

Oregon Country Fair

Craft Committee Minutes: November 12, 2025

Format: Zoom

Committee attendance: Lucy Kingsley, Sue Theolass, John Govsky, James Nason, Jay Schuster, Tash Wesp

Guests: Morningstar Owens, Alex Zabala, Paxton Hoag, Adam Budd

Staff liaison: Vanessa Roy

Board liaison: John Govsky

Scribe: Christine Claringbold (not in attendance due to illness but made notes from the video recording)

Announcements:

Alex, office manager in the Eugene town office, is here to listen to the Guidelines “chatter” so everything makes sense when it’s time to publish.

Agenda Approval: Sue moved to approve November agenda. James seconded.

October meeting minutes approval:

John moved to approve minutes. Sue seconded and asked Christine to add some last names to people.

Guest concerns: Alex reminded that Guideline changes are due Nov. 15 at 5 pm and will be time stamped.

Board liaison report (John): Board had a good annual retreat. Committee Best Practices committee is looking for new members. Food committee is looking for 2 new food booths. Board workshop November 17 at 7 pm. Staff annual reviews will be conducted this month. Board will vote on budget at the March 2, 2026 board meeting.

Recommending same ticket prices and no increases. Policy guideline changes will be in December FFN.

Craft applications Jan 6- March 1.

The second or backup liaison is Laurence Taylor.

Paxton says Path Planning generally meets the 13th day after the 1st Monday. They do a morning walkabout then meet 1-3. Use the new conference room for hybrid meetings at Doug’s Green. Looking for new members. Sue says they also do a potluck which is fun and that the Food committee is also looking for new members.

Staff report (Vanessa)

Holiday merch sale is coming up. Vanessa has to leave at 6:30 for budget meeting.

Retreat

Lucy said retreat was fruitful, talked about doing pre-jury, in-person screening of all crafts up for jury. Also decided to form an ongoing work group (to meet in January) to form Booth Rep expectations and booth membership rights and responsibilities.

Booth Registration report (Morningstar) -

Nothing to report.

Guidelines discussion -

New discussion of the Guideline change around 4 wristbands allotted per booth and the equitable distribution of booth items.

For One Year Only booths, Booth Registration determines wristband and vehicle sticker allocations.

Morningstar submitted some changes that Doug asked if we can add:

1. "Requests for more than 4 passes per crafter must be submitted to Booth Registration crew for approval."
2. Adding stronger language into wristband allocation guidelines. Take out the word "approximately" and add "reports of inequitable treatment within booths will be investigated by Fair management."

Alex says there's an uptick in calls asking what the booth rep responsibilities are and he doesn't have anything to reference. This is the only guidance for crafters and we want to set accurate expectations for them.

Alex said he recommended Fair management to encompass management, staff, and committees. He can change to list the various volunteer committees and staff who will actually be dealing with any problems.

James said they are opening up the jury process to the public and having a review of all entries and will be introducing jurors for the year. No jurying will actually happen on that day, jurors will still work at home on their own time.

May send out an e-blast and have some town halls so booth reps will take note of the changes in the Guidelines.

Jay pointed out that it doesn't mean that every crafter gets 4 passes because it's up to equitable distribution by the booth rep based on the demands of the booth. Definitely not a rule that says every crafter gets 4. The real sticking point is camping space. Some booths don't have any. The guideline now says this does not guarantee camping space in the booth.

Some people on Wait Share list say they “found a space but they won’t give me any wristbands.” This will be a place to start a conversation with booth reps.

1YO crafters get 4 wristbands and 2 vehicle stickers. Other than these all booths have been allocated 8 per booth. They get 8 even if there’s only one crafter (not many of these).

Everyone voted thumbs up to support these changes.

Guideline change for permanent booths -

Morningstar shared a document of policies for the process of getting a permanent booth.

Booth Reg will decide by May 30 whether Letters Of Interest (LOI) will be accepted (only if there are booths available).

If so, crafters can submit a Letter of Interest and other details between June 1 - September 30. Booths will be finalized by December 31 for placement in permanent booth the following year. Craft committee will make decision.

This won’t cut down on the number of people applying because you won’t know during the application time if you’ll score high enough - you don’t tell people to submit a letter of intent until after the jury has happened that they’re submitting a LOI for. Anyone who wants placement will still have to apply, creating a burden for them to apply just to have a score each year. Do they need to have a current year score?

Guideline for changing timing of Leaves Of Absence (LOA) -

Moving date for Leave of Absence to March 1. Stronger language that they lose their booth if they don’t communicate with us. Doug felt we should wait till next year to use stronger language.

Right now there is no consequence if folks don’t let us know. Make it easier for people to tell us if they are coming. Like people on WS list have to opt in to be on the list. Will be doing the same for booths - are you coming, yes or no?

Sue shared that on the Food Committee, for people that haven’t been in touch, turned in forms etc., they started putting people on probation - limited to what they can do in their booth, closer to getting suspended or removed from Fair.

John agrees with Morningstar to publish the stricter stuff earlier rather than later, better for crafters to get a heads up. Not necessarily enforcing it right away. Make sure folks understand what the Guideline is.

Everyone voted thumbs up for general agreement.

Craft policy review -

Supposed to go over the craft policy documents. Just type in "craft policy" - draft from November 2022. Laying out what is a crafter, what is a helper, what is a One Year Only etc. Look at it before January. Move forward to old business in January.

Craft policy section of the Guidelines should be separated into another Booth Reg section. Crafter leave of absence is different from booth LOA. If it's repercussions of not responding to Booth Registration then it's a Booth Reg thing. Specifics regarding Booth Reg policies for communicating or losing their ability to use their booth for that year should be with Booth Reg. There's an essential difference between RSVP as a booth rep for a booth and being a crafter who's not participating in any given year. Section 31 might be a natural place to insert that info.

Put together a brief statement that can be added to this Guideline. Adam says it would be best for Booth Reg. Morningstar says she can write something up. Craft Committee is okay with Morningstar working with Alex to get it submitted.

TOWN HALL in early 2026. Site conditions, questions about booth matters, get caught up with changes and pending changes. Customary agenda: coordinators' report from Booth Reg, Construction, Red Tag team, site condition, preparedness, Recycling, jurying process, Archaeology, then open for questions. Last year it was in May. We can do two. Generally do after jury so new 1YO vendors can participate. May 3, 5-7 pm.

Article for FFN about finding artisans for Oasis and Native booths -

Adam and Morningstar will work on this together. Due January 7.

Meeting evaluation -

Sue said we covered a lot of territory. Morningstar said it was a great meeting, really powered through a lot. Jay agrees and really appreciates that we've had a lot of good meetings lately in an organization that doesn't always feel functional. John thanks Lucy for herding us through this and thanks the people who aren't on the committee for showing up and appreciates everybody's work. Sue especially thanks Alex for joining and helping us out - an unexpected and welcome gift. Paxton is really impressed with the amount of work we have done and tackling difficult subjects and also with John's board meeting report.

Next meeting: 1/14/2026 5:30-7:30 Zoom