

Oregon Country Fair

Craft Committee Minutes

May 13, 2026

Format: Zoom

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

Coordinators: Adam Budd, Morningstar Owens

Staff liaison: Vanessa Roy

Board liaisons: John Govsky, Lawrence Taylor

Guest: Paxton Hoag

Scribe: Christine Claringbold

Announcements: The art bingo extravaganza is Tuesday May 19 at the Garden Unfriendly. Everyone wins a prize.

Agenda Approval: John moved to approve the May agenda. Jay seconded. All in favor.

April meeting minutes approval: Jay moved to approve April minutes. John seconded. All in favor.

Staff report (Vanessa): Great job of raising \$1120 more than last year for Culture Jam. Most ever raised! That's more kids that get to go. About to announce the all-star Bob Weir celebration lineup. Big deep dive on Sunday. Peach Pit deadline is Friday.

At site today - check out the roof on Main Camp Kitchen! It's stunning - so beautiful. Looks like an industrial Calistoga wagon. Staff tee shirt disbursement is coming up. Lots happening! Yesterday signed contract to have accessible buses!

Board liaison report (John): Summary of Kirsten's report - all stuff on site from July 6-12. Volunteer crew applications are open. OCF public exit survey is quite extensive. It's online. Has a lot of info.

Culture Jam July 28-Aug 1. Teddy Bear Picnic Aug 16. Membership mtg Oct 10.

Water system has been approved. Trees will be cut on Aero Road. Also installing fiberoptic cables. Starting project Aug 26. All be aware of Emerald Ash Borer and guidelines on bringing wood in and out.

June 16 tickets go to full price. Available Mon and Tues 12-4 thru June 23 at Eugene office.

At the May 4 board meeting, the motion on 3 year terms had been withdrawn. A substitute motion was passed by unanimous consent. It says the board directs the Committee Best Practices committee to work with committees and others to develop recommendations, and submit to board for inclusion in packet by Sept 16.

Follow up to internal control breakdown involving non employee participants was approved unanimously. See board minutes for details.

Many bylaws changes happening for new business. Encouraged to look at it online to see all the changes. LT said focus of bylaws changes relates to online voting essentially.

Ken asked if the changes are made by the board or if there's an all-fair gathering that would be authorized to make changes. LT said the board has authority to amend with limited exception. Article 11 section 2 related to voting rights of members. Amendments have to be announced and publicized at least one meeting prior to passing. Developed by the Bylaws Committee, generally in consultation with a Fair attorney.

Booth Reg report (Morningstar): The walk with construction went well. Not a ton of red tags due to mild winter. We had 3 people retire but Construction says we are losing 4 booths to river erosion - a food booth and 3 craft booths. They can stay this year but need to be moved next year. Numbers are 850 (food booth), 848, 844, 832 (craft booths).

Construction said there won't be any camping in that area, will be hard to find them all spots. Gained 3, lost 4. There's also L50 which is always a pop booth because there is a tree there and it can't sustain a permanent booth. Equipment can't currently drive down there so they need to move the road.

The only part that is up to us is permanent booth placement. Thought with gaining 3 we could offer one but this makes it hard. A few years ago we had given away way too many booths and dwindled our booth stock way down. 477 applicants this year. Have to say no because we have so few booths to offer for placement. M66 has big frontage and a good bit of camping area. Sue will bring it up at next Food Committee meeting. Maybe can split it into a cart and a craft booth. It's 20x40.

Will be sending out something again to get artists' entries for the Peach Pit.

7 leaves of absence this year.

Everyone has paid except for 2. We are 2 months over the deadline. We got much stricter this year but maybe need to be even stricter. Morningstar will give them a hard deadline. You don't have to use Sunshine, you can drop off or mail a check to the office. We will let folks know that things are changing and we need to make things smoother for staff and volunteers.

No deadlines on payments for wristbands.

Craft Inventory (Adam): No news

Fair Family News article We will modify last year's article with some new information and change the dates.

Permanent booth consideration This is not the year to do it. Not until we get these 4 people settled either if their booths are moved further back and they stay without camping or if we have to move them elsewhere into the Fair. Don't see how we can offer permanent booths when we have 4 booths that we're losing to erosion. Reach out to anybody who applied for permanent space and let them know what's going on. Vanessa will put out a letter by May 31. Morningstar will write that due to nature we have lost booths and we need to re-home some folks, until we do that we just can't offer space.

Booth 77, 149 and 244 were the ones who retired.

All construction done recently has been single crafter. Relying on people that retire for the older full size booths.

Regulations have changed over the years, which is why single crafter booths without camping are being built because they're under a certain square footage and don't require a permit. If it's over 130 sq. ft. even if no loft and no floor, you have to work with construction and the permit team to get that built.

Re: widowmakers, Paxton says it's the site manager to contact who would then engage tree crew to evaluate and they are actively doing that right now. If it gets as far as Main Camp opening there's a tree book at Quartermaster that you want to fill out on the first day of Main Camp. Not available until Main Camp opens. Best to send a message to Alexis.

Town Hall review

Didn't have anywhere near as many crafters as Sue had hoped. Need to work on ways to encourage people to take part. Maybe a dozen people showed up.

There were some very new people who didn't know much about how the fair operates. So it was valuable for them to be able to ask a lot of questions.

John suggested a new idea, do we have any kind of mentoring program? John willing to volunteer as a mentor.

Morningstar says we do have a document but getting people to read documents is hard. Sent out the recording to several who asked. Having 1YOs enter space through Fair and not just have them all in one area, they do end up surrounded by established booth folks.

Ken agrees we need an onboarding group. Jay said he would also happily be a mentor. We are actively trying to place all these people and don't really have time to do onboarding sessions. Would it be beneficial to have a Zoom onboarding? Soak (regional Burning Man event) has open zoom office hours! Morningstar is a Lead. You can sign up for hours and they also have open hours.

Jay said when Elder program was established, there was discussion of retired crafter elders becoming mentors.

During off season we can put out ideas for agenda for August.

Private discussion

Addressing the emails that Adam sent out about a crafter question. Recording stopped henceforth.

Meeting evaluation: Good luck producing, have a great fair!

Next meeting: 8/12/2026 5:30-7:30 Zoom