Elders Committee Meeting Minutes 9-24-26 – draft 1 approved at the 10/22/26 mtg.

Date: 9-24-26
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: In-person at OCF office and online on Zoom

Committee members present in-person: Nancy Hafner, Michael James-Long, Kay Kintzley, Robert "Mouseman" McCarthy, Eric Nicolsen
Committee members present online: Diane Albino, Anna Brown
Committee members absent: Synnove Abrahamsen, Lisa Cooley, Jain Elliott, Heather Kent, Ann Rogers
Board members present: John Govsy, Paxton Hoag, Jon Steinhart
Staff present: Alex Zabala
Others present: Roberta Austin, Tom Boyatt- facilitator, Darlene Colborn, Michael Connelly, Katie Cousins, Jeannine Emery- scribe, Kehn "mambo" Gibson, David Gizara, Carolyn Gsell, Percy Hilo, Jenny Wilson

Agenda

- Announcements
- Approve agenda
- Approve June 2026 retreat Notes
- Review Fall 2026 retreat Notes
- Budget for Still Living Room battery purchase- Kay K.
- Vetted applications- Roberta & Jenny
- SWEATS 2026 Camping report- David G.
- Events subcommittee report- Kay K.
- Elders communication questions- Carolyn G.
- Elders SLR & Camp storage resolution- Carolyn G.
- Debrief process of candidate forum at Fall retreat- mambo
- November meeting- approve 11/19 date- Carolyn G. motion passed for Nov. meeting to be 3rd Thursday
- Meeting evaluation/closing

Announcements

- Roberta reported that her son Eric is doing well and there will be a long recovery. They are working on his healing and appreciates all the well wishes and support.
- Kay K.-confirming the date of the Fall retreat September 17,18,19, 2027 at Alice's
- Tom asked if everyone received an email about the elections?

Comments

- Alex- said that the physical ballots were mailed yesterday. If you haven't gotten an email or mail ballot in a week then please contact the elections committee by email at elections@oregoncountryfair.org
- Mambo hasn't received either email or mail ballot.
- Question: Mouseman wants to know how to announce from the floor to become a candidate?
- Answer: Jon Steinhart said that you can announce yourself as a candidate at the annual meeting.

Quorum Seven (7) **c**ommittee members present out of 12 and establishes a quorum.

Approve Draft 3 of the June 2026 Retreat Minutes- Nancy H. made a motion to approve June 2026 Retreat Minutes. Mouseman seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Review Fall 2026 Elder Retreat Notes-Please send edits and corrections by email to scribe4elders@gmail.com Jeannine Emery- scribe.

Budget for Still Living Room battery purchase- Kay K.

- We need a new battery for SLR to have enough power. Can this be a capital expense for the budget?
- Nancy said that Jerry should submit the estimate or bid.
- Mambo said that the numbers were $100-$150 for the battery and $200-$300 for the adapter to AC, the inverter.
- Mambo said he agrees that Jerry should submit a formal request/bid with the actual numbers.
- Tom said that Jerry should contact Linda to put it in the budget.
- Kay said that she will inform Jerry.
- Teresa Vaughn is the SLR coordinator and there is a budget for SLR.
- Jerry and Teresa need to figure out the details.
- If the expense won't get covered by the budget then bring it back to the committee.

Vetted Elder Applications- Roberta & Jenny

Roberta's vetted Applications

1. Todd Richard
2. Nancy Manage
3. Jessie Palmer
4. Sean Ahearn
5. Beth Robinson
6. Stacey Ludlow
7. Jennifer Bishop
8. Darin McNally
9. Robert Rexford

Jenny's vetted Applications

1. Sharrod Blanker
2. Andrew Clason
3. Loretta McNally
4. Cynthia Brown
5. Sally Clements
6. Rocio Rickeetts
7. Neil Friedman
8. Lance Jones
9. Peter Bach
10. Selina Gonzales
11. Leslie Wallace
12. Bruce Champ
13. Ascha Karen Champ
14. Sam Rabito
15. James Reed
16. Nonie Ganakis
17. Hally McCabe
18. Margaret Fraser
19. Michelle Kelly
20. Jill Golden (formerly Berger)

Motion Mouseman made the motion to approve the 29 vetted applications. Kay K. seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

SWEATS 2026 Camping Report- David G.

There are 6 more spots available and 12 returning campers that want the same spots for next year. The Golden Avatar is right next to SWEATS and they have been there forever. The campsite for SWEATS is smaller than David originally thought and his map was wrong. Next year, he will rope off the area of our camp. Things went well and David will be back next year.

The only real problem was that the Porta Potty's were set up in two SWEATS camping spaces. David arranged with the coordinator, Megatron, to move them further down for next year.

A designated stop on the route for a Geezer Pleaser to come to SWEATS and Del Boca Veneta would be helpful.

Note: SWEATS stands for South Woods Elder Annex Tent Site.

Events Subcommittee Report-

Fall Retreat 2026- Kay K. The retreat went really well and there were a lot of people to help. Eight (8) people stayed overnight and a lot of new people showed up. A new person, Louise Hayes, has volunteered to help with the Events Subcommittee.

Spirit Walk-Carolyn G. The September Fair Family News has an article on page 4 with the times for the Spirit Walk events. The information is available in the Fair Family News Calendar and on the Elders website, so you know what time to show up for the walk, Potluck, and fire ceremony.

Elders Communications Questions- Carolyn G.

Question: Should Carolyn continue to answer the committee emails sent to eldercommittee@oregoncountryfair.org?

Answer: Yes, please and thank you.

Carolyn agreed to continue answering the elders emails.

Elders SLR & Camp storage resolution- Carolyn G

On post-fair Tuesday, the group of volunteers hauling the furnishings from the Still Living Room over to Conex Storage were told by staff to leave everything outside, and that staff planned to barcode items and put everything away. The volunteers including Mouseman, Jerry, and Eric were very unhappy about leaving all the SLR furniture and Elder Camp equipment outside unprotected and unsupervised. Kirsten apologized for the unsettling situation and assured her that going forward, Elders would be contacted about any potential changes in storage.

During the fall retreat lunch break, a group went over to inspect our Conex storage and everything appeared to be in good order. The big, heavy storage box containing soft good is being stored separately at Cow Palace and is covered.

Jerry plans to build some smaller, lighter weight storage boxes to replace the big, heavy box.

Debrief process of candidate forum at Fall 2026 retreat- mambo

- Time management was excellent but 5 minutes per candidate wasn't well used time given the same information is in the candidates statements. The time could have been better allocated to something more useful.
- Who decided the one question? Who decided it would be the same for each candidate?
- What about the follow up question to the board about hybrid meetings?

Comments

- Jon Steinhart said it wasn't a discussion and that wasn't very exciting. The one question didn't seem to allow for debate. It was nice and fun to be there and it would be nice if people read the candidate statement but he doesn't want to show up to these things and read to people.
- Alex said that the questions to be considered for the candidate forum should go to the Get Out The Vote Crew, and he put the email address in the chat. For any questions for the Candidate Forum this coming Sunday. An email was recently sent out to allow membership to ask a question.

- Mambo said that the zoom candidate forum, as Alex mentioned, was really disappointing that it can only be watched on YouTube by the membership. It is a step in the wrong direction and furthers distances the membership from it's governance.
- Katie said that she liked it and the time management was excellent. The one question was broad enough to get the values of each candidate and some of their more creative ideas and what matters to each candidate. The candidates showing up to the Elders retreat made a difference to her and the general question was a good one.
- Tom recommended that we consider a motion that creates a Candidate Forum every year at the Elders Retreat. He is willing to work with small groups to make improvements. One minute answers.
- Alex said the Candidate Forum at the Elders Retreat was not planned or facilitated by anyone in the OCF office. He is sorry to hear if it didn't go off as well as he would have liked. But, they weren't orchestrating anything from behind the scenes.
- Tom agreed with Alex, stating that it was purely an Elders thing.
- Mouseman agreed with everyone and that it went off just fine. However, he doesn't agree that it's Elders Committee business. Having the candidates at the Elders retreat held intrinsic value for getting the vibe of the person. It's very important to meet these folks, and it's not officially committee business but it can be a tradition. He doesn't want the retreat to become a circus but he thinks it's very beneficial to have the candidate forum.
- David G. said that it's an excellent way to give an opportunity to the candidates and can benefit us in the long run. The candidates looking at the Elders as a voting block is a good thing.
- Jon Steinhart asked John Govsky how it would affect him to have to take two days off work to come to the Elders Candidate Forum.
- Paxton said he hopes to continue the Elders Candidate Forum.
- John Govsy said he would have to fly here for the Board Retreat. He is very experienced at hybrid meetings. For Hybrid meetings board meetings to be successful, there has to be a dedicated person to manage the tech. The equity issue of having hybrid meetings has been discussed and he agrees that there should be hybrid meetings.
- Tom said that he will bring up the ideas and observations and discuss it again in the Spring.

November meeting- approve 11/19 date- Carolyn G.

Motion by Mike James-Long for November meeting to be the 3rd Thursday every year. Motion seconded by Mouseman. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Meeting evaluation/closing:

Good meeting.

The meeting ended at 7:08 pm.

Summary of Motions Passed:

1. June Retreat 2026 Minutes Draft 3 approved by unanimous consent.

2. 29 Vetted Elder applications approved by unanimous consent.
3. November Meeting to be held the 3rd Thursday every year approved by unanimous consent.

Upcoming events:

- Elders Committee Meeting: Thursday, October 22, 2026 @6:00 pm. In person at OCF office & online on Zoom
- Spirit Walk: October 24, 2026 @ Alice's OCF site