

Elders Committee Meeting Minutes February 26, 2026, Draft 5 approved at the 3/26/26 meeting

DATE: Thursday, February 26, 2026

LOCATIONS: On-line via Zoom and OCF office

MEETING TIME: 6 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT ON-LINE: Diane Albino, Anna Brown, Lisa Cooley, Jain Elliott, Heather Kent, Kay Kintzley, Eric Nicholson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Synnove Abrahamsen, Nancy Hafner, Michael James-Long, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Ann Rogers

PRIMARY BOARD LIAISON PRESENT ON-LINE: John Davis- Liaison

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Alex Zabala

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Katie Cousins-Facilitator, Linda Frohback, Kehn “Mambo” Gibson, David Gizzara, Jenny Wilson

OTHERS PRESENT ON-LINE: Roberta Austin, Steven Berkson, Tom Boyatt, Sally C., Alan Cohn, Paul Compton, Michael “Coyote” Connelly, Jeannine Emery- Scribe, Carolyn Gsell, Percy Hilo, Paxton Hoag, Chaone Mallory, Jonathon Pincus, Jon Steinhart

AGENDA

- Approve Agenda
- Quorum
- Announcements
- Board Liaison Report- Board Members
- Approve draft 3 of January 2026 minutes
- Vetted Applications- Roberta & Jenny
- Approval of adding our 3 new committee members to the special elders committee email group- Carolyn
- New Modular space at Winery- Ann
- Teen Crew Liaison- Jeannine
- Dog rules for camping- David
- Agenda items for submission and review- Lisa

Approve Agenda: The committee approved the agenda by unanimous consent.

Quorum: All 12 committee members were present; thus, a quorum was established.

Announcements

- Ann is part of the Emerald Ash Borer task force and is concerned about the camping areas in the Emerald Ash Borer dominated forests, Sweats and the other ones. She wants to talk to camp hosts, and if possible, they can become friends with the group. She wants to have Elders participate and provide feedback to the plan to create a strategy for visual borders and future shade.
- Dr. Chaone (Kai-ohn) Mallory missed deadline to apply to Elders. Asking for exception to deadline. Paul Compton has invited her to join the WonderfulOCFElders listserv.
- Gratitude expressed to Kay, Tom, Katie, and Nancy for dealing with email thread with patience and grace.
- Kay has announcement to add to agenda for spring retreat. 1) Crews being allowed to work on site pre-fair, but Elders are not included. 2) Alexis is looking into magnesium chloride as dust control. It's a toxic element and she wants us to investigate it and doesn't want it as dust control. 3) The Fair is looking to move the kitchen to The Hub which would likely use elders camping area for eating area.

Comments

- Ann said that the first use of pesticide is planned to inoculate a tree before Fair in Main Camp eating area at the kitchen where we eat. She thinks this is the first use of a pesticide by OCF.
- Jon Steinhart said that coming to set up tents pre-fair is not an issue, but the infrastructure is not prepared to have overnight campers pre-fair except designated crew.

Board Liaison Report (Board Members):

John Davis

- Riley Jones and Margit Carson were appointed to the Fixed Assets committee.
- Everyone is encouraged to attend the Board meeting.
- Motions planned for discussion at the next Board meeting.
 - 1) The expenditures by board in the working groups and task force committee were tabled until this upcoming meeting on Monday, March 2, 2026.

- 2) The board appointed committee's members being renewable for three-year terms created a lot of discussion. The motion was sent to Best Practices, and they should have a report to the board in May.
- 3) Motion to replace George on The Board which will be discussed at the next meeting.

Jon Steinhart

- Sunshine will be up and running this next week.
- Setting up campsite's pre-fair should be allowed but not overnight camping. We don't want to get in trouble with the county for having people staying overnight outside of the approved legitimate work crews.
- Don't worry about the kitchen moving. It will not be moved to The Hub because it's outside of pink operation zone.
- There is an open meeting of the board as a planning session to discuss with the membership changing the by-laws regarding removing people from the membership list. March 9, 2026.
- The laws of Oregon don't allow anyone to be removed from membership without notifying them with newspapers or other notifications. That's too expensive. He said the attorney has provided good language to comply with ORS65. There are a lot of issues to be discussed so show up if you can.

Approve draft 3 of January 2026 minutes

Motion: Ann moved to approve the minutes and Mike James-Long seconded. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Vetted Applications: Roberta & Jenny

- 1) Judy Lamb
- 2) Jo O'Leary
- 3) Tara Peyralans
- 4) Greg East
- 5) Justin Honea
- 6) William Burns 111
- 7) John Keeler
- 8) Stuart Celarier
- 9) Anthony Leiserowitz
- 10) Barbara Stross
- 11) Steve Elliott
- 12) Bill Coslow

- 13) Hylah Egeland Umphress
- 14) Julia Deskin
- 15) Sherry Hannan
- 16) Joan Schelz
- 17) Barbara Crocker
- 18) Annette "Ki" Young
- 19) Thomas Nesbit
- 20) Cari Darner
- 21) Rodney Vetter
- 22) Ted (Edward) Silverman
- 23) Steven Bruce
- 24) Rose Sauer
- 25) Heidi Stachelrodt
- 26) John Averill
- 27) Leigh Ann Starcevich
- 28) Francine Allen
- 29) Nymiah Eliyahu
- 30) Matt Keenan
- 31) Megan Bassett
- 32) Matt Butler
- 33) Carl Stiefbold
- 34) Tave Fasce
- 35) Steve Gribbin
- 36) Kim Langolf (Hammond)
- 37) Tyler Wood
- 38) Michael Lovato
- 39) Cynthia Hylton
- 40) Kevin Hylton
- 41) Steven Lambott
- 42) Karin Donnelly
- 43) Ruby Mattews
- 44) Naomi Branstetter
- 45) Mary Doyson
- 46) Judith Hankin
- 47) Kirk Shultz
- 48) Jennifer Harrison
- 49) James Robertson
- 50) Brad Taie

- 51) Margaret “Marty” Beyer
- 52) Michael “Raven” Goeden

Motion: Jain Elliott made a motion to approve 50 vetted applications for Elders, except for Margaret “Marty” Beyer and Michael “Raven” Goeden. Ann R. Seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

The first person for discussion is Margaret “Marty” Beyer. She worked at fair as childcare for her grandchildren. The parents worked in external security.

Comments

- Question is whether childcare for family is considered work. The SO can be counted if the person is working.
- Question for discussion is childcare is considered work for an SO. The fair has an official Childcare booth and that person should be included if worked at the official fair booth.
- To become an Elder, the person needs to have contributed 20 years working at fair, a booth, or entertainment.
- Carolyn read the board approved policy. The third paragraph of Board approved motion. *“Any fair participant that has served the fair, staff, booth member, and/or entertainer and above the age of 55, is eligible for Elder status.”*
- Jon Steinhart said that giving passes to people that aren’t working for fair and being a working SO is against the fair policy. He said we can’t stay within our growth limits. Admissions and external security both have working SO’s. If two people are working, they can get an SO pass. To count as an Elder they must have been working for the fair.
- We need clear rules going forward.
- Childcare isn’t working for fair. Trade pass doesn’t come with an SO but comes with working.
- If a committee member wants to make a motion to approve Margaret “Marty” Beyer, then make that motion. Nobody made a motion to approve.

The second person for discussion is Michael “Raven” Goeden. He worked at different booths. Work at the booths was verified.

Comments

- There needs to be a motion to decide if the SO passes are allowed to be Elders.

- Question: Is there anyone willing to make a motion to approve Michael for Elder status?
- After all the discussion there doesn't seem to be a problem.
- There is 20 years.

Motion: Anna made a motion to approve Michael "Raven" Goeden. Heather seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

The approved Elders' applications will be given to Tom Boyatt to make the calls to the new Elders.

Approval of adding our 3 new committee members to the special elders committee email group: Carolyn

Motion: Nancy made a motion to add Lisa, Anna, and Synnove to the ECOCF listserv. Ann seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

New Modular Space at Winery: Anna

Anna said they are asking for donations for the Modular Space at Winery.

Question: when can we use the space and if it will be available for meetings?

Alex commented that they aren't ready to use the space and haven't decided on its uses, but he will inform us when there is something to report.

Teen Crew Liaison: Jeannine

Jeannine introduced herself as scribe. She asked the Elders Committee to follow up on the comment from the last meeting 1/22/26 about teen crews working with Elders.

Comments

- Teen Crew coordinator decides where to place teens from teen crew and it's not open to all crews willing to train them up.
- Teen crew is not for slave labor, and it must be a position working at fair that can train the teens up to jobs at fair.
- Teens working at Still Living Room would be helpful.
- Teens have been made to work at campsites cleaning which is not acceptable jobs for teen crew.
- Working with teens must be monitored to keep them on task.
- Anna Brown volunteered to investigate teens from teen crew.
- Alex said he is available to coordinate the introductions to the teen crew coordinator.

- Paxton Hoag, Video Crew, BOD said he had teens working at the picture booth. He had them continue at the Picture booth after their teen years. The administration of teens can be great, but it is a fair amount of work.
- Jon Steinhart commented in chat that there is a big article on teen crew in either January or February FFN.
- Alex posted in chat with the link to the teen article in FFN.
<https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2026/01/0126ffnJan026.pdf>
- Jon Steinhart posted in chat that teens can work a 6-hour shift but are limited to 12 hours per fair.

Dogs at fair/ Dog Patrol

Comments

- People will try to make a case to bring ESA.
- David, as a camp host, wants to have a number to contact for dog control.
- Jon Steinhart said that dog control is a radio call. Go to any information booth and get on the Tinkerbell.
- Alex said that you can reach out to dog control. The dog that goes through the dog control process can get their own credentials.
- Alex added the guideline to the chat: *“We welcome service animals. Under the ADA, a service animal is defined as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person’s disability. Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals are NOT considered service animals under the ADA and are not allowed on site at the fair. In addition, if a service animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it, staff may request that the animal be removed from the premises, in accordance with ADA regulations.*
https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html
Please be aware that fair staff may inquire about animals in accordance with ADA rules and regulations. We offer service animals a laminate (tag) that allows other fair staff to readily identify that we have already talked with you about your service animal. These are available at the 4A booth at the Dragons Head at the fair entrance. Identification is not required but you both will have a much better time if we can clearly see this is a service dog and no additional intervention is required. The fair can be an overwhelming place even for some trained animals. We appreciate your patience as our staff provide you with information and services that will help you, and those without animals, to enjoy an exciting fair experience.”

Looking for a place for your pooch or kitty to stay while you enjoy the fair? Here is the link for OCF kennels list for more information and a list of nearby kennels that can help.”

Agenda items for submission and review: Lisa

Please send agenda items to Lisa’s personal email not the ECOCF email.

Cooleylisa.reeferocf@gmail.com

Lisa text 541-556-5547

Carolyn listed 3 emails for the OCF elders.

- 1) OCFelders@googlegroups.com is for anyone to join. There is information on the elder’s website. This is a closed listserv, meaning that only members of the group can email the group. Someone outside the group cannot make contact to the group.
- 2) The ECOCF listserv ECOCF@googlegroups.com communicates to everyone on the committee, board liaisons, and people that come to every meeting. The elder committee and friends of the elders. This is a closed listserv, meaning that only members of the listserv can email the group. Someone outside the group cannot contact the group.
- 3) There is a group that anyone can email at elders@oregoncountryfair.org that is for public access for anyone inquiring about elders.

UPCOMING DATES:

- Elders Committee Meeting: 6-8 pm Thursday, March 26, 2026
- Elders Committee Meeting: 6-8 pm April 23, 2026
- Elders Spring Retreat: May 8,9,10

The meeting ended at 7:52 pm

MOTIONS PASSED:

Motion to approve January 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes draft 3

Motion to approve 50 vetted Elders

Motion to approve Michael Goeden (Raven) for Elders

Motion to approve Lisa, Anna, and Synnove to the ECOCF listserv