

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 03/26/26 – Draft 3 approved at the 4/23/26

DATE: Thursday, March 26, 2026

LOCATIONS: On-line via Zoom, and OCF Office

MEETING TIME: 6:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT ON-LINE: Ann Bennett-Rogers, Anna Brown, Lisa Cooley, Jain Elliott

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON: Synnove Abrahamsen, ~~Jain Elliott~~, Nancy Hafner, Mike James-Long, Kay Kintzley, Robert “Mouseman” McCarthy, Eric Nicholson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Diane Albino, Heather Kent

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT ON-LINE: John Davis-Liaison, Jon Steinhart, Paxton Hoag

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Alex Zabala

OTHERS PRESENT IN-PERSON: Tom Boyatt-Facilitator, Katie Cousins, Jon Pincus

OTHERS PRESENT ON-LINE: Roberta Austin, Darlene Colborn, Paul Compton, Jeff Eichen, Jeannine Emery-Scribe, Carolyn Gsell, Percy Hilo, Bob Kennedy, Jenny Wilson

AGENDA

- Approve Agenda
- Quorum
- Announcements
- Board Liaison Report (Board Members)
- Approve February 26, 2026, Minutes Draft 5
- Elders T-shirt Possibilities for 2026- Jeff Eichen & Bob Kennedy
- Spring Retreat- Kay
- Spirit Walk & Holiday Party 2026- Lisa
- Meeting Review

APPROVE MINUTES: The committee approved the agenda by unanimous consent.

QUORUM: Ten committee members are present; thus, a quorum was established.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Kay reminded everyone that we are collecting Teddy Bears and other small items for the Teddy Bear Picnic. The Elders will be sponsoring a Pop-Up Music Event. The

band on stage has agreed to play or hopefully will agree to play the theme song for the Teddy Bears Picnic.

- Carolyn announced that the Durables Crew from the Oregon Country Fair reached out to the Elders Volunteer Subcommittee to ask for volunteers. There are three (3) volunteer utensils washing parties at the Winery. The dates of those work parties are Saturday April 11, 2026. Saturday May 2, 2026. Sunday, June 7, 2026. 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Carolyn sent out the information by email with listserv. She will resend the information in the next month.
- The Durables work is mostly wiping them after they are washed in the machine. There is not a lot of scrubbing or washing work involved.
- Elders are reminded of the Emerald Ash Borer monthly walks. The last one was about the plant nursery and the native plants. There will be one in April, and they have a lot of information. May 16th is Archeology of the Fair. If you want to hear about really old things that's a good walk to attend. It begins at noon at Main Camp.
- Kay read a text from Jon Pincus. 1.) The Committee Best Practices will be having a committee workshop meeting April 13th and he feels that it would be very important to have an Elders representative attend. 2.) He is very concerned about the spraying of chemicals on the parking lot and high traffic areas at the Fair. There is startling information about how that affects life at the Fair. 3.) There is a pending Board Motion that requires current committee members to be reappointed or removed and replaced in two years. The new appointee members will be for three years. He is concerned that committee members will be removed and replaced by the current Board.
- There is a correction to the number of new elders from the previous meeting. There are 115 new Elders. Many are 57, and the oldest is 94. There is a good spread in the 60's and 70's.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT:

John Davis-Elder Liaison:

- The Board Meeting covered routine approvals, organizational updates, and approval of prior meeting minutes.
- One major governance decision was to approve 2026 capital improvement projects. Including a mix of short-term, long-term, and sustainable focused investments with flexibility based on revenue and performance.
- There was significant discussion at the last Board Meeting about Board Process and communication. Concerns about tone and perceived personal attacks. The need to focus on actions rather than motives.

- Primary issue was to fill an empty Board seat. An extensive debate referring to the by-laws, authority, historical precedence, and member participation. The Board Voted, 7-4, to approve the appointment of Felicia Kirsch to the Board until the next election.
- The Board Meeting included reports from Event Planning, Finances and Operations which are all on track for the upcoming fair.
- The Spring Fling is scheduled for 6 pm on May 2, 2026, at the Wow Hall with The Sugar Beets.
- The 2026 Culture Jam is scheduled for Tuesday Jul 28- Tuesday August 4th.
- The Teddy Bear Picnic is scheduled for August 16th, 2026.
- The Membership Meeting is scheduled for October 10th, 2026. Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene.

Q&A

- Question was asked to John if the Board Member that was elected had received the next most votes in the previous election? Answer. Yes. Felicia was appointed and she received the next most number of votes in the last election. She has already started working and contributing to the Fair. He encouraged everyone to read the minutes or watch the video from the last Board Meeting because there was a lot of debate regarding the vote.

JON STEINHART

- Frustration at the text that was read in the announcements that doesn't move us forward. It expressed an unhelpful attitude and continuous complaining about Board decisions. This type of complaining is trying to create an US and THEM situation rather than coming to help work together.
- Encouraged everyone to read the minutes from the last Board Meeting. The debate was extremely contentious. In his opinion, there are politically motivated agendas which people are denying, and that is unhelpful. People were against the Board Voting on the Motion because they claimed there was no historical precedence. When in fact it has been done several times.
- The major new item for the Board is to have additional oversight of the philanthropy to keep us out of trouble with the IRS. We need to do certain things to vet conflict of interest. That oversight of philanthropy is not without precedence. The first time the Jill Heiman funds were distributed there was a vote of the Board to approve.

- There are many calls to the Help Desk daily from Elders that need him to read the website introduction to them. That takes a lot of time and energy, but so far, it's going well.

Comments

- Regarding the last Board Meeting, there is a dispute about the replacement of Board members by Board Vote when that usually goes to elections. And the process of review by the membership seems to be an issue. When the Board members have orientation, the process is all together and is part of building understandings. How and when the new Board Member was given the orientations is a concern and attaching everything to the database is also a concern. The Board is discussing the original Jill Heiman fund and the original purpose.

Approve Minutes: Kay made a motion to approve the Elder Committee Meeting Minutes 02/26/26 Draft 5. Ann seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

ELDERS T-SHIRT POSSIBILITIES FOR 2026: The idea was expressed to have shirts made with the slogan, "When I die, I am going to the Old 8 in the Sky." Jeff Eichen is able to design anything for the T-shirts. The design isn't the problem in creating the T-shirts. The previous person that did the sales and distribution is no longer with us and there was confusion when the shirts were ordered. The shirts can be printed and delivered within 15 Days. We can do any design that you want for the shirts.

COMMENTS

- Peggy Day administered this program and it's a lot of work.
- It's a google doc and then we have to send money somewhere which needs to be collected.
- The T-shirts need to be tagged and folded and handed out. Logistics is difficult.
- It's a great idea to have the T-shirts.
- Jeannine has volunteered to help with the T-shirts.
- We are going to spend the next 4 weeks to ask on the Elders website and find someone to spearhead the T-shirts project. Quality control will be important.
- The idea is to bring a few T-shirts to Spring Fling to see the shirts and take orders at that time.
- The T-shirts sizes were very disappointing. The design was gorgeous but the women's X Large fit more like a Small. Many people had this same issue with the sizing being off. I would love to try again and get an Elder's T-shirt. Having

sample sizes at the Spring Retreat is a very good idea to ensure the right sizes are ordered this time.

SPRING RETREAT: The Spring Retreat is May 8,9,10 at Alices. On Friday, by 5 pm the house will be open for people to come. On Saturday the meeting starts at 10:00 am. Saturday and Sunday morning there will be coffee and a light breakfast provided by the Events Committee. Saturday is the Potluck and meeting. There will be snacks and drinks available. Friday and Saturday night there is overnight sleeping available but no reserving the spaces. It's all shared space and we will squeeze in. We have a good walk around the fair, and a good workshop. The volunteer subcommittee will be there to discuss volunteer opportunities to participate in the Elders group.

SPIRIT WALK AND HOLIDAY PARTY:

The Spirit Walk is planned for Saturday, October 24,2026. We will start with a 3:00 pm walk around the fair and honor the places that the people enjoyed at the fair. We will have a potluck dinner and there will be a bonfire. We will have the names written on a piece of paper and ceremoniously burn the pieces of paper in the bonfire.

The Holiday party debate is still open to the floor. Alex has reserved Alices for Saturday, December 12, 2026. There is a temporary hold on that same day for the center at 19th and Jefferson. We need to have the funds available if we want to have the holiday party in town.

COMMENTS:

- The Spring Retreat is not an Elders Committee Meeting and the agenda can be decided on that day.
- The Spring Retreat is the big planning meeting for the upcoming Fair and the minutes are important to get everything decided and recorded.

MEETING REVIEW:

- 1) Ann apologized to friends and committee members. She was sorry not to be there in person at the meeting. She worked very hard in her garden because of the beautiful day. 2) The meeting was very well done by Tom, and he should be thanked and acknowledged for his facilitation. 3) Katie also did a great job last month to facilitate. 4) She expressed thanks to Roberta and Jenny to acknowledge them for their work to vet the Elders applications. 5) She hopes that someone will volunteer

to work on the T-shirts. 6) She looks forward to seeing everyone next month and at the retreat.

- Suggestion to the Elders Committee to get the Elders on the list of crews that can access the fair during the month and pre-fair week. Alex said that it is a discussion for after the meeting or another time than Meeting Review. He suggested that whoever is spearheading the pre-fair access contact him directly.
- The Wristband committee will be at the Spring Retreat and that is a time that people can turn in forms and money for the wristbands. During the lunch break the wristband committee will be available to answer questions.

The meeting ended at 6:49 pm

MOTIONS PASSED:

- Elder Committee Meeting Minutes 02_26_26 Draft 5.

UPCOMING DATES:

- Durables Crew work party utensils washing 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Saturday, April 11, Saturday, May 2, Sunday, June 7, 2026.
- Committee Best Practices April 13th workshop
- Elders Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m. April 23, 2026
- Spring Fling 6:00 p.m. May 2, 2026 at the Wow Hall
- Elders Spring Retreat May 8,9,10, 2026.Friday by 5 p.m. Alice's will be open. Saturday 10:00 a.m. meeting and Potluck. Sunday 10:00 a.m. meeting.
- Emerald Ash Borer monthly walks.12:00 p.m. Main Camp April ?, May 16th, 2026.
- Oregon Country Fair July 10-12, 2026
- Culture Jam Tuesday July 28-Tuesday August 4, 2026.
- Teddy Bear Picnic August 16 2026
- Membership Meeting October 10th @Unitarian Universal Church.
- Spirit Walk October 24, 2026 @ 3:00p.m.
- Holiday Party December 12, 2026. Location TBD.