

Oregon Country Fair Elections Committee
Meeting Notes
Monday, June 30th, 2025, 6:30pm
OCF Office - Zoom Call

Attendance: Jeffrey Rames, Heidi Doscher, Merrill Levine, Jen-Lin Hodgden

Quorum: Quorum met

Agenda:

- Committee Member Resignation
- ElectionBuddy Update
- 2024 Voted data to Sunshine
- Ballot Coverletter
- Membership Change Form
- Hybrid Election Communication Strategy
- Fair Attendance
- Proxies/Absentee Voting
- Election Bylaw Change
- Critical Dates

New Business: None

Old Business: None

The Main Points:

Committee Member Resignation

Jeff notified Committee that Michael Schulze asked to be removed from the OCF Elections Committee. Group discussed the need to replace vacancies. Jeff will keep an eye on issue and may publish request for new volunteers non the FFN.

ElectionBuddy Update

Jeff and Merrill shared what work has been done with the development of the 2025 OCF election within the ElectionBuddy application. Discussion was focused on Settings work, Cover Letter creations, Election Type decisions, and issues that have not been solved and are being worked through. Discussed plans going forward. Will continue to work on settings and finalize documents that need to be uploaded prior to going live. Discussed a test elections that will go out same evening to Committee members, Discussed test vote for Board Members in July and August.

2024 Voted data to Sunshine

Have we uploaded all 2024 “who voted” data to Sunshine

- Alex?? - Committee??
- Do we want to, need to input 2024 mail-in data?
- From 2024 election binders?

Group discussed this issue, concluded that yes 2024 data was input to Sunshine. Will want to review that this is in place before we go live with 2025 elections.

Ballot Coverletter

Shared new cover letters (rough drafts) with group. Discussed need to create two different versions, one for online voting, one for mail-in voting. Reviewed documents and had varied conversations. Team did discuss possible need to have them be identical. Jeff shared that that would be difficult to do and possibly confusing to voting members. Discussed that the basic Annual Election Notification information

was the same, difference were tied to online and Mail-in voting details. Group agreed to keep focus on these and adjust as needed as we get closer to sending out ballots.

Membership Change Form

Jeff shared with group the changes made to the Membership Registration Form. Changes focused on Bylaw language on top of form and Confidentially language at bottom of form. Shared that the GOTV group has new form along with it being updated to the .net site.

Hybrid Election Communication Strategy

Postcard mailing - Group discussed election communication issues with a focus on mailing a post card. Merrill passed on concerns from a member about members not knowing that 2025 ballot will be coming to their email inboxes verses their US Mail mailboxes. Jeff discussed issues tied to cost, time, need, and resources to pull mailing together. Jeff also talked about where else election communication is being available, (FFN, Board Meeting notes, .net site....) Merrill and rest of committee felt it would be important to do mailing. Jeff agreed to follow consensus, but would first discuss with Fair leadership and see where budget is after Fair revenue is better understood. Jeff also agreed to get estimates on what a mailing would cost Fair. Group will revisit issue in July.

Fair Attendance

Jeff asked group is everyone that wanted to attend Fair was able to. Some were able to attend as needed, others were not going to attend this year.

Proxies/Absentee Voting

How did we manage that in 2024, prior? - Jeff discussed again the difference between Proxy and Absentee voting as detailed in the OCF Bylaws. Group agreed there is a proxy option for the membership, this being the ability of a Member to ask the Membership Secretary to cast their vote. Group discussed need to post options on mail-in ballot and within online election cover letter. Group discussed process. Group agreed to continue thinking about options and discuss further in July. Jeff also will create process for proxy voting to be ready for fall election.

Election Bylaw Change

#3 on back of ballot - Jeff introduced bylaw conflict that surfaced with online voting. Bylaws (and verbiage on back of mail-in ballot also) states that members can “sequentially number” vote choices on ballot. This creates two voting paths, Preferential and Plurality voting. ElectionBuddy cannot manage two different types of voting we must choose one. If we choose Plurality voting (which is what we want to do at this time), we are then sideways with the OCF Bylaws. Therefore a Bylaw change is going to go in front of the Board in August, hoping to settle issue fully at August meeting. Jen-Lin brought up issue about a 30 day notice tied to changing bylaws. Jeff discussed view that this could be done in August BofD meeting. Others shared their concerns. Jeff agreed to discuss issue with Kirsten and OCF attorneys if necessary. Jeff also agreed to notify OCF Bylaws Committee of issue.

Group also discussed bylaw verbiage, mainly tied to the “close of balloting’ verbiage. Not sure how that was interpreted in the past. Committee agreed that this meant the “deadline to turn in ballots”. Group agreed that this issue needs to be worked on further. Jeff agreed to get Kirsten’s thoughts, Bylaw Committee input, and possibly legal advice.

Critical Dates

Continue to build out Critical Dates document

- .net site updated with new section dates
- Date for sending out ballots
 - Mail-in and Online
- Membership Termination Contacts

Group had continued conversations about critical election dates. The group’s time was running short, so focus was on when 2025 ballots (online and mail-in) would be mailed. Group agreed that the sending out

of ballots should take place around mid September. Committee will continue to build out 2025 election calendar.

Voting Results: None - No votes taken

Reports and Documents Introduced: None

Future Action Steps - Tasks - Calendar or Due dates: See above meeting notes.

Ending Time of Meeting: 9:00pm

Record of Motions Made: None

Draft Agenda for Next Meeting: See above meeting notes