

**ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Draft 2 – Approved at the 10/23/25 meeting**

**DATE:** Thursday, September 25, 2025

**LOCATIONS:** Online via Zoom and OCF Office

**MEETING TIME:** 6 p.m.

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

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** none

**PRIMARY BOARD LIAISON PRESENT ONLINE:** Kevin Levy

**OTHERS PRESENT ON-LINE:** Anna Brown, Darlene Colborn, Lisa Cooley, Kehn “mambo” Gibson, Carolyn Gsell – Scribe, Annemarie Hirsch, Paxton Hoag, Merrill Levine, Jon Pincus, Jorjan Plimmer, Jon Steinhart

**OTHERS PRESENT IN-PERSON:** Synnove Abrahamsen, Roberta Austin, Mike Barkhuff, Katie Cousins – Facilitator, Chris Howe, Jeffrey Rames – Guest (OCF Membership Secretary), Jenny Wilson

**AGENDA**

- Approve agenda
- Announcements
- Quorum?
- Member Input
- Approve June 2025 minutes (draft3)
- Online voting explained - Jeffrey, Membership Secretary
- Vetted elder applications for approval - Jenny & Roberta
- Adding new committee members – Review process
- Review ECOCF listserv membership - Elders Committee
- Add Linda Frohbach & Rolyn “Ro” Arata to the ECOCF Listserv - Do-over Motion – Carolyn
- Elders Conex storage report – Eric
- Vetting S.O. (Companion) passes - set parameters -?
- Appoint chair for Elders Committee - Carolyn
- Special Elder Wristbands for Sauna – Group discussion
- Service dogs in Elders Camp- Anna Tabled
- Back-up support for Elders Camp Hosts – Kay tabled
- Meeting evaluation

The meeting started promptly at 6 p.m.

**A quorum** of 7 of 9 committee members were present at the opening of the meeting; thus, a quorum was established. Ann and Diane arrived a bit later.

**Approve Agenda:** Approved, with the caveat that we may not get to every agenda item tonight.

**Announcements:**

- Kay spoke with Melissa, the new OCF Bookkeeper, about Elders leading a sing-along of the Teddy Bear Picnic song at the next Teddy Bear Picnic. This will need to be run by the new Events Manager (not yet hired), but we have tentative approval. The idea was mentioned at the Fall Retreat, and words to the song were passed around.
- Kay reached out to Tangerine, the mother of Lucas Scully, and she was thrilled about the rehab of the Dragon Bench in the Still Living Room space.
- Kay announced upcoming 2026 events:
  - Spring Retreat May 8, 9, & 10
  - Fall retreat Sept. 18, 19 20

- In-Person Meeting at Kay's Thursday, June 18
- Meet & Greet – Thursday, July 9 at Alice's Firepit
- Carolyn announced that she is resigning as scribe by end of 2025. She would like to put more energy into the Elder Volunteers Subcommittee, especially helping to recruit new Elders into volunteer positions.
- Paxton – David Grisman and Jerry Garcia have a recording of the Teddy Bear Picnic song, and it has just been re-released. It is a remaster of the originally recorded song.
- Ann has Teddy Bear Picnic sheet music.

**Member Input:** none

**Approve June 2025 Draft 3 Minutes**

Jain made a motion to approve draft 3 of the June 2025 minutes. Nancy seconded. The motion passed 7 – 0, and 1 abstention (Ann, who was not present at the June meeting). (Diane entered the meeting after minutes were approved).

**Online voting explained – Jeffrey Rames, OCF Membership Secretary**

Most know that the board decided to move our elections to online. They have looked at the voting list for 2022, 23, and 24 and matched it up to the Sunshine database. Whoever doesn't have an email address will receive a paper ballot. Just under 6,000 ballots got emailed yesterday. Just under 200 were sent via US Mail. There were 220 bounce-backed emails.

**Online voting explained - Jeffrey, Membership Secretary**

Jeffrey - The board decided to move to online elections back in February or March. Since then, the elections team has been working to get the membership list prepared. They worked with the cooperation of the Sunshine Database managers. Anyone without an email address will receive a paper ballot. A bit less than 600 ballots went out via email, and less than 200 paper ballots went out via snail mail. Jeffrey reported that people have already started online voting, and the system is working exactly as intended. About 220 emails bounced back, and they are working on cleaning that up.

Jeffrey opened it to questions:

Question: When should we expect mailed paper ballots to be received?

Jeffrey – If you have an email address, you should already have received your ballot. If you are expecting a paper ballot, they were mailed out yesterday, and mail typically takes up to 6 days. Jeffrey has all the info as to who is receiving an email ballot and who will receive a paper ballot, so any member can contact him about where their ballot is coming from.

Question: Is there a reason why the emailed ballot didn't include an announcement about the candidate's forum or a link to the candidate's statements.

Jeffrey – When you click on the link to vote, you'll find a cover letter with this information.

Question – Why was the ballot sent out prior to the Candidates' Forum?

Jeffrey – It's a time crunch issue. Mail in ballots can take 6 – 8 days to get returned. He understands the concern. They were trying not to squeeze the election timeframe too tightly.

Jeffrey provided his contact # 503-575-6115. Feel free to contact him with any questions or email [elections@oregoncountryfair.org](mailto:elections@oregoncountryfair.org).

The system appears to be acting exactly as it should. If an email bounces, the elections folks are mailing a paper ballot. Mouseman pointed out 1. A person can declare a candidacy at the Annual Meeting. 2. His ballot got sent to an old email address that he no longer uses, but it also didn't bounce back because the email address was still good. He just wasn't using it.

Jeffrey – It's critical for everyone to pay attention and contact Jeffrey if they suspect they have not received a ballot. The Fair has already sent email announcements and will send additional ones. Jeffrey pointed out that Covid changed how the annual meeting works in conjunction with elections. The elections team has been working diligently to provide as much information as possible. This is a transition period for this election.

Kevin Levy – mentioned that in the announcement for the general meeting, it lists that a candidate can announce their candidacy from the floor. It is likely in the bylaws that we allow this. Since we have gone to mail-in ballots, getting nominated from the floor is no longer realistic. However, it does allow people to speak.

Paxton – Anybody can run as a write-in before elections close.

The group thanked Jeffrey for his time.

**Vetted elder applications for approval** – Roberta & Jenny

Mouseman would like to read through and know about the new applications. He likes to get the historical perspective of each applicant and appreciate their volunteer work. He would like to see a bit more detail for each applicant.

Leslie Cormier	Brian Burke	Aaron Beckord
Marla McLeod	Eric Williams	Daniela Sardo
Michael Nacrelli	Lazar Makayadath	Jack Inglis
Debbie Stevens	Christopher Wilson	Ruth Dreier
Katie Gallagher	Craig Soderberg	Joseph Bayley
Mark Anding	Mitchell Ridinger	B. Salamandir-Feyrecilde
Barbara Lynch	Charlotte Ridinger	Bradley Mowreader
Virginia Oram	Linda Bourdeau	Douglas Martin
Wendy Jeanne Frades	Kathy Shayler	(blank)

Mouseman moved to approve the 26 vetted applicants. Kay seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent 9 – 0.

**PROBLEM Application** – Todd Richard

The recommendation from the committee is that this applicant request another compassion pass for 2026 and apply for Elder status next year, given he is short 1 year. Receiving a compassion pass counts as a year of service.

**Process for becoming a committee member** – Katie

To get on the committee, a person needs to write a letter to the board. The group discussed that an applicant should come to the committee first to get pre-approval from the board, and include that info in their letter to the board.

Michael JL agrees that anyone wishing to be on the committee speak with the committee first to get vetted by the committee before they proceed to write their request to the board.

Mouseman pointed out that as the size of the committee increases, the number of members present to meet a quorum also increases. Attendance is important.

Nancy mentioned we should have guidelines about attendance.

Katie reminded the group that the committee established a maximum of 12 people on the committee Ref. Elders Committee document

[https://ocfelders.weebly.com/uploads/1/3/5/8/135834530/elders\\_committee\\_description\\_updated\\_march\\_2021.pdf](https://ocfelders.weebly.com/uploads/1/3/5/8/135834530/elders_committee_description_updated_march_2021.pdf)

Kevin – Standard practice from the board’s point of view is members of the committee endorse the new committee member candidate via a letter, and the candidate also writes a letter to the committee.

Synnove has expressed an interest in joining the committee. Kay would like to speak on behalf of Synnove who is active on the Events subcommittee. She travels from her home in Veneta to Kay’s in Pleasant Hill to attend Event subcommittee meetings. She has been consistent, active and involved for the past few years.

Jain – Having members on the committee who haven't been to many meetings has been an issue. We have had meetings where we haven't had a quorum. As of late it hasn't been an issue.

Ann – Supports Synnove joining.

Lisa Cooley expressed an interest in joining.

Carolyn expressed her support for Synnove A. and Lisa C.

Michael JL made a motion to approve Synnove on the Elders Committee. Diane seconded. The motion carried by unanimous consent 9 – 0.

Kay expressed her support for Lisa C.

Kay made a motion to approve Lisa Cooley on the Elders Committee. Nancy seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent 9 – 0.

Mouseman – Is very happy about the addition of these two people. Mentioned everyone who participates in the meetings has equal pull, even if they are not on the committee.

Paxton – Comment on process. Both Lisa and Synnove need to send a letter to the board. There should also be a letter from the committee to the board recommending Synnove and Lisa.

Kay will write a letter of recommendation to the board. Mouseman will help.

ECOCF Listserv Membership –

At the Elders Fall Retreat, the listserv membership was discussed. Are there still people on the list who should be taken off.

We can take Peggy Day off the list (the group expressed how much they miss Peggy).

**Add Linda Frohbach & Rolyn "Ro" Arata to the ECOCF Listserv – Do-over – Carolyn**

A motion was passed at the retreat to add Linda and Ro to the ECOCF listserv. Because there was no board liaison present when the motion was made, the motion is null and void and needs to be made at this meeting, given Kevin L. is present.

Ann made a motion to add Linda and Ro on the ECOCF list. Mouseman seconded.

Mouseman asked why we need a board liaison or other substitute board member attend a committee meeting. If no board representative is attending the meeting but the meeting is recorded, motions can be made at the meeting but must be reviewed by and approved by the board liaison.

Carolyn recommended that a smaller group of people get together to review the current ECOCF listserv membership and make a recommendation to the committee. There are probably only a few names that should come off the list.

Heather questioned whether motions should be made at retreats. Are retreats advertised as meetings?

Mouseman recalls that motions have been made at retreats in the past.

Heather indicated that if that's the case, then we have two extra meetings per year. Michael JL somewhat restated what Mouseman was saying.

Katie – recommended we go back through past retreat minutes to see if we have passed motions. Carolyn will review past retreat minutes to see if motions were made and passed.

Jon Steinhart commented that the committee may want to establish a protocol based on committee member attendance that would automatically disqualify a person from serving on the committee after missing a specified number of absences.

MOTION RESTATED: Ann made a motion to add Linda and Ro on the ECOCF list. Mouseman seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent 9 – 0.

### **Elders Conex storage report – Eric**

Eric reviewed what happened with the big Still Living Room storage box that was removed from the Conex and left sitting outside after it had been put away. This apparently happened twice. Eric noticed that some of the wood on the lid is starting to warp. Someone took the liberty of storing items, including tables, in the spot where the SLR box had originally been stored. Luckily there was a name and phone number written on a table, so L.T. called the number. Eric and Jerry ended up arranging for the forklift to lift the box back into the Conex and they placed the person's items on top of the box.

Mouseman – We have been using that shipping container for the past few years. We were allotted part of the container, sharing it with Community Village. It is unknown who took our SLR storage box out. It has gotten damaged due to summer rain. There is a map inside the Conex door that shows where items go, but apparently it was ignored. Further, there is currently way too much stuff in the Conex now. We have no idea who is storing more things in the Conex.

Katie requested that someone on the committee take responsibility to monitor the Conex to ensure there are no further issues with our stored items.

### **Vetting Companion Passes**

Carolyn clarified the subject matter. There was a discussion at the retreat about Elder population and the number of companion passes that are distributed, and should we have requirements as to how S.O. or Companion/Helper passes are assigned. Is the S.O./helper actually assisting an Elder during the Fair or is that person contributing to Elders' projects during the Fair (i.e. Geezer Pleezer, Still Living Room, etc.).

Katie – says it is not possible to put limitations on S.O. pass requests We are entitled to 70% of Elders getting S.O. passes. We can't put "restrictions" on S.O.'s passes.

Jon St. – With the increasing numbers of campers, there is a concern for finding enough camp space for volunteers taking up positions where Elders are "eldering out". Jon St. would appreciate that we investigate this problem.

Heather – Agrees with Katie you can't put parameters around S.O. passes for Elders. There was general agreement among the group that this is too big of a subject to discuss at this meeting.

### **Appoint chair for Elders Committee - Carolyn**

Having a designated person from the committee appointed as Chair would take pressure off the scribe. Without a Chair, the scribe becomes a main point of contact. Jain said that on the LUMP Committee, the facilitator is the "go to" person. Kay made a motion to table this agenda item for another time. Nancy seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent 9-0.

### **Special Elder Wristbands for Sauna - Darlene**

Per discussion at retreat, Darlene related that George is willing to offer a discount to Elders for using the Ritz, but it would require a specially designated Elders Wristband as proof a person is an Elder.

Questions and comments:

What about elders who don't get wristbands via Elders?

The cost of procuring special wristbands could negate the discount.

This conversation started out with George offering a wristband. Now it's up to us to figure out how to do this.

Kevin L. spoke with Darlene about this. Kirsten said we can look into this in the spring when the Fair prepares to order wristbands. There will be some cost involved.

What about laminates?

Jon St. said that a laminate per-se could be counterfeited or transferred. The elders may need to have an additional wristband that designates the person as an Elder. The best solution might be for the Fair to buy specially designated Elders Wristbands.

**Jain - request**

Jain couldn't attend the retreat and asked about candidates' responses at retreat. They were not included in the first draft of the minutes. Carolyn explained the logistical problems of verifying the accuracy of her notes with each candidate prior to updating the next draft. It will take quite a while to reach out to each candidate, get corrections, and get them published. By the time the minutes from the retreat are approved, the election will be over.

**Meeting evaluation:**

Kay – We now have a letter of recommendation for Synnove and Lisa to be sent to the board.

Mouseman read the proposed letter to the board.

Katie did an outstanding job facilitating tonight.

Kay made motion to adjourn the meeting. Mouseman seconded. The motion carried by unanimous consent 9 – 0.

Meeting ended at 7:52 p.m.

**Review of motions passed:**

June 2025 minutes approved 7-0, 1 abstention (8 of 9 members present for this vote)

26 vetted applicants approved 9-0

Pending final board approve Synnove Abrahamsen as a member of the Elders Committee 9-0

Pending final board approve Lisa Cooley as a member of the Elders Committee 9-0

Add Linda Frohbach & Rolyn "Ro" Arata to the ECOCF Listserv approved 9-0

Table discussion about appointing a Chair to the Elders committee approved 9-0

Motion to adjourn the meeting passed 9-0

**To-Do List/Parking Lot**

- Send letters of recommendation for Lisa Cooley and Synnove Abrahamsen to the board – Kay & Mouseman
- Have a small group get together to review ECOCOF listserv membership – Carolyn
- Consider - should the Elders Committee consider automatic dismissal of a committee member who misses a specified number of meetings in a given time period?
- The agenda item "Dragon Bench Repair - next steps needed" was dismissed but needs to be redressed. The announcement was only about the family approving repairs. The "next steps" was not discussed.
- Agenda item "Service dogs in Elders Camp" requested to be tabled to next meeting by Anna B.

**Upcoming Meeting Reminders:**

Thursday, 10/23 at 6 p.m. Hybrid

Thursday, 11/20 at 6 p.m. Hybrid