

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Draft 2 Approved at the 11/14/24 meeting

DATE: Thursday, October 24, 2024

LOCATIONS: Online and OCF Office

MEETING TIME: 6 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT ONLINE: Ann Bennett-Rogers, Heather Kent, Diane Albino

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON: Kay Kintzley, Michael James Long, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Nancy Hafner, Eric Nicholson, Jain Elliott

BOARD LIAISONS PRESENT ONLINE: Jon Steinhart

BOARD LIAISONS ABSENT: Kevin Levy

OTHERS PRESENT ON-LINE: Synnove Abrahamsen, Alan Cohn, Darlene Colborn, Carolyn Gsell – Scribe, Percy Hilo, “Village” David Hoffman, Tim Furst, Jorjan Plimmer, Jenny Wilson

OTHERS PRESENT IN-PERSON: Roberta Austin, Tom Boyatt – Facilitator, Terry Baxter, Jerry Joffe,

Quorum – 9 of 9 committee members were present; thus, a quorum was established.

Agenda

- Announcements
 - Wristband system changes - Nancy
- Approve Fall Retreat minutes – draft 3
- Approve September minutes – draft 2
- CHC report from Jerry Joffe, Terry Baxter
- Board Report – Jon Steinhart
- Events Subcommittee Report – Kay
 - Recap Spirit Walk event
 - Holiday party update
- Approve 2 new applications – Jenny & Roberta
- Committee Mission Statement question - Carolyn
- Wrap up

Announcements:

Wristband System changes – Nancy and Tom B. met with Inventory and event management about registration a couple of weeks ago to talk about the streamlining the registration system. Elders will be part of a pilot project to see what the new process will look like. We don’t have a lot of information at this point but will know more in January. The long-term goal is to have Inventory being the actual point of contact at registration, rather than registration by “booths”. The way Elders distribute vehicle stickers has yet to be determined. The Elders Wristband Subcommittee will send out a notification in late January/early February to all Elders concerning procedural changes, in place of the “Letter of Intent.”

Tom heard from events management and inventory that they are interested in the Chain of Custody of wristbands and want to control that better. The plan is to eventually move to an online digital system, using QR codes to receive wristbands upon arrival at the Fair. Meeting in January will solidify the process. The S.O./companion pass assignments & changes are a bit up in the air.

Approve Fall 2024 retreat minutes - Draft 3

Ann moved to approve draft 3 of the Fall Retreat minutes, Eric seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Approve September meeting minutes – draft 2

Kay moved and Mouseman seconded to approve the September minutes. The motion carried 7 – 0. Ann and Nancy abstained.

Counterculture History Coalition (CHC) Report – Jerry Joffe, Terry Baxter

Jerry thanked the Elders for supporting and bringing the coalition people up and offering the Still Living Room space to them. Some CHC folks had never been to the Fair before. Everyone was helpful to the newcomers.

Mouseman – KOCF is willing to give a time slot to tell the CHC story. This work is important. Keep telling the story.

Jerry – Interest in the counterculture has been building across the country. The CHC folks have been in touch with a couple in San Francisco who started a Beat Museum to showcase the writers and artists who hung out in North Beach before the '60's counterculture movement and now wish to start a Counterculture museum. They recently rented a building on the corner of Haight and Ashbury to house the counterculture museum project.

Terry – Pointed out that people came to Oregon from all parts of the country to be part of the counterculture movement.

Jerry – One goal is to have a series of museums between here and the Bay Area. A museum in San Francisco is just a beginning. Many ideas are circulating. Jerry has made an appeal to the Lane County History Museum, suggesting that the Counterculture exhibit should be a permanent installation, but the Oregon Covered Wagon folks won out. There was a Tie Dye and Tofu Exhibit, and the Oregon Country Fair exhibit, which had the highest number of visitors of any exhibit. Unfortunately, Covid shut that down.

Ann thanked Jerry and Terry for their work. As a member, Ann has found that the Oregon Historical Society works with contemporary history. For the 50th Anniversary, the OCF received recognition as an Oregon heritage event.

The question was asked about video recordings. Jerry said that Paxton has recordings, but he has not received them yet. Jerry gave a "hats off" to the video crew for showing up at the CHC sessions. Eventually the videos will be posted to the .net site.

Eric referenced the various communes and farms across the country that sprouted up out of the Counterculture movement.

The group expressed their gratitude to Jerry and Terry for their work in carrying the CHC initiative forward.

Board Report – Jon Steinhart

Jon mentioned that if anyone has questions about wristbands and passes, etc. they can ask him. This year there is work getting done to make the Fair's internet infrastructure more reliable. Right now we can login to the Sunshine Database and download QR codes. This past year was a struggle. The only folks in Elders who need an account are Elders approved since the 2024 Fair. Jon asked the group if they want vehicle stickers and SOPs to be first come first serv, or would we rather see these released in blocks, so

that maybe people who live far away and aren't paying attention have an opportunity to access these things. If we operate on the basis of first come, first serve, then the computer savvy elders will be the ones that are advantaged to get first dibs on vehicle stickers and SOPs. Jon said we just need to let him know how we want to handle this and he will make it happen.

Board stuff – The board kicked off the EIDB (Equity, Inclusion, Diversity, & Belonging) task force. Meetings will be starting soon. Basically, the idea is to finally figure out if we actually have a diversity issue at the Fair. What is our makeup? Equity is first because, though we don't know if there is a diversity problem for sure, we know we have an equity problem. Too much of how we run the fair is who someone is and who they know.

A Task force has been meeting to deal with amplified music. There should be some information on the .net site. A friend of Jon's was brought into the Fair last year to do sound monitoring. He mapped out sound around the Eight. He created a map ~~he created~~ of the 8 where you can click on a time of day and see what the decibel rating is for a particular area. Measurements taken at mainstage were 160DB. To be in compliance, the measurement should not exceed 85 DB.

A lot of work is being done on the EAB response. This work will be difficult. Unfortunately, we will have to cut down ash trees.

The board is establishing a "Committees in Good Standing" policy – A process to keep committees on track.

Guideline Revisions are coming up. There is an effort to streamline the guidelines, editing to remove repetitive or conflicting information. Guidelines will get published sooner and be posted to the website. Typically, by the time the guidelines get printed, it's past the time they are useful to booth people.

Events Subcommittee Report – Kay

The Spirit Walk was wonderful and well attended. There were about 20 people. We had a great break in the weather. We had a lovely dinner. Lisa and Synnove ran a beautiful ceremony. There was silence between each name read, and people were very respectful. Clean-up on Sunday was a cinch. Anna, Eric, and Kay cleaned up and left Alices better than they found it.

Unfortunately, we are unable to rent Washington Park, so we decided this year we won't have a party. The Events Subcommittee has already put in a lot of effort into events and could use a break. Last year 5 people tested positive for Covid after the party. Diane asked about Lamb Cottage. Alice's is not up for consideration due to being too far out of the way during the winter months. If anyone has a bright idea, contact Kay.

Approve 2 new Elder applications -Jenny & Roberta

- **Roanne Bank, Age 68.** Has worked for upper reefer since 1999. Missed 2020-21 Covid years and 2023. All verified by Larry Booman, Reefer coordinator. **Total of 23 years verified.**
- **Steve Lambros:** age 71 (DOB 4/7/53) Worked with White Bird from at least 2000 to 2019 (couldn't remember the exact year that he started). Wren Arrington, White Bird coordinator, confirmed that Steve was part of the crew since the 1990's. **20+ years confirmed.**

Kay made a motion to approve both applicants. Nancy seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Committee Mission Statement Question - Carolyn

Carolyn asked what should be done with the approved committee mission statement. It reads as follows:

The Elders Committee is a group within the Oregon Country Fair structure to recognize our elders and provide them with a voice in Country Fair activities.

The Committee is responsible for conducting its business which includes meeting regularly and addressing assignments of committee business.

Mouseman reminded us that the board requested the Mission Statement. Jon St. suggested that we hold onto it and submit it in the Annual Report.

The statement will also be available to the board with the board packet, in which they receive copies of approved minutes.

Wrap-up

The meeting ended at 6:56 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 14, at 6 p.m. It will be a hybrid meeting.