

Oregon Country Fair

Craft Committee Minutes:

February 11, 2026

Format: Zoom

Committee attendance: Lucy Kingsley, Jay Shuster, Sue Theolass, John Govsky, James Nason, Ken Kirby, Tash Wesp, Kim Allen

Guest: Adam Budd, Morningstar Owens, Paxton Hoag

Staff liaison: Vanessa Roy

Board liaisons: John Govsky, Laurence Taylor

Scribe: Christine Claringbold

Announcements: FFN came out today and Morningstar did include a call out for the two placement opportunities in the Oasis and Native areas. So this was removed from the agenda.

Laurence (LT) asked about the proposal to establish committee terms. The Committee Best Practices Committee has been tasked with seeking info to supplement some of the factual assertions that were being made at the recent board meeting. Anticipates a questionnaire asking how many people, min or max number of people, length of service of each member, what skills are sought or already exist - to inform the board. They intend to have that back to the board by May. If we have ideas for the board about committee functioning, send an email to LT.

Jay mentioned that the 2nd weekend of Portland Winter Light Festival is coming up. Main hubs Friday and Saturday. Jay's piece is at the Moxie Hotel. A fantastic event with lots of great art including Fair artists, Burning Man and international artists. OCF's own Reece Thomas is featured as an illuminated dung beetle character.

Agenda Approval: Sue moved to approve January agenda. John seconded. All in favor.

January meeting minutes approval: Sue moved to approve minutes. John seconded. All in favor.

Board liaison report (John): Spring Fling May 2. Craft applications due March 1. Next board meeting March 2. Best Practices committee needs new members. Feb 21 emerald ash borer site walk. Zoom meeting on the 17th.

Old business motion that was postponed, some discussion of expenditures and of having a conflict of interest policy. Tabled until March.

There was also an old business motion about appointments to committees. Communicated to board that our committee was not into having 3-year term limits by any means. There will be several months before this will come back to the board, and in the meantime all committees should be debating this. John is supporting it right now as a board member but is open to hearing everyone's concerns.

There was a new business motion to fulfill the vacancy left by George's passing. Not everyone wants to do this. John was asked to fast-track this and support changing it from new business to old business at the last meeting so it would be voted on immediately at this meeting; he did not support that, so that motion was not offered. Right now he is supporting it but he understands there is a lot of history at Fair and he is open to hearing everyone's concerns.

LT pointed out that moving it on the agenda is explicitly forbidden by the bylaws. John said he wouldn't have supported it anyway and there's a reason we should not "ram things through."

LT said there doesn't appear to be a historical precedent for this being done but there is a precedent for not doing it: just a year ago a vacancy came up and nobody even talked about filling it. The person offered to fill this seat has never served on the board or been on a committee.

If you fill the seat until the upcoming election, then that person goes into the election as an incumbent and so has an advantage.

Lucy and Sue as former board members say it isn't appropriate, should leave the seat to be filled in the upcoming election.

Paxton agreed and added that people replaced out of sequence require special orientation so it's a good idea just to leave it to the regular election process.

Staff report (Vanessa): Guidelines are just about ready to go, should be posted the first week of March. Budget for Fair goes to board for March meeting. Also a Bylaws meeting for the board March 9. Tickets for Fair are on sale! Sold \$20k in first three hours. Will reach out to crafters for donations for Spring Fling Culture Jam fundraiser. Raffle tickets are \$10. Donations can be dropped off at the office, if more convenient they will come and pick it up. Working to get the database open so people can pay booth fees by the March 6 deadline.

Morningstar said we're going to be extra lenient since it is only a 5 day window. Hopefully in future the database will be open February 1 so people have a whole month to pay. Will send out a form to ask if people are coming. Checks can also be sent to the office.

Craft Inventory Report (Ken): We are looking forward to processing the jury applications.

Booth Reg report (Morningstar): Put in FFN about the March 1 deadline. Sent a welcome email letting people know about the March deadline, craft jury dates, leave of absence policy,

and linked to the 2025 Guidelines and told them new ones are coming out soon. Vanessa said to link to the board minutes that has the new Guidelines. Sent email explaining the permanent booth process. Need to have applied to the craft jury in the year that you apply for permanent booth - making sure people know. Payments due by March 6 are just booth fees, it's the only thing you can do. Prices are the same across the board as last year (except Late Night Trips is going from \$20 to \$25).

Need a button on the front of the .net site with Guidelines. Vanessa said yes she will put it up there.

Old business: Jay made some notes for the Craft Policy Review. Sue asked him to email it to everybody to review before the next meeting.

Sending out Booth Rep Responsibility Summary - can go out with whatever documents Booth Reg sends out.

Our report for the Committee Best Practices Committee will be due next month. Lucy has already done it.

Morningstar sent out messages to longhouses and various universities and Black led nonprofits. A demographic question is on the application this year. Got good feedback from Native American artist that it felt like OCF cares.

There is also the welcome letter that the craft committee sends out to new crafters. Lucy will update it, Vanessa will email it. Lucy will send the responsibilities summary to Vanessa and to Morningstar.

New business:

Sue can't give details yet but the Food Committee had their tastings and they have picked some new booths that are VERY Fairworthy.

Jay asked for information about how to participate in the new jury process. Ken says he doesn't think we're implementing the pre-jury process this year - he hasn't been told that. Tash said Adam had reserved a room so we could do a preview of applicants. Tash wants to be involved in that. Preliminary screening. James said we actually had a couple ideas - the pre-jury, and a viewing session for the public to be invited to. Review all the slides and let the public see what the instructions are that are given to the jury and meet the jury. Lucy asked James to bring a report about that to the March meeting.

Sue tried to respond to the person who had a question about taking a year off but it bounced. Sue alerted Doug.

Clarified that one has to have been there 2 years to be able to be designated as new booth rep while regular booth rep is on leave of absence.

Meeting evaluation: It was a fine meeting that we did in record time. Tash complimented Morningstar on the great letters she sent out. Good meeting.

Next meeting: 3/11/2026 5:30-7:30 Zoom