Theolass, and Teresa Vaughn)

Process to keep committees in good standing (Sandra Bauer, Teresa Vaughn, Paxton Hoag, AJ Jackson and Arna Shaw)

Appoint Aaron Moffet and Jill Carter to Food Committee (Sue Theolass, Paxton Hoag and AJ Jackson)

Appoint Glenn Dolphin to LUMP Committee (Sue Theolass, Paxton Hoag and George Braddock)

Meeting Evaluation

Last round for the good of the peach

Jon Steinhart: Big difference between Zoom meeting and meeting in person. No mosquitoes on Zoom!

Paxton: Likes meeting in person. Thinks we do better when we meet on the site. Loves June-ly meeting for this reason. Would like to return to hybrid meetings with Eugene in-person option.

John Alexander: Being here is wonderful. Seeing volunteers is inspiring. On the way here he got to see the human intervention refresher course, which feels like part of this meeting, even though it's not technically.

Lawrence Taylor: In-person meetings are entirely different event, mosquitoes notwithstanding. All those still on the Board that remember in-person meetings trusts would prefer that.

Sue: It really is nice to meet in person and wishes more of the membership was there. Apologizes and is remiss but can't remember all the new carts. One is Pure Love Chocolate that will be where Maty's Peruvian has been, which is taking a year off. It's stevia sweetened chocolate that is really good, has to be good to get past food committee's tastings. Where Olive Grove used to be, which has retired, there is going to be a fish booth. New Day bakery has retired and Lettuce Inn will replace it with all organic salads and drinks that they make the base for, which will be on Left Bank in L82. Corn Cart will have simple, delicious corn in a cup in F14. Palace Coffee roasters at F15, nitro coffee that is delicious, on Strawberry Lane. Panna Cotta Grotto, F18. They went through arduous food testing and blew the Committee away.

Jon: All booth information will be on searchable laptops in all Info booths. He will update info with data stick if last minute updates are made.

Steven: Would love to have hybrid meeting. Believes we are missing people when that happens, those that only see video. There would need to be a focus on trying to include the remote folks and not just focus on those in the room.

Lisa: Good to see everyone in person.

Kevin: Loves meeting in person and seeing the Fair come alive. Very energizing.

Tom: Thanks to Stephen for all the work on elections. Probably does more volunteer work on it than he does on his real job.

Next Board Meeting –August 5, 7 pm via Zoom

President's Peace

AJ: Heard a lot of thank yous and appreciation for volunteers. We need to lean into appreciation when we need help. Would like to bring kindness and fairness into Fair. Go out of your way to be kind. We are in positions of authority, no matter what we believe. When volunteers are here, let's be kind. Has been watching staff really closely over the last few years. They are incredible with the volunteers and wants to express huge appreciation. Thanks to Steven B for doing what he does. To the Board, we don't always get along or agree but one of the things he is learning is to release things. Hopes that they learn to release negative energy that we've had over the last few years. Rebuild trust. Thinks we are on a journey to do that. Wants to focus on it over the next few months as they deal with difficult issues. Assumed there would be perks to this job, and what he has learned is that the group of folks that step up to represent the Fair at the top are awesome human beings. There is no glory. Thanks for your service.