

Amplified Sound Task Force Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2024

Attendees: Sunny Arthurs Kirsten Bolton Kyle Sheaffer, Elijah Salazar, Shevek, Doug Carnie, Lucie LaBonte, Lily, Tim Furst, Sara w., Megatron, Genevieve, Aron w., Richey, Tony Walters, Dr Dan, Paxton, Joolz

Notes

Kirsten

2 policies have relevance,
2015 amplified sound workshop (doc included)

Lucie

It seems as if there is no permit enforcement- someone went beyond the hours of the guidelines. If people violate permits, what are the next steps? Negotiation with neighbors that had trust broken. Cannot be crafters, can security address this?

Kyle

A couple of complaints in 2015, specifically around spirit tower, wc fields, and efforts to change/move amplification of stage in spirit tower?
Spirit tower needs addressing

Shevek

Offering monitoring, spl levels at gps coordinates,
2 convos- what happened? What to do about it?
Bringing skills to answer what happened and when. Can assist with changing sound impact

Elijah

Nothing that discusses wattage of equipt being used, also ? of people doing impromptu-modifier and synthesizer equipt... Could help in addition to decibels

Paxton

Sound zoning? Talk about it as an Org. Path planning? LUMP?

Acoustic only zones?

Also, neighborhood agreements were not well implemented, and could improve on.

From feedback- personal portable speakers coming more of concern

Genevieve

Conversations around the terms tradition, feelings, magic of fair, (Harmful language)

Concern about community agreements. Community agreements need to be stronger, measurable, clear. Otherwise equity and access impacts story

Tim H

Should be the person obtaining a sound permits responsibility to talk to neighbors and form agreements as camp host. Hard time finding who/when sound permits. Difficult to communicate w stages without that info.

24 and 48 hours are not long enough for camp hosts to find where it is happening and engage in neighborhood agreements.

Contact magt team? Who is that and what is the contact? Also, art installations in xanadu- talking cat art installation, Enforcement, not just cut off time, but sound levels as well.

Sara

If we decide to lower, or limit, can we create a place for all night sound also?

Aron

+1 increase of bluetooth devices

+1 acoustic only and all night sound places

Schedule showing after hours music and where

What investments were done? Attenuation?

In guidelines, no battery powered stuff, speaks to entertainment, but could apply to everyone

Working crews- Big trucks with loud music- what can we control? Levels of sound?

Genevieve

Grateful in 2015 there was a group, would like to understand what the demographics were?

Whose voices were heard?

Historical marginalized voices need to be included in the conversation

Shevek

What is a static sound in a truck is a fluid sound outside the truck

Paxton

Quite a variety of folx involved in the 2015 project, spirit tower was well represented

Kirsten

Should we do a post fair survey- seems like a good idea. See if things we put into play this year had an impact. Yes to the survey. Based on results, we can make sure to get all voices in the community

Guidelines

Community agreements- What does a good community agreement entail? Stakeholders?

Where do we draw the line?

New This Year

- opened the window of time to 48 hours in advance. Already on the .net site. Encouraging folks to apply early. Likely -put a limit on # of permits allocated
- Must post permit on venue- must be easy to see w contact info.
- Added the verbiage “sponsoring groups”
- added routing info (security is a big share of responsibility around enforcement, also BUMs- looking for higher level of enforcement)

Questions/comments/concerns

Tim

Helpful if sound permits are posted at info booths

Elijah

+1 security

Expectations of internal and external crews and fluid convo around that. Easier to plan around things if known in advance. Direct conflict could be mitigated with formal enforcers

Aron

Posting of Permits. ADvance notice, QM location? Permit binder? +1 at info also

Shevek

impact assessment section on form? Ex: Apply- “my sound will impact the following people in the following ways” ...Post analysis what was misestimated, violated?

Kirsten

impact zone implied but could be improved upon

Genevieve

Want to understand what approach to determining if agreement or permit was broken, or just misunderstood

Kirsten

no DB yet, but we should have one by next year

This year tracking who violates verbally and behaviorally as it is written

Dr Dan

can they also be posted online?

Kirsten

agree, in addition to live posting at central location

Tim

Binder +1 online ++1

Also, how large is the impact zone? How to determine? Stage Left example located between everyone's sound.

Elijah

Security perspective- having crew leads know what will be in their zones would be helpful
Also, booths cannot access main camp, post in location accessible to all

Sara

Measured sound previously, why not using old data?

Kirsten- we want real time monitoring, our fresh observations are relevant.

Lucie

are some events just put in the wrong place? Could event sound impact be considered with placement?

Lily

after WED all should go to fair central. All documents will be housed at Fair central after WED.

Genevieve

when someone fills out an application- filled out w past experience or desire- could be given framework by permitting process. Impact on someone managing responsibility for time and sound level for event

Kirsten

once approved that permit is ready- pick up at Fair Central

Joolz

+1 lily fair central- it has always been at fair central. Sound has changed since 2015. Need EDM to find new "Where" decibel goes to.

Paxton

2015 document was related to SUP not to fair policy.

What is permit-able by the county? 2015 data is baseline

Kirsten

county sound ordinances could be our guiding principle?

Including internal neighbors as well as external neighbors

Sound permit locations! How, who, where will we monitor?

- Impact of portable speakers
- Night vs day

HOW?

- Shevek will do specific monitoring

Elijah

can we get a monitor in the hands of roving security? Ineffective? Subjectivity? Other monitors?
Could we share levels and make change in real time?

Shevek

difficult... Trying to determine how to capture what we need. DB and FFT, SPL, coordinates

Biggest challenge is being everywhere at once

-convo about where permits are- need them in advance to capture real data

-working with GEO people, how much ground can one person cover?

Kirsten

will help us set limits and parameters

Shevek

150 a unit-ish?

Kyle

is there a particular app we can recommend?

Shevek

would have to know SPL sensitivity of mic- not possible

Aron

Burn got away from DB readers

Moved to conversational levels in range- around 60 DBs. 100 ft away.

Paxton

+1 no cell DB readers

Should we rent pro gear to support work being done?

Who?

- You can recruit folx to share feedback about areas
- Everyone can share info/data
- Notice of concern left at info booth - collect post fair and assess
-

Genevieve

+1 dedicated folx to monitor

Unclear if this is the group because of all of the other responsibilities we have

Deep sense of nervousness- people out to do harm, prove right and wrong, why are you participating? Relieved to hear Shevek turn down ideas of all monitoring

Aron

monitoring areas near where we camp- should they instead monitor areas not where they camp? Take the "ME" out of the situation

Lucie

+1 monitoring areas that are not our own.

Where?

Upload and share docs on the drive folder. Sign up for locations to monitor. At the next meeting we will review.

Paxton- Drum tower- heartbeat of the fair. Passes were allocated to help it go through the night.

Tim

Predicate on the idea that the fair should allow amplified sound and it should be controlled.

Encouraging folx to think outside of the box.

Suggestion-

Friday permit

Saturday anything goes

Sunday no permits

No amplified sound until after 10 pm?

Sound zones

Genevieve

need better discussion around how sound will be monitored by us. Need to understand more.

Link about Burning Man discussion/data in chat

Tim

Would members be willing to exchange contact info?

Kirsten will facilitate personal connection

To make an impact on 2025 guidelines we need to have results before fall. 2x monthly for now, x1 monthly postseason

Action items

- HOMEWORK FOR ALL- sign up for your areas
- Fair central location for pick up and documenting to be added to permit application verbiage
- Security needs to be informed that public cannot bring speakers in
- Review sign ups for areas to monitor at next meeting

May 7, 2024

In Attendance:

Attendance: Sara, Lucie, Davidadee, Dr Dan, Elijah, Aaron, Megatron, Sunny, Paxton, Kyle S, Joolz, Tony W, Genevieve

Action Items from previous meeting:

1. BUMS inform folx to pick up permits at Fair Central
2. List of permitted performances available for volunteers at FC. QM until FC is open

*Lists will be updated @ QM/FC daily by 5 pm.

Kirsten

informing security that folx can not let in bluetooth speakers

Sara

Will learn how to enforce. Drafting email to crew now

Lucie

? about community agreements- What happens if a community/neighborhood does not want the performance to get a permit?

Kirsten

Need to define a standard first, then we can discuss neighborhood agreements.

Davidadee

What does public mean?

Kirsten

Ticket holders

Meg

Lucie please email me

Elijah

How up to date are contact info for camp host, booth etc. how easy is it for someone to get a neighborhood organized?

Neighborhood conflict- move to a new zone?

Kirsten

Need to define a standard first, then we can discuss neighborhood agreements.

Post fair will be able to better discuss neighborhood agreements

That is one of the reasons we are doing monitoring as a group

Review monitoring sign up

Asking for all times of day, organic self monitoring. All data is welcome

Meg

Plan is to monitor pre fair events, during main camp I am behind youth stage-

Together with Joolz for pre fair

During fair will target holes in the monitoring sheet, and fill in blanks as best as possible

Davidadee

Xavanadu local. Dance pavilion is main home base. Happy to be point person for that area.

Lucie

Will do area near blue moon and can wander to spirit tower but trying to stay unbiased

Kirsten

List is traditional sound areas, but all can do any areas. Doc was just a guide.

Don't have to stick to what you signed up for. Fill out log for whatever you experience.

Aaron

Picked stages that friends want to see.

Asking for a min of logs?

Kirsten

Any and all! Diverse logs with multiple data points are helpful.

Organic capture of all and any sound for the first time around

Paxton

Carry a pocket of forms, when I see something valid I fill it out.

+1 conversational levels! Easy to take data under that scope. Will pay attention to pre post particularly.

Kirsten

Also capture what you found that went well. Handled well? Full picture

Sara

Also tried to pick pre air performances

Also trying to interview surroundings and get diverse voices

Elijah

Interview surrounding folx as well as performer interviews!

Kirsten

Please add to that list! What did we miss?

Dr Dan

Dance pavilion is loud, booth family around pavilion can provide feedback. Can we improve booth community experience over time?

Davidadee

Time of day is a big factor. 12-6 a is different than day time sound. Sound curfew? Time that amplified sound is not okay? Add to discussion for post fair.

Kirsten

Currently determined by BUMS, going to be making changes this year. Still discussing it as a team. Historically we discuss this as a team when permits are issued.

Working on agreements about that (operationally) internally

Kyle

Will keep notes about more discussion opportunities. Measurements to share post event. Notes on negative as well as positive

Elijah

24 hour event. People that get off at 12 would be sad if sound was cut off at night.

Huge benefit of creating bubbles of activity. Example- xavanadu at sweep time.

Kirsten

Amplified sound that you hear at 3 am has never been permitted.

Paxton

+1 recording positive experiences!

Kirsten

Remember- education period this year. Project experience into policy/guidelines that we create together

Review log

Add Who, Where, What

Dr dan

Include what the performance is

Genevieve

Include Genre, diversity, crowd typography

Sara

Instead of approx ft. include where standing in relation to sound

Davidadee

Sound intended for large group or small group? Why? Nature of sound? Planned vs improv?

Kirsten

things to consider above notes space

SIZE

Suggested half sheet- 2 per page

PICK UP LOCATION

Envelope for pick up at fair central near posted list of permits?

Stack of 50 in envelope with name that you check off

Pick up at Fair central/QM

DR Dan

Plan for processing logs that get turned in?

Kirsten

Drop off location? Would love source docs

Megarton

Folder at FC/QM

Genevieve

I analyze surveys. Possible to add quantitative data options in survey format. Room for notes.

Will drop answers as excel spreadsheets. Another way to handle surveys are locked dropbox.

Kirsten

Google Form?

Sara

Transcript services offered to all

Zones for pro gear to focus on?

Lucie

Spirit tower

Meg

Front porch- close to camping and funneling sound places, close to FC

Chez Ray area- next to meadow, vaudeville, bleed into xavanadu

+1 spirit tower- been talked about several times

Paxton

+1 spirit tower area- around camping

Visionary lounge

Xavanadu- sound quarters identified out of xavanadu?

Sauna

Aaron

Horse Chorrall- people w sensitivity issues struggle in there

Elijah

any stages

Reefer camp

Otter

Late night parties in dense neighborhoods

Drum tower curious about drum decibels

Sara

Farside dome- field with only campers, no way to block sound

Joolz

Fire show in open field sound carries

+1 late night camps in piggies

Decon

Davidadee- can you offer assistance to help shevek, Kyle and doug?

Kyle- working on it

Kirsten- will set meeting between Kyle, Doug, Shevek.

Post event meeting dates-

Lily will facilitate moving fwd

Table for now.

What night of the week is best?

Doodle poll for night of the week

Can we meet during crunch week in person?

1st and 3rd or 2nd 4th week monthly

Davidadee

possible in person meeting? With zoom?

Gen- Mon or thurs, hybrid meeting would be good

Tony

Mondays tuesdays

Dr Dan

thurs no good.

4th weeks are typically holiday in fall

Paxton BOD work parties are 1 and 3 week

Aaron
suggesting 7 p instead of 6 pm

Post event survey-

Should we do our own? Could do a broad survey. Separate data from FF survey
We will get sound data from FF survey, results in Oct.

Volunteers for a post event survey?

Paxton
simple sound survey could be given from FC along w logs, could be positive and negative

Do we want an email survey post event?

Listening sessions publicized to FF- scheduled time for community to share with us

Action Items:

1. Get stacks of 50 forms and manilla envelope ready for taskforce and deliver to QM
2. Edit form to include suggestions
3. Meeting onsite 7/11/24 @ 2 pm
4. Post event meeting date/time

Aug 21, 2024

In Attendance:

Elijah, Sarah, Kyle, Shevek, Paxton, Dr Dan, David Adey, Megatron, Lucie, Joolz, Lily, Sunny

Task force member initial input

Elijah

Appreciation for the gathered Data

Mostly asked people how the permitting process went for them. Did they have a permit, or not. If so/not so, why? Did they know about permits/how to obtain one?

Sara

Observations were a week prior

Surprised at how quiet pre fair was

Thursday night went out. There were a lot of music sources on the 8. Stages seemed to be contained well. Could not hear too much noise outside of the stage areas. Everyone seemed to be trying hard to be respectful.

Kyle

Trying to pay attention to the roving sound. I noticed a lot more of it this year. Lots of radios, boom boxes, competing sound. Sound engineers were paying attention to decibel reading/ trying to stay within the lines. Could hear clean audio mix, and consistent controlled space. Tried the conversation at a distance trick and was pleasantly surprised.

Shavek

New to fair, I was not sure what I would be facing...

Started off being objective,

When I was in a place, what was I hearing, and was the sound I was hearing appropriate for the place I was in? GPS tag and timestamp added to notes.

What made people feel comfortable?

What was their reaction?

Paxton

Paid attention to pre/post fair parties.

Felt like they were mostly respectful

Used the "can you have a conversation" trick and was able to at every party. All seemed to shut down on time

Dr Dan

Looking with a more attuned eye was fascinating.

We need to work on adhering to the policy we already have

David Adee

Couldn't sleep so wandered around.

Took notes and entered them into the form.

Would wander from 10 pm- 6 am.

Go from Xavanadu to the 8, and measure how far we can hear the sound.

Wandering sources are not wandering, they are staying in xanavanadu.

Did not engage with anyone, just tracked sound.

Almost all the sound I was monitoring was not permitted. Between 1A and 6A there isn't any permitted sound, but in Xavanadu there was sound all night. Someone said they were scheduled at 3A.

Meg

Time Slots were adhered to

Sound was respectfully done

Some didn't know about permits

People seemed receptive to turning off sound once they were approached and informed about permits.

Lucie

Wandered all night cause I could not stay in my booth- too much noise

Sound affected my personality the next day.

Stayed in the lower part of the 8. Some beautiful music, some louder.
Specific quiet areas, and specific high noise areas.
I agree that it may have to do with sound and space, size of space.
Are the permit agreements being enforced?

Joolz

More aware of sound now that I am involved. I took in the sound permits. I had to shut down my first party. I was given a folder of all the previous sound task forces. Got deep in the amplified sound world. Tried to meet all of the people applying for permits in person.
Tried to impress on everyone community agreements. Foundation of amplified sounds will start with community agreements.
We push boundaries. We are here to create something that works better. If we have better community agreements we can at least have something that works to help us navigate this.

Lily

Permits were approved till 2 AM. Everything was supposed to be off by 2 AM. so anything after 2 was not permitted.
All of our internal dialogue will remain internal. We will scrub the form for all identifying info before sharing the public portion.

Shevek Initial Feedback

Captured GPS position Data and had the ability to make notes wherever standing.
Thing I love the most is, imagine for each comment made tonight, there was a timestamps and GPS location for each comment.

Position and ability to timestamp location.
Calibrated SPL meter logging at 1 second interval.
Sound recording that should be able to reconstruct and determine whether it was Bass traveling or what.

Crossover between objective and subjective data

Never went inside the stage area.
Tried to circle around the outskirts. Where sound was being projected.
Called out in notes that equipt upgrade is recommended for a couple set ups, but others were clean and within safe reading.
There were also some surprising speaker directions that did not make sense.

Questions:

David Adee

Thumping BASS is a category all on it's own.

Shevek

Monitored A weighted this year and next year will be flat recording (C weighted scale). Better to track BASS.

What the impact of a particular sound is.

Sleeping people are impacted by different sounds than conversing people.

David

BASS is most destructive to sleep

Shevek

It is designed to trigger the body in that way.

Lucie

Echo the thumping is why i could not stay at my booth

Paxton

Can we map our borders with this data?

Shevek

The only challenge is teasing out human generated sound

Open floor for Guest input

Mac

Was a performer on stage.

Subwoofers from another stage were interfering with our dialogue on our stage.

Jon Steinhart

2 issues here.

Recorded music vs amplified music

I would like to see more attention to sticking to the guidelines.

Was pretty good this year, with the exception of Sunday night.

Jay

Biggest concern is sleep deprivation

Side concern- how many times I encountered booths playing pre recorded music.

Homework

Lily

Our task is to create a framework for community agreements, and also create a suggestion for a guideline change for the BOD to approve.

Homework- Read our current guidelines and write a 200 word or less community agreement example. What do you think a community agreement could be in relation to the current guidelines, and how we can change the guidelines to serve our community.

Kirsten

The 2 sections in the guidelines are included in the meeting agenda that I sent you.

The section that I would like to draw attention to:

Community agreement guideline...

It is currently too broad of a stroke.

Sept 3, 2024

Attendees: Lucie, Elijah, Joolz, Sunny, Kirsten, Megatron, David Adee, Genevieve, Jay, Paxton, Kyle, Sarah, Dr Dan, Jon Steinhart

Agenda Review - Lily

Attendance Policy- If you miss more than 3 meetings you will not have the opportunity to vote on any decisions that we come to.

Review Form results- Scrubbed *For Public Release*

Homework review- Deep discussion about what we learned from homework assignment. What action items came out of homework assignments?

Review Form Result Data

Lucie

Need larger font on spreadsheet

Appreciated that everyone gave time and thoughtful responses

Elijah

Kitchen/Booth spaces using A.S. during work hours

Discussion w camp host about it being difficult to navigate the conversation about working crews/booths using recorded A.S.

Joolz- This topic needs more discussion

Joolz

The Permitting Process is a piece of the puzzle. After doing permits for a year, suggestions for changes to the permit process.

Application content varies Online vs in person @ QM

Add more specific fields for obtaining contact info to permit application

Goal to meet in person with all applicants, thus establishing a community agreement (in person agreements adds personal accountability)

Permits get shared with all Bums for discussion/vote prior to/ and reviewed post event

Occasional adjustments made to timing of permits with regard to overlapping events/locations

Would be efficient/helpful to have a map with sound travel data stats while voting on approval

Larger window of time required for permit application submission would be helpful

David Adee

Is there any pre recorded sound being permitted?

Joolz- it is not always specified-

David

If a DJ is manipulating pre recorded sound is that a performance?

Joolz

It is not clear

Elijah

Currently guidelines state periods of live mix performance, where sound is overlapping, is acceptable.

Kyle

Surprised at the crunch time (48hrs) with the permitting process.

Idea- Early submit digital experience to help offload workload?

Logistical challenges or other resistance?

Joolz

Have to cater to digital savvy community as well as non digital community

Lily

On site connectivity issues are a factor

Have to have paper backups always

Kyle

Would early submission requirements help with troubleshooting digital challenges?

Meg

As online permit was refined more and more people chose digital format

Lucie

Appreciate the permit process explanation

Should be a longer process

Sound could be juried in in advance

Several people wrote letters to the BOD about sound in the past. Did the sound team ever receive those letters of concern?

Why aren't we following the same procedures for sound that we do with other juried in content?

Lily

Letters written to the BOD are confidential and for the BOD to determine how/who to share with. Mgt team contact info is available for direct communication.

Daytime sound is juried in. Non public hour sound is similar to non juried craft sales after hours.

Lucie

If BOD receives a letter/complaint, MGT team should receive the letter as well

Kirsten

Window of time to apply was extended from 24 to 48 hrs this year and there is no opposition to suggesting a bigger window of time.

BOD determines who and how to share info that comes to them. No Staff or managers receive BOD emails

Elijah

Assuming positive intent is helpful

There are differences

Daytime represents a "Brand"

Night time - volunteers give time to produce this event and enjoy night programming

David

2 am cutoff time for permitted sound.

Did we negotiate that time?

How is that determined

Joolz

County rules

David

If the county said 4 am would we allow 4 am?

Joolz

We abide by county law

David

Are we implying that volunteers off at 12 need amplified sound to enjoy themselves?

How is applicant checking with community prior to submission if the sound travels across distance?

Lily

Can we get into those questions later?

Meg

Process of permit came about because random sound was happening everywhere. Was originally for neighborhood

Not always approved to 2 am.

Now looking inward (internal neighborhood) to further the efforts/

Kirsten

Discussing times varying depending on the day. (Thurs vs Sat)

Paxton

Original sound application came from sound summit 10 years ago.

Kirsten

Let's be careful not to box ourselves in

Homework- what is a community agreement?

Lets also look at whether that is the answer or not?

Are there other ideas/suggestions for achieving this goal?

Homework review/comments

Genevieve

Community agreements are often consensus based, and more about the process.

I think what would be most applicable is an operational agreement.

People can sometimes experience power dynamic struggles that impact a community agreement negatively.

The BOD should create operational policy that gives clear boundaries, rules, and consequences.

Lucie

Perhaps it is all about the location, and not the community agreement?

Elijah

We need zoning input

Neighborhoods are going to self identify. It could be a great tool for contacting and working on neighborhood agreements. Neighborhoods that already have names will have an easier time. Have camp hosts get together and make community agreements in advance of an event. Then get a map and add the neighborhood info to it. Relational agreements will have logistical challenges.

Dr Dan

Operational agreements- perhaps a healthier approach top the sound issues we are facing, rather than asking for neighborhood agreements and pouring energy into conflict resolution related to sound. On the other hand, the neighborhood agreements that we are talking about could lend themselves to healthy discussion about other topics that need/could benefit from community and neighborhood consensus.

Paxton

Would like zoning discussions for inside the 8 especially. What if the oneness of neighborhood agreement is on the person holding the sound permit. There should also be a reporting procedure for neighbors.

Kyle

Building equity through the process is really smart.

Love zoning idea/conversation

A method to be able to clearly submit a complaint, or understand who is responsible for the event in question would be really helpful.

People tend to have a worse reaction when they are surprised. If Folx were notified in advance, they could plan for a 1 am end time.

Joolz

The person filling out the application is the person responsible.

That is why I need more contact info from applicants.

Love the idea of zoning.

Elijah

Building networks of communication will not happen overnight but if we can plant the seed we can help grow a deeper sense of community. Consensus process is totally possible, it just takes time.

Joolz

Education +++

We need to know why and how.

Genevieve

History of planning and process ...

Zoning=land use planning

Non Task Force member input

Jay

Pre recorded music- Prohibited in guidelines.

Could we rephrase guidelines in a positive light? Rather than “this is prohibited” could we say “Music will be live”

Elijah

I am a DJ and also an instrumentalist.

The amount of skill that goes into DJ sets is worth taking a look at. I think that is why it is allowed in the guidelines.

Modality of purposefully

Jon Steinhart

We are all hard working. Comments about how hard working crews need recorded music is not valid.

Sound profile- sound spectrum

Anything below this is inside the neighborhood and above is outside.

Maybe someone needs to put flags in hoods that are in sound zones to inform people of permitted sound happening, and permits need to be provisional.

Really need to come up with a number that says what is a safe sound level.

Are we responsible for hearing damage?

Went from a large number of small performances to a small number of loud ones.

Action items

- Review data and think about next steps

Final thoughts

Lucie

Thank you for all of the greatest comments. I think we should be looking at zoning. It could remove bias. Where are the appropriate zones?

Elijah

Let's think about building communities.

What are those communities?

How can they be best represented?

A sound source was described as a gift. I agree that should/could be the way that all sound performances are viewed. They are all coming with the goal of bringing a gift.

I hope that in the coming years we have healthy structures to pass to the next generation.

Joolz

This is an ever changing landscape. It would be good to have an amplified sound review every 2 years or even every decade or so.

Thanks everyone for participating!

Sept 17, 2024

In attendance: Lily, Joolz, Paxton, Dr Dan, Elijah, Shevek, Aaron W., Lucie La Bonte, Kirsten, Megatron, Sarah, Jay, Jon S.,

Notes

Professional Monitoring Presentation

Moved to next meeting

Guideline Review and amend by November 15th

Decisions to make:

Move application deadline forward? If so, by how much?

VOTE: Keep 48 hr or extend 48 hr deadline- 6 in favor. KEEP 48 hrs as deadline

Keep "Community Agreements" and define or prescribe

Definition Examples

Minimum number of contacts in neighborhood before submitting application?

- Booth Reps
- Camp Hosts
- Additional individuals in the area where the permit is being requested

Prescribe Examples

Posting of applications for review and comment on .net site

- Minimum responses required?
- If a highly contested application, then what?
- Decibel maximums

By day/time?

End times

- Pre-Fair/Main Camp
- Crunch Week
- Event
-

Complaints

- To Whom/How
- Use of Subwoofers
- Space/size limitations
- Direction of sound
- Zones and Representatives
- Others?

Vote on defining or prescribing community agreements

Defining = explaining community agreements

Prescribing = A to do list attached to community agreement

In favor of defining - 5

In favor of prescribing - 4

Close vote- decided to table this until after next meeting

Meeting Evaluation

Guideline(s) to consider for revision(s)

- iii. Section 11. Entertaining at the Fair.

Entertainment is scheduled throughout the Fair. No battery powered amplifiers, radios, tape recorders, or recorded music are allowed on paths, stages, or in stage areas unless provided or approved by OCF Entertainment Crew coordinators or Fair Management. Unscheduled performers are expected to comply with the Wandering Performer Guidelines, available at the Check Inn booth at Entertainment Camp or on the oregoncountryfair.org and oregoncountryfair.net websites. Please contact the nearest Information Booth if a performer is blocking a path. Friday through Sunday of the Fair, battery carts devoted to stages will be used only for acts coordinated and scheduled by Entertainment coordinators. Late-night acoustical venues respectful of the campoods and needs of the Fair Family are encouraged. Tolerance of those who want to dance and celebrate is also appreciated. See Section 51 for additional Sound

Section 51. Sound Amplification.

Community agreements. Because we camp so closely together, amplified sound, whether live or recorded, projected beyond the intended audience creates problems for other Fair Family. Please consider others before you turn it up. Please be respectful of your impact on acoustic musicians, exhausted kids and parents, and Fair Family with early morning shifts. Camp hosts, coordinators, booth representatives, and campers are asked to develop and negotiate neighborhood agreements before the Fair regarding sound levels and noise guidelines and to collectively coexist in a peaceful manner. If conflict develops, the Management Team will intervene as needed. Conflict resolution decisions made at that time by the Management Team must be honored by all involved parties and will be reviewed

post-Fair.

Amplified sound permits. If you are planning an event involving amplified sound on the Fair site outside of the event season, you must obtain a permit from the Site Manager. During OCF Main Camp through post-Fair you can pick up a permit application at Quarter Master. Return the application to QM or Fair Central for review by the Management Team who will consider requests on a case-by-case basis. Sound Amplification Permits may be determined, in part, using some or all the following criteria: sound sheds, decibel levels, respectful interactions, and other permitted amplified events in proximity or on consecutive nights in the same location.

Timing. All Sound Permit requests and timing issues are subject to Management approval all year long. Amplified sound will comply with Lane County ordinances per our agreement with the County. All amplified sound taking place on OCF stages during the weekend of the event are subject to Stage Coordinator approval, Community Agreement, and final OCF Management review and approval.

Types of amplified sound. Amplified sound allowed at the OCF is that which is sung, played, or mixed by the musician or DJ and respectfully broadcast to the immediate area and audience with the understanding that sound circles overlap and not always to the benefit of others. Pre-recorded music is not in line with our emphasis on the handcrafted— whether art, food, or music. You are encouraged to turn off pre-recorded music, unless it is part of a live mix performance, dance, or stage act.

There are ongoing efforts among the Board, Management, and other Fair volunteers to understand and design our soundscape to meet the needs of our intergenerational family and our neighbors in Veneta. By working together and understanding that there is a wide range of requests, requirements, and desires, we can come to agreements across campsites and camphoods that meet the needs of most people much of the time. Therefore, this guideline is an evolving process and will be subject to annual review by the Board of Directors.

Oct 1, 2024

In Attendance:

Lily, Joolz, Kirsten, Sunny, Elijah, Lucie, Sarah, Shevek, Kyle s., Aaron w., Paxton, Dr. Dan, Alexis

Notes:

- Data presentation from Shevek:

Interactive Sound Map <https://www.anarres.org/outgoing/ocf/>

- Reviewed interactive map that Shevek created. Green dots = 50-70, Orange = 70-90, Red = 80 and up. 60-70 is conversational. GPS is accurate to 5 meters.
- Next year will plot stage locations and plug in which stages are projecting in which directions/ the arch of sound around stages.
- Also made notes about sound equipment @ stages and how to make a positive impact on sound @ stages we with respect to equipment
- What is a community Standard?
 - Be respectful of your impact
 - Be mindful of your neighbors
 - Added the verbiage- "Any loud sounds" to amplified sounds
 - Added verbiage- "From main camp to post fair all amplified sound from the hours of 7p to 11a the following day must have a sound permit"
 - Thurs and Sun go till 1a and Fri and Sat till 2a
 - Changed verbiage from agreement to standard
 - Added verbiage about contacting the office through the Info booths to obtain a permit, and also to make a complaint
 - Pre fair - permit applications can be picked up at QM or .net site
 - Added - "No pre recorded music is allowed
 - Added- "Subject to BOD and MGT review annually

Action Items:

- Re read draft in preparation for all membership feedback meeting

Oct 15, 2024

Attendees: Lily- BUM (ASTF), Aaron Wilmarth (ASTF), Megatron-BUM (ASTF), Joolz-Swimmer (ASTF), Mark M. Event Manager, Alexis Site manager, Elijah (ASTF) Kirsten ED, Paxton- BOD, Dr Dan (ASTF), Lucie La Bonte (ASTF), Sunny Asst. Event Mgt. Alex- site crew, Amy Hand- Recycling crew and Path Planning, Elisio- Site crew, Lia- Spoken Word, Max- Site Crew, Lisa- BOD, Jonathan P- Site Crew, Jay- Elder, Jon Steinhart - BOD, Dani- Craft Booth, Julie- External Security, Sandra- BOD

Notes

Listening session - Feedback from membership

- Agenda Review- Lily

- Go over recommendations for Guideline revisions and 2 decisions so far
 - Keeping application deadline at 48 hrs prior to event
 - Permit must be in a min. Of 48 hrs prior to the event in order to gauge impact on community, saturation of other events, etc.
 - Recommending language change from “Community agreement” to “Community Standard”
 - The Taskforce felt like the processes around Community agreements were not clearly defined and felt impossible to enforce
 - Review recommended guideline changes to be submitted

- Go over previous Guidelines and evolution of thought process behind recommended changes
 - The focus is on after hours and pre fair events- not programmed events during public fair
 - Elijah- Centering things on respect and boundary clarification- no sound is permitted from 2a-6a
 - Added loud sounds in addition to amplified sounds (trying to eliminate potential loopholes)
 - Discussed working crews and music- both pre and during fair

- Open the floor to membership for comment
 - Amy Hand- Appreciate the way the new guidelines are being crafted with care

 - Jon Steinhart -

Would like to see in the guidelines- no un-permitted amplified sound is allowed. Would aid in getting better data. Ex: some are turning sound up in response to unpermitted loud sounds competing with their permitted sounds.

When Granting permits please consider the spacing of things. Noise pollution in some areas as a result of too many sounds in one area.
Concern with letting some have amplified music and not others. Ex: Site crew and booths playing amplified sound during the public fair hours and early amplified sound while crews are working in the morning

- Elisio

Clarifying question- currently music being a great crew motivator and also acting as a way to keep folx aware of our presence, would Site crew need a sound permit from friday to sunday?

Joolz/Kirsten Reply- this taskforce was to address community agreements. There is not currently an exclusion or exception. Not currently in guidelines, not in our current purview- can move into this after this initial mandate is accomplished

- Aaron

Added no pre recorded music allowed- that language does potentially impact working crews

- Amy Hand

That is sort of covered in the current guidelines with prior authorization from mgt.

Filling sinkholes during the event is outside of site crews scope, and when needed to be done the music can motivate workers as well as create a safety boundary.

- Kirsten

End goal is to preserve the ambiance of the event during public hours and at the same time, with mgt approval, crews should be able to use music for crew motivation and safety buffer

- Lucie La Bonte

Added quiet time language- ends at 6a

- Dr Dan

Ultimate goal was to aid in efforts of creating a culture of respect in line with our ethos

- Lia

Excited about transition to standards vs agreement, having more accountable conversations with mgt is moving in the right direction. Can't please everyone, but this finds a good balance that equips us to make decisions as humans and have more accountable conversations

- Jay
Impressed with all the work ahead as well as work done so far. No doubt that out of this will come more sound permits. Confident that we will find a way to make this work for everyone. Hopeful for acoustic only zones. Appreciate the work that recycling and site does, and also recall a time that those crews did not have recorded music. Remember a time when there were live musicians on the trucks. Need spotter for safety in addition to music.
- Julie
Hopeful that the work you are doing will help folx get back to finding more acoustic music. Remembering the old days when acoustic music was every so many feet on the path. Hearing people wanting electronic music. Silent Rave? Can we have more of those? Do they need a permit? How can we encourage more of that?
- Elijah response- Started in the creamery booth- people felt sad about the lack of DJ culture and dance music created silent rave- vinyl DJs and finding ways that DJ culture can be shared at fair. AS generations continue, encouraging buy-in to fair, folx hope for more consideration to youth musical preferences. It is prohibitively expensive. Silent Raves from 2a-6a? Up until that window there is hope for more electronic music to be programmed. Let's find a way to make room for all
- Amy hand
Path planning is spending time on areas for acoustic only, and busking friendly zones- hope to work with sound taskforce on zoning.
- Lucie La Bonte
Can more headphones be used for rave music? Expense is a factor, and that also applies to booth folx and people being negatively impacted by permitted and unpermitted amplified sound. In favor of the zoning discussion
- Elijah
Possibility to use camp host system to make decisions from the bottom up. Adding "who is your camphost" would enable better data and ways to hold groups accountable to decisions made as a group. Fair will continuously evolve, it is important to involve everyone in decision making. Renegade events happen because they feel like our programming does not currently host enough

alternative genres (electronic music). Also, more education for everyone about our guidelines and our permitting process.

- Max
Had experience driving through the crowds during the event- without a doubt music acts as a safety barrier, as well as making it fun. Public prefers clown car with music to stinky work trucks. Hippies do not notice my 2 ton truck more often than you would believe.
- Paxton
With current silent rave- what is the transmission range?
Elijah- about 50-70 ft. Also a check out process. Cell phone or ID.
Lily- haven't prophesied their model yet. They privately invest currently
- Jon Steinhart
When granting permits figure out how to do sound engineering and keep the sound small enough to avoid noise pollution

I come to the fair for acoustic music

Don't care for language that indicates a crew works harder than another and should get special treatment
- Alex- Site Crew
Professing love for what the truck brings to the table. Vibe, culture...
Sound means so much to me. Seeing the look on the faces of the public brings me joy. In addition to safety and hard work, joy is also an important part of the sound experience
- Elijah
What makes fair special is unique to everyone. As a child being brought to the fair because my family decided to every year for my whole life. How do I bring elements of myself into this group process?
- Jon Steinhart
Big picture vision work. What makes fair unique? Not about my preference, more about the what makes fair unique perspective. What keeps tickets selling?
- Lucie
Maybe public would like a rave? There should be a place for everyone
- Lia
Fairs continued consideration of what keeps us unique. For me it is about the sense of ownership that fair family has. Shared love of fringe, youthful music of

the time. There has not been space made for the current youthful music of the time. Youth are not as inclined to commit to the workload in part because of the exclusion of the music of our generation. If fair continues to exclude the past 2 generations, that is an existential threat to the longevity of our event.

- Kirsten
Do not conflate public and private hours. After hours are for the benefit of volunteers. It is a balancing act. We need to embrace diversity. We can do better on both fronts. We need to acknowledge that there is a new generation coming up and they may have different tastes.
- Elisio
It is not about wanting special treatment. It is about understanding the nuances of our job, as opposed to other crews' jobs.
-

Action items

- Review membership feedback- any edits to recommendations based on feedback

Nov 12, 2024

In Attendance:

Kirsten, Aaron, Meg, Joolz, Lucie, Sunny, Dr Dan, Paxton

Assessment of our Draft:

Megatron

People use battery carts for amplified sound and have gone through different routes to get it approved. Is that something that needs to be tightened?

Ex: Caravan Stage

In the past they have the during the event and then submit permits after hours, but then the battery carts don't get ample time to charge. One year approved thru fair central, and one year they used someone from Site crew to take the battery back to get charged. Battery Carts are for Daytime. Permit says you have to bring/use your own power.

Kirsten

That goes against our guidelines. Those folx need to

Added verbiage to include ways to submit concerns about violations of the guidelines. Info booths, Fair central, Bums, MGT team.

Discussed verbiage about Mixing pre recorded music rather than just playing pre recorded music. Agreed that Mixing changes things. Added more verbiage about that.

Added that these will be annually reviewed

VOTE- Unanimous consent from Task Force about what we are submitting

Action Items:

Kirsten Submit proposed guidelines changes to BOD