

ENERGY PARK MEETING

September 15th, 2024 - Energy Park

In attendance: Gaelen, Sue, Blake, Rountree, Sagan, Allister, Thomas, Keenan, Andrea, Petra, Julissa, Sherman, Raina, Martha, Jude, Georgiana, Larry, RoseLynn

Zoom attendees: Ila, Alan, Brian, Ryan, Newt, Jaylee, Dave, Seth Francis (new, 13-yr Fair-goer), Michaela, Cindy

Facilitator: Blake

Scribe: Kory

Action items

- Coordinators should look at their respective coordinator description and let Georgiana know any updates/changes that should be made

Announcements

- Ryan had a big surgery and is recovering, looking at 6+ months of recovery
- The Candidates Forum is on September 29th, a livestream can be found on oregoncountryfair.net
- Annual Membership Meeting - October 12, 2024, 6:30pm PDT .
 - The agenda will include the State of the Peach, the Treasurers' report and Board candidate statements.
 - BALLOTS ARE DUE BY October 19, 2024 @ 8pm – at the Fair office (442 Lawrence St., Eugene, OR 97401). Ballots received after this time will not be counted.
 - Ballots will be counted October 20, 2024 , with results posted upon completion.
 - If you aren't a member, get in touch with the OCF office
- Larry - wants to welcome Alex, Jade Weston, and Avi to the permanent EP Staff
- Brian - Missing a wooden bowl, if anyone sees it please reach out to him
- Larry - Found table legs shaped like pencils while looking through the lost and found if anyone is missing those
 - Ryan - he put them there 'cause he thought somebody might want to do something creative with them
- Sue - Lots of towels and clothes were left this year, she washed them and dropped them at the Mission

Approval of Minutes

- We will always approve the previous meeting's minutes before they get submitted to the Board

Evaluations

- General Coordinator - Blake
 - Blake - The booths did a really good job, they were staffed throughout the Fair hours; Staff shifts seemed well-covered; lots of appreciation for Layne for helping out as a backup to allow Blake some time to enjoy Fair; there was so much that needed to be taken care of in light of the ice storm and our capital projects and

- we got it all done; really appreciate the help from Fair to get some of these things completed (thanks to Thomas, Ryan, and Rountree); very grateful to everybody
 - Rountree - was very reassuring to relieve pressure from Ryan & Rountree to let them know that it's okay if everything doesn't get done
 - Georgiana - loved how Blake gave himself time to both do his job *and* enjoy Fair
 - Larry - my only complaint is that Blake is way too modest
- Entertainment - Kory/Thomas
 - Thomas - was pleased with the outcome; liked the variety; always surprised with the quality given the little resources/perks we can offer performers; we're not getting many Booth presentation applications; the merch table went well but not everybody seemed to be aware of it despite us mentioning it multiple times in the email; how do people in EP feel about the acts we're bringing so please give us feedback
 - Andrea - the booth application deadline is after the Kesey Stage applications, which is part of that
 - Michaela - as soon as we have the stage application ready, we should send it to Michaela so she can pass it along to folks
 - Alan - thought things went well; nice lineup; thought the merch table was helpful; big thanks to Gary for bringing all the gear
 - Ryan - heard more people out in the Fair talking about coming specifically to Kesey Stage to see performances
 - Ila - felt that the Green Room went smoother than past years; really appreciated Nancy; felt the communication between the stage and Green Room was great; performers seemed very pleased about the merch table
 - Kory - echo what Thomas said; we sent an email to this year's performers asking for feedback about their experience applying to/playing at Kesey Stage so that we can make the experience as good as possible for our acts; one thing that is apparent is that we need to dial in the process/info for those performers that are coming to Fair just for the day (make sure they have their Day Pass, where do they park, where do they unload gear, how do they get to Kesey, etc.); we need to avoid having Day Pass folk playing in the 1st slot or two to try to avoid people being late; booth folk would prefer to give their presentations later in the day when more people are in Energy Park
 - Ryan - there is an active push from other stages to do an "in and out" process, we could reach out to Main Stage and other stages to understand that
 - Larry - any chance we can get Blake's band to play that 1st set of the day?
 - Andrea - we can have a talent show on Thursday night which would be a fun thing for EP and a great way to train stage techs
- Scribe - Kory
 - Kory - the scribe doesn't make it to every meeting, but does his best to coordinate somebody else to fill in for him; I'm open to any feedback that people have regarding the style/format/level of detail for the minutes!
- Security - Philip
 - Blake - Philip was present for every sweep; we had no known issues; did a good job
- Teens - Jade
 - Blake - Everything I heard is that Jade did a great job; connected well with the teens and had them on point
 - Sue - Teens at the showers showed up and worked well
 - Georgiana - Jade rocked it especially with limited guidance
- Path Troll - Jaylee

- Jaylee - Raina and I worked very well together; communication with her and Sherman was excellent pre-Fair; we don't need to make as many tent tags as we did this year; anybody that wants to help alleviate the pressure and time constraints for Jaylee would be *greatly* appreciated so Jaylee can have some time to enjoy Fair; during the Fair hours the Path Troll morphs a bit more into a security role and it takes a lot for the coordinator to show up to every shift change to ensure that people show up and know what's going on;
 - Blake - sounds like we need a co-coordinator for this position; and want to convey that you have a perfect temperament for this job, we don't have confrontations and conflict like we've had in the past so THANK YOU
 - Sherman - thank you for rocking it this year and for being a huge support to me and Raina
 - Larry - cell phone charging has two coordinators and they take turns being on call, this kind of arrangement might work well for Path Troll
- Jaylee - we should do an EP tie-dye party so we all have matching shirts
- Clean-Up - Dave B
 - Dave - breakdown went smoothly considering all that's involved; we got stalled out taking down the big solar panels because I didn't have an allen key; I need to go back and look at the description for this coordinator position to make sure that taking up the ladder for the info booth is listed on there; wanted to make sure people got credit for the things they were doing to break down (not everybody writes their name down in the book); there were some rock stars that helped cleanup this year; there is a specific order that breakdown should happen to help make things go smoothly and I appreciate people checking in with me to know what should happen next
 - Georgiana - thank you for looking at the coordinator description, send me any changes/updates you want to make
 - Rountree - there's a ton to get done on Monday and not everybody can stick around to finish it all; it would be good to do a scheduled sweep sometime after Monday and try and clean up and take care of things that got overlooked in the chaos that is Monday
 - Jude - we have pre-Fair work parties, why not post-Fair work parties? Maybe a potluck out here in August
- Camp Host - Sherman
 - Sherman - lots of challenges this year doing it without Michael and with a baby and after an ice storm; really appreciates everyone's patience and help; did some calculations and determined that of all the people we give camping passes to there are ~21 tents (24 people) who camp elsewhere, it's very stressful to know this is the case every year and there's the worry that people won't have a place to camp; would love people to be flexible to switch their camping spot with an Elder or other EP member that could benefit from a more accessible camping area; would like to purchase some shade structures for Sky View
 - Ryan - has some large triangular shade tarps that he is willing to donate to the cause
 - Sherman - there aren't a lot of trees or places to tether things to
 - Thomas - it's nice to know that the campsite you've been in for years will be yours each year, but he understands the needs to shift people around for various reasons
 - Sherman - there's always some flux since we take in new EP folks each year and some longtime EP folks don't come every year

- Jude - Sky View is nice, and having some sort of shade would go a long way to making this zone more comfortable for people that camp here
- Blake - are you looking for a co-coordinator?
 - Sherman- yes, but mostly for pre-Fair because it's a hard coordinator to split during Fair due to the amount of one-on-one conversations happening and in-the-moment problem solving that happens
- Staff Registration - Larry
 - Larry - went well this year; the policy for bringing in last minute staff was implemented this year and it worked very smoothly; we didn't have any problems filling shifts in the book (with an exception for path troll and showers);
- Booth Registration - Andrea/Michaela
 - Michaela - pre-Fair registration went smoothly; one big improvement I want to make for next year is streamline and consolidate the information about who's coming so it's all in one place and multiple coordinators aren't working off of different data; this was the 1st year that we had more applications than spaces; I welcome feedback from folks about the registration/selection process;
 - Blake - how many booths did we have this year
 - Andrea/Michaela - We had 21 booths (22 if we count Bart)
 - Michaela - if all goes well, I'll be welcoming a new human to the Fair next year!
 - Michaela - huge thanks to Gaelen for being a go-to person for me and for everyone!
 - Andrea - thanks to Michaela for being so organized and providing the information that I needed to get people situated; it might be nice to put tags/signs on the booth ahead of time so people know where their booth is; some of the booths had vinyl signs and we think a sign making party might be a good way to avoid this in the future (Georgiana might be willing to facilitate and teach this)
 - Blake - really appreciated Andrea's presence and being on top of everything during Fair
 - Georgiana - you and Michaela do a tremendous job in this role and make my job of sign making and map making so much easier
- Information Booth - Cindy (written report)
 - *Info booth was good this year. Most shifts were full and the staff is enjoying their interactions with visitors. The passport program really helps bring interactions and learning for all. A solar fan would be welcome. We were the busiest I've ever experienced with medical emergency calls to White Bird, 6 on Friday alone. Using the orange semaphore flags to mark entry to Energy Park and victim location worked well and White Bird staff appreciated them. Having official flags on much taller staffs or adjustable ones would work even better when trying to be seen among crowds, tall costumes trees and more. Having 2 people on staff is always good, during heat waves 3 or 4 if marking victim locations helps, we recruited non working staff to help. Reporting problems to info booth staff is essential to help responders locate issues. Hopefully next year is cooler. Have a great day. Remind everyone to vote!*
- PR - Gaelen/Anna
 - Gaelen - everything went well
- Construction - Thomas
 - Thomas - it was a big year; it was a little too much and not sustainable; don't overplan because working with other crews can result in some last minute changes; we were well below budget on our projects; we have some extra materials lying around for next year; big thanks to all the volunteers that came out to the work parties

- Blake - thank you for your flexibility and hard work
 - Big thanks to main fair construction for all their help this year!
- Cell Phone Charging - Ron
 - Blake - big shoutout to Ron taking things on solo this year, he got things done and still managed to have a good time, big thanks to everyone that helped him out this year as well; cell phone charging is more popular than ever and the need will keep growing going forward we'll probably want to just set our limit and not keep growing to meet the demand
 - Georgiana - would it help to have something we can add to the cell phone charging sign that says "Full" so they know whether there's capacity or not?
 - Jude - should we build in some safeguards to have people ready to step in to help a coordinator if somebody can't show up last minute? One idea is to have people volunteer during registration to be willing to step in if need be
 - Blake - that's part of my job to help figure out these situations when they arise
- Secretary Treasurer - Gaelen
 - Gaelen - everything went pretty well; we were low on funds going into Fair; the new database was a big challenge this year; I encourage people to use the online pay system next year, which will hopefully be more intuitive going forward as the system keeps rolling out
 - Georgiana - wants to give another shoutout to Gaelen for EVERYTHING that she does
- Operations - Layne
 - Blake - Layne did a great job; he stepped up and I felt comfortable walking away knowing that Layne could handle whatever came up;
- Showers - Ryan, Rountree, Sue
 - Sue - it was hot, dusty, and dirty which meant we were popular; we had a 4th shower which was great for the conditions this year; having more capacity was fantastic; extreme kudos to Ryan and Rountree for the extensive work they did, completely re-plumbing the shower system this year; the sink will get some more attention next year; the front end of the shower (waiting area, etc) will get work done next year as well; we probably should do a post-Fair breakdown work party after the 2-weeks we stay open for recycling crew; our showers have been \$3 for a very long time and it might be time to raise our prices (this should be a future discussion); Friday evening was a struggle largely because all the other showers (including The Ritz) went down, we were the only showers open and despite the shift book being full the people that signed up did not show up, people rallied to the cause to help, some of this is out of our control (e.g. other showers at the Fair going down, the weather); we made \$4,000+ which is a record for EP; similar to the Path Troll Coordinator this coordinator position requires a lot of checking in to ensure people show up for shifts and because there is money being exchanged
 - Rountree - we could use some more help for shower techs, a 1-2 more positions would be great
- Website - Loren
 - Blake - nice having the stage schedule posted on our site before Fair; would be nice to have the booths updated as well (touch base with the booth coordinators)
 - Sherman - some people have looked for EP information on our Facebook page, which is very outdated, if we're going to have one maybe we should keep it updated or at least link to our website

2025 Energy Park Meeting dates

- All EP meetings happen on Sundays @1pm
- November 17, 2024
- February 9th, 2025
- April 6th, 2025
- May 18th, 2025
- June 8th, 2025

Future Meeting Discussions

1. Increasing the cost for solar showers
2. Adding 1-2 more shower tech (a.k.a “solar bozos”) positions