OCF 2026 EVALUATION MEETING SUMMARY

Combined summary of meeting notes and breakout sessions

Meeting Date: August 16th, 2026

Summary

The 2026 OCF Evaluation Meeting brought together people from many crews and areas of the Fair, including Archaeology, Elders, Camping Crew, External Security, Recycling Crew, Lot Crew, Vendors, Sanitation, and Art Ambiance, creating space to reflect on experiences, identify areas needing attention, and explore shared solutions. The combined notes show a wide-ranging discussion about land stewardship, camping capacity, fire safety, porta-potties and handwashing, Monday move-out, parking and traffic, music and noise, the Sunshine Database, and communication across crews.

The meeting used an open-space approach built around the idea that participants should go where they can learn and contribute. The "Law of Two Feet," along with the roles of "bumblebees and butterflies," encouraged people to move between conversations and cross-pollinate ideas. This spirit carried into the closing reflections, where attendees repeatedly described the meeting as collaborative, hopeful, and focused on solutions rather than blame.

A consistent theme was that the Fair's challenges are interconnected. Growth in camping affects the land, sanitation, fire risk, traffic, and crew capacity. Technology problems affect access and participation. Gaps between crews can allow operational issues to continue even when individual groups are working hard. Participants called for earlier planning, clearer roles, practical education, adequate infrastructure, and better follow-through.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the 2026 OCF Evaluation Meeting. The thoughtful participation, honest dialogue, and willingness to work across crew boundaries demonstrated a shared commitment to caring for the Fair, strengthening our community, and helping ensure its continued success.

What stood out most

- Sanitation needs to match the size of the event and remain available through move-out, not end while large numbers of campers are still present.
- Land-care expectations need to be clearer, more visible, and supported by consistent accountability, especially in sensitive areas.
- Fire preparedness should be standard across camps, booths, and parking areas, with clearer expectations for equipment, stoves, and smoking.
- Camp Hosts and Neighborhood Hosts need to reconnect, clarify their roles, and meet before the Fair.
- Parking and Monday departure need clearer information, more staffing, and stronger coordination across crews and gates.
- The Sunshine Database needs modernization, more reliable processes, and accessible alternatives where technology creates barriers.
- Participants valued meeting in person and want the evaluation process to lead to visible action.

1. Meeting Approach and Marketplace of Ideas

The meeting opened with four principles: whoever comes is the right group, whenever it starts is the right time, whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened, and when it is over, it is over. Participants were also encouraged to use the Law of Two Feet and move to the conversation where they could learn or contribute most.

The initial marketplace of ideas identified the subjects people most wanted to discuss. These included car camping, fire suppression, camp and parking-lot preparedness, walking with lit cigarettes, porta-potties and handwashing, Monday exodus, shade and safety in parking areas, towing, land stewardship, camp accountability, feminine waste disposal, digging in South Woods, Fair Family waste, raking, technology strategy, hybrid Board meetings, the Sunshine Database, music, and amplified sound without permits.

This broad starting point helped surface both immediate operational problems and larger questions about Fair culture, infrastructure, and decision-making.

2. Land Stewardship, Camping, and Accountability

Damage and sensitive areas

Participants described recurring land-use concerns in South Woods and other camping areas. Examples included raking, weed-whacking, digging, pickaxing, moving stones, carving stairs, cutting trees and shrubs, fencing off space, and leaving couches or other materials behind. Particular concern was raised when these activities occurred near archaeologically sensitive locations.

The notes describe one camp being relocated after clearing activity and receiving archaeological probation. Other camps were described as having patterns of unauthorized land alteration. Participants asked whether additional LUMP review, archaeological reassessment, or a more consistent accountability process is needed when the same problems continue.

Education and the meaning of stewardship

People felt that newcomers may arrive without understanding land-care expectations, while some returning campers revert to familiar habits even after receiving guidance. Several comments reflected concern that the community has lost some focus on its role in caring for the land.

The group also discussed what "stewardship" means. Some questioned whether the word can suggest ownership or dominance rather than relationship and responsibility. Participants wanted a shared organizational definition and clearer distinctions between guidelines and rules. One suggestion was to invite respected First Nations representatives, including people connected with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, to offer cultural perspectives on the land and its history as a gathering place.

Camping growth and SO passes

Participants felt camping growth is exceeding available space and infrastructure. Car camping was suggested only for designated lots or areas, with remaining vehicles moved to parking lots to preserve room for tents. The sale of SO passes during Feeding Frenzy was discussed because pass decisions may not account for camping space, orientation, or who will be responsible for the new camper.

Participants wanted better orientation for incoming campers and SO pass holders, clearer sponsor and crew responsibility, and stronger communication before problems occur.

Hosts and camp-level accountability

- Revitalize Neighborhood Hosts and hold pre-Fair meetings with Camping Crew hosts.
- Clarify the distinction between Camp Hosts and Neighborhood Hosts.
- Create direct contacts between camp hosts and Recycling Crew representatives.
- Use roving campsite check-ins to reinforce expectations and identify issues early.
- Place signs at registration, host locations, tent tagging, and new camping areas explaining that campers should not rake, dig, cut, or move natural materials without approval.

3. Fire Safety and Smoking

A fire in South Woods was described as having the potential to become catastrophic. Participants stressed that fire incidents are not rare enough to treat as isolated events and that all camps and lots need a basic level of preparedness.

Ideas discussed

- Consider requiring a fire extinguisher before a camp is approved or tagged as set up.
- Ask Fire Crew to define which supplies are appropriate and whether burlap sacks and buckets still meet code.
- Apply stove-awareness expectations consistently to booths, leads, crews, and satellite camps.

- Provide fire-preparedness support in lots and at the Winery as well as in camping areas.
- Use fire-extinguisher stands in parking lots as visible safety points and possible reunion locations.

Smoking on paths, in South Woods, around toilets, and near paper-towel bins was identified as both a burn hazard and a fire risk. At night, people may not see someone carrying a lit cigarette. Suggestions included better-defined smoking areas, ambient lighting, education, redirection, and the ability to act immediately when a hazard cannot wait for a mediation process.

4. Porta-Potties, Handwashing, and Waste

Sanitation was one of the most detailed and urgent discussions. Participants described problems with restroom capacity, toilet-paper storage, cleaning quality, handwashing supplies, waste disposal, lighting, and service coverage.

Toilet paper and servicing

- Some Peach Pots, even after two years of use, did not have toilet-paper rods, causing rolls to fall onto wet floors.
- Participants reported that stalls were sometimes overstocked and that large amounts of wrapped toilet paper were thrown away.
- One report described approximately 300 wrapped rolls being found in paper-towel disposal.
- Cleaners were reportedly seen hosing out units while toilet paper remained inside, leaving it soaked and unusable.
- Refuse and used paper were sometimes left on the ground after cleaning trucks passed through.
- Two daily United cleaning shifts were reportedly scheduled, but participants still observed inconsistent conditions.

The notes also include concerns about the working relationship with the sanitation vendor, including comments about pay and passes. These comments were presented as participant perceptions and point to the need for clearer vendor expectations, communication, and quality oversight rather than assumptions about individual workers.

Handwashing and water

- Stations were missing water, soap, sanitizer, or paper towels.
- Some numbered stations reportedly never received a sink.
- Only one sink was noted in SCOF Lot, and South Woods was viewed as underserved for its camping population.
- Participants suggested that Water Crew or Teen Crew might help refill stations if vendor costs limit service.
- Low-pressure lines were being planned toward South Woods, Piggy's, and possibly Back Lot, but digging may require agricultural or archaeological approval.
- As an alternative to permanent pipes, participants discussed water cubes or barrels with valves.
- Gray water might be collected safely and used for dust control if health and land-use requirements can be met.

People emphasized that handwashing is more effective than sanitizer for some foodborne illnesses and that reliable water, soap, and towels are basic public-health needs. A repeated message was to prioritize sanitation before less urgent capital projects.

Feminine hygiene disposal and restroom education

Participants wanted a clear, dignified solution for feminine hygiene products that cannot be placed in toilets. Suggestions included visible disposal receptacles, easy-peel labels or stickers, bright signage, and directions to wrap products in toilet paper and place them in the appropriate waste container. A major "aha" moment was learning that paper-towel barrels are handled as biohazard or landfill waste, not compost.

There was interest in making restroom education memorable and approachable rather than punitive. Ideas included short, humorous educational materials near registration, sinks, or restroom areas while keeping the health

guidance accurate. Night lighting for porta-potties was also identified for further planning, including discussion through the Path Planning group.

5. Monday Restroom Removal and Permit Constraints

The early removal of porta-potties on Manic Monday was one of the clearest concerns. Units were reportedly removed from Piggy's and South Woods while many people were still camping or packing. Participants described the impact on children, elders, and adults as unsafe and unsanitary and noted that a similar problem had happened the previous year.

The combined notes add important context. The Fair's land-use permit was described as allowing scheduled activity only through 11:00 a.m. Monday, which helps explain why toilets were removed early. Timing between United and Peach Pot service also did not align, although about 40 units were redistributed after removals. One of the BUMS working with sanitation was identified in the discussion as involved in the decision to remove units from Piggy's.

Questions to resolve

- Who has final authority over Monday restroom removal?
- How many units and sinks must remain until the camping population has substantially departed?
- How can the Fair avoid a gap between United removal and Peach Pot placement or redistribution?

Participants understood that the permit creates a real operational constraint, but strongly agreed that the Fair still needs a workable solution that protects health and during move-out.

6. Parking, Towing, Traffic, and Safety in the Lots

Parking rules and communication

Participants asked for more consistent directions about where and when people can park. The parking deadline was described as 5:00 p.m. Thursday, with public lots unavailable for Fair Family parking Friday morning. More than 200 vehicles were reportedly towed over the weekend. The towing practice discussed was that a vehicle displaying a phone number would normally receive a call before towing unless it created a fire or immediate safety hazard.

Participants suggested taller signs, while also noting that traffic stakes cannot be driven too deeply because of ground restrictions.

Heat and lot safety

- Lot Crew already drives around with water and looks for people who may be overheated.
- Add shade stands or rest stops in parking lots, with covers at least six feet high to address security visibility.
- Bring FARTS, White Bird, Ambiance, Path Planning, and Parking together to evaluate shade-tent options.
- Use existing safety stands as reunion points where practical.

Ingress, egress, and Monday departure

Discussion covered delays leaving the property, gate availability, the Maple Gate closing time, access through Aero Road, keeping the bus-line road clear, Winery access, and staffing for Pre/Post Lot Crew. Participants generally felt that traffic moved well once vehicles reached the internal "8," but getting into or out of that route could be difficult.

The notes describe major differences in staffing: Lot Crew has a large Fair-time workforce, while Pre/Post Lot Crew has far fewer people and limited Monday budget. Participants observed that the Fair's schedule is shifting, summarized as "Tuesday is the new Thursday and Thursday is the new Saturday," meaning arrival patterns and workload may no longer match older staffing assumptions.

Henderson Road was also raised because of increased use by non-Fair Family traffic and possible plans to close it to protect camping areas. Theft concerns were discussed with the recognition that risks may come from both inside and outside the Fair community.

Service and crew vehicles

Mystery Machines were described as privately owned vehicles registered through Quartermaster for crew service, not joyrides or trips to showers. Clear registration, radio coverage, route access, and expectations for service vehicles were seen as important parts of safe traffic management.

7. Music, Sound, and Neighbor Relations

The music discussion focused on late-night volume, amplified music without permits, county sound rules, and the loss of quiet space for smaller acoustic gatherings. Participants noted that volume is the central concern whether music is acoustic or electric and that some sound comes from neighboring campgrounds outside Fair property.

Ideas discussed

- Consider ending permits at midnight Thursday or setting clearer late-night limits.
- Clarify whether boomboxes and similar equipment require permits.
- Make information about county permits and the discussed 70 dB external sound limit easier to find.
- Explore phone-based decibel measurement for practical monitoring.
- Consider keeping the Original Eight acoustic-only, with specific exceptions such as Ritz and Tooth & Nail Booth.

8. Sunshine Database and Technology

Participants described the Sunshine Database as an aging platform with unreliable or inconsistent processes. Concerns included teen registration, late assignments, difficult user experiences, and whether members can fully participate when technology fails or becomes the only path to important activities.

The group questioned whether Sunshine has become essential for voting and whether meaningful alternatives remain available. Suggestions included cleaning up and modernizing the database, creating a broader technology strategy, reducing unnecessary dependence on technology, improving ownership and process reliability, and managing systems consciously and ethically. Hybrid Board meetings were also raised as part of the technology conversation.

9. Collaboration and Meeting “Aha” Moments

Participants repeatedly said that individual crews can feel like islands. The evaluation meeting helped people hear concerns outside their own areas and see how one crew’s decisions affect others. This cross-pollination was one of the most positively received parts of the day.

Aha moments recorded in the notes

- Paper-towel barrels are biohazard or landfill waste, not compost.
- The Monday toilet problem is tied to both vendor timing and the land-use permit ending at 11:00 a.m.
- Camp Hosts and Neighborhood Hosts need to communicate and rebuild their pre-Fair meetings.
- The meeting gave people hope because participants offered solutions, not only problems.
- Cross-crew conversation helps people move from “micro” concerns to the larger Fair-wide picture.
- In-person discussion created a richer and more respectful exchange than isolated feedback.

10. Consolidated Opportunities for Follow-Up

Timing	Focus	Suggested follow-up
Immediate	Monday sanitation	Identify decision authority and keep adequate toilets and sinks available through camper departure.
Immediate	Handwashing	Confirm every numbered station receives water, soap, sanitizer, towels, and reliable refilling.
Immediate	Fire readiness	Set minimum equipment and stove-safety expectations for camps, booths, lots, and satellite areas.
Near term	Land protection	Mark vulnerable areas before Fair and create consistent follow-up for unauthorized alteration.
Near term	Camper education	Develop coordinated signs and orientation covering land care, fire, smoking, sanitation, and waste.
Near term	Host network	Clarify roles and restart pre-Fair Neighborhood Host and Camp Host meetings.
Near term	Parking information	Correct wristband-booth signage and publish consistent arrival, towing, route, and departure guidance.
Near term	Heat safety	Evaluate shade and rest stations with Parking, White Bird, Ambiance, Path Planning, and related crews.
Planning	Capacity	Review SO passes, car camping, and attendance growth against camping space and infrastructure.
Planning	Technology	Modernize Sunshine, clarify ownership, and preserve accessible alternatives.
Planning	Sound	Clarify permits, hours, monitoring, and response expectations for Fair and neighboring camps.
Foundational	Stewardship	Create a shared definition connecting land relationship, education, rules, and accountability.