

Jon Steinhart



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I started volunteering at the Fair more than three decades ago drawn by the mission of educating the public about alternatives to the mainstream. This connected me to the amazing crazy creative community that comes together every year to make the event happen. It also got me involved with the smaller community of folks who volunteer year-round. While never in my life plan, one thing lead to another and I'm finishing up a term on the board. I'm asking for your vote for one more term so that I can continue to help our organization thrive in these difficult times.

I ran last time to get things done for the good of our organization, not to be a figurehead. The record shows my success. Not by acting alone, but by collaborating, as it takes a minimum of eight votes to pass a motion.

During this term, I initiated work including the privacy policy, EDIB Work Group, eliminating late fees on passes, bringing amplified sound into balance and updating our Bylaws for the on-line era. I worked with management and other Coordinators to edit the Guidelines for clarity and consistency and got them divided into two booklets saving paper.

I contributed to the Community Support process, the Committees in Good Standing policy, and the Committee Videos policy.

I participated in the board giving and educational programming grant work including funding Conflict Restorative Skill Building at the OASIS and Country Phair Physics in Energy Park.

I believe in addressing issues when they arise; kicking them down the road just makes things harder for everybody. I've spent much of my current term playing catch-up on several that had become nigh intractable. If re-elected, I want to focus on what I see as one of the board's main roles which is planning.

There are a number of challenges ahead for the Fair. These include significant expenses on the horizon to deal with the Emerald Ash Borer. Climate change is requiring us to provide more shade and dust control. We have a large number of unfunded capital improvement projects. Members asked us to work toward a carbon-neutral event, but that work hasn't been funded. And we're hitting the limits of growth; we can't easily expand while keeping it a walking event. We need to be thinking about the best uses of our resources.

I believe that all Fair participants should be treated equitably and work to craft policies accordingly. Given that we've grown to the point where we don't all know everybody else I support uniform policies so that it's not all about who you know.

I constantly solicit member input to inform policy discussions. We're a large organization and everybody counts.

I prefer to work in the background without drama. One of the things that I've learned during this term is how difficult that is.

Separate from my board service, I'm also the Coordinator for Sunshine which is likely the most insanely complex and ambitious volunteer project ever done at the Fair. It's clunky because it was produced practically overnight to meet an emergency need. There's still a lot of work to do and I apologize for any difficulty that it's caused. But, I'm proud of the work my crew has done. Taking credit cards for pass purchases has made everybody's life easier. Sunshine has improved our ability to do financial planning and manage our resources. It's made it much easier to become a Fair member. And, because I started planning for it years ago, was a key part in enabling us to move to hybrid elections which is saving us a lot of money that we can use for other priorities. We did a very successful trial of paperless registration this year.

I also recruited people with the skill to do our sound monitoring which helps us stay in compliance with county regulations and developed a capital project request for fiber internet which was approved.

Being a director has it's challenges. It's heartbreaking making decisions that are in the best interests of the organization knowing that not everybody is going to be happy. And it's frustrating when confidentiality prevents debunking misinformation.

I believe that our organization is best served by a board with a diverse set of skills. My dedication, work ethic, forward-looking attention to detail, technology/business skills, and collaboration have shown their value this term. Vote for me if you think that they're still needed so that the board can do the business magic that supports our glorious event magic.