



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DECEMBER 4, 1995

Present: Tom Alexander, Daniel Dillon, Martha Evans, Anne Henry, Paxton Hoag, David Liberty, Jack Makarchek, Palmer Parker, Jim Sahr, Jeanne Sharpy, Reggie Soto (alternate)

MINUTES APPROVAL

Anne moved and Martha seconded to approve the minutes of the November 13, 1995 Board meeting.

The only addition is that not enough praise has been or can be said in honor of Norma and her service as Secretary these past years.

The motion passed 10 for, 0 opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ** Thank You Volunteers. David Liberty praises the wonderful good work of the volunteers and hopes that we continue to treat them and each other with love and respect.
- ** Michele Sharpy, on behalf of the Whiteaker Thanksgiving dinner, thanked the Fair for its generous donation. The community support was amazing. Volunteers served 1200 dinners; 800 blankets, coats, warm clothing, and toiletries were given away. Jim Sahr added that a deep, spiritual connection made this year's dinner the best ever.
- ** The idea for the "Have a Heart Valentine's Dinner" was conceived by Chef Ray Sewell during the Thanksgiving Dinner. Call 344-2363 (Homeless Action Coalition) to plan and/or participate in this event. Valentine's Day comes along after our consciences have been assuaged yet the problems and the weather still bite.
- ** Michael James (Security Co-Coordinator) wishes the Board and Fair Family a Merry Xmas.

STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager. Leslie thanks Bill, Norma and Hilary for all their help during this busy month. Lane County's letter to OCF regarding permit issues at the Fair may be reviewed at the office. The '95 Capital Projects budget on the Warehouse is over by \$342.93 due to the permit fee hike that occurred in the interim between the budget approval and the actual application for the permit. The Warehouse construction job was advertised in the last FFN. Submit your bids.

It will soon be Guideline Time! Hopefully, the process will be smoother by using the "Changes to the Guidelines Form" which is available at the Fair office. The proposed changes will be published in January's FFN and then go to the BoD for a vote in February.

Leslie gave the City of Veneta 90 days notice to renegotiate the license to spray the city's effluent on the Larson property recently purchased by the Fair. The license did not transfer with property ownership. *Budget Review has actually been fun and a great learning experience! Thanks so much to Hilary for all her work in developing the review format. Nothing to dread. A lot of good information has been gleaned which will help the Budget and Financial Planning Committees as well as the Operations Manual. The Operations Manual draft is available at the office.

Site Manager. Aloha, Bill. Thanks to all the VegManEcs, volunteers, and especially Scott and Kal who served in Bill's absence. Although Hawaii was warm and sunny there's no place like Oregon, our green home. Even when it's flooded? That's right, folks, a flooded Fair site on Dec. 1st! The flood that covered Miss Piggy's lot, Main Camp, Traffic camp, the sauna, and Moz Road has since subsided. But the roads are still pretty mucked up so tread carefully if you must come out. (Is this the last flood of '95 or the first flood of the '96 Fair? Probably the latter if you subscribe to the Vegmanec calendar; the new year begins the weekend following the Fair..)

Treasurers: Hilary and Steve. Four out of six crew reviews have been completed and much valuable information has been learned which will help general operations. The budgets are coming in slowly, perhaps in part due to the timing change. Some may need to be passed with tentative budget approval based on last year's numbers.

Hilary requests the Personnel Committee establish a policy that employees do not sign checks written to themselves. This is an issue because Norma, a former non-staff check signer, is now Fair staff. New check signers should be added when the new accounts are opened before the '96 Fair. The new checking accounts will insure that balances remain at the \$100,000 insurable levels.

A timely dialogue/work session including Financial Planning, Craft Committee and booth members on booth fee and Fair admission increases is needed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel: Daniel said employee evaluation forms will be out in December. Hopefully, the new changes will also make them easier.

LUMP: Dennis Todd said they are closing in on the drafts of the Long Tom and Indian Creek management plans. These are open for review. Final plans will be submitted to the BoD in January.

MEMBER INPUT

Raimon Franck expressed discontent with the plastic wristbands to which he is allergic. Adding insult to injury is that he must then purchase a photo i.d. Is there no other alternative?

OLD BUSINESS

Motions postponed until January 1996

- *Approve funding for new construction on the Warehouse. (Daniel)
- *Approve/consider changes in the grievance process. (Paxton postponed this since Howard Leighty, author of the proposed process, was not present.)
- *Approve donation to Compassionate Oregonians. (Jack)
- *Amend the by-laws regarding Fair membership. (Martha) The Fair's lawyer would like to review this first. The intention is to amend the by-laws so that year round crew and committees whose work does not occur during

the actual event may be considered members.

Medical Co-Coordinator

David moved and Jim seconded to appoint Chuck Gerard as Medical Co-coordinator. No member or BoD discussion. *Motion passed 10 for, 0 opposed.*

Endowment Committee Appointment

Anne moved and Martha seconded to appoint Susanna DeFazio to the Endowment Committee.

Public Discussion: All spoke in favor. Leslie said Susanna is a Charter member, a partner in Papa Don's Toys, an experienced grant writer, a Walton resident, and is active in the Fern Ridge school district. Shirley Demaline said Susanna would be a great addition to the Endowment Committee.

BoD Discussion: Martha stated that the EC is very excited to have Susanna join them.

Motion passed 10 for, 0 opposed.

Storage Building Permit Fees

Daniel moved and David seconded to increase the Capital Projects budget by \$342.93 to cover permit fees for the upgrade of the commercial storage building.

No member or BoD discussion.

Motion passed 10 for, 0 opposed.

(I began to think, hey, this secretary position will be a piece of cake. This board really knows how to move! And then the process began to slow down)

Eugene First Night Donation

Martha moved and David seconded to donate of \$500 to Eugene First Night.

Background: Catherine Henderson, chairperson of the Eugene First Night Steering Committee they are working with a \$20,000 budget and have so far received only \$16,000. They are still fundraising even 'tho the event is only three weeks away. The steering committee has a broad base of support. Eugene First Night will not be a Eugene Celebration clone. Instead there will be 8-10 different small venues of visual and performing arts. The goal is to create year-round community awareness of and activity in the arts with a culmination of arts celebration on New Year's Eve. Eugene First Night will be an alcohol-free, family focused event. Admission buttons cost \$3; kids 12 and under admitted free. Free buttons will be given for distribution to agencies that serve low-

income people. Event sponsors receive one free button for every \$10 donated.

Public Discussion: Hammond questioned whether this is a gesture of support for non-alcohol events. He would prefer to see the Fair's money given to groups working on year-round issues rather than a once-a-year event. Leslie expressed support of this event as one which stands in contrast to the commodification of culture in which big commercial interests sponsor specific stages. She added it is unimaginable that OCF would not be a part of it.

Kelly O'Neil wondered from where will the funds come.

BoD Discussion: Jim noted that we keep getting requests to sponsor other organizations' entertainers at a time when Fair family questions how well we compensate our own. Anne wondered if our donation would support a specific venue or a general fund. Palmer questioned Steve if a donation would put the Fair over budget or would it change the budget. Steve responded that at this time there is no budget for the Discretionary Fund. Palmer (*still learning the Board process of rhetorical speech*) asked if EFN is a non-profit organization.

Catherine answered that they fall under the umbrella of Lane County Partnership for Substance Abuse Prevention. Martha expressed support as this event is consistent with the OCF mission. In the absence of Fair guidelines/values for donations we can then only use our own personal values. This event promotes two of Martha's strong values: youth and arts and entertainment. She hopes the funding comes from excess revenue. Also, it is hard to budget the first year of any event. David expressed whole-hearted support.

Motion passed, 8 for and 2 opposed (Jeanne and Jim).

Alternate Board Position

Palmer moved and David seconded that pursuant to Article 7, Section 2, Subsection e of the OCF Bylaws, Rich Locus was elected to fill the open alternate board position that was vacated by the resignation of Charles Drew.

No member or BoD discussion.

Motion passed 10 for, 0 opposed. Welcome

Rich!

Population Cap

Paxton moved and Jeanne seconded that the population cap for the 1996 Fair be set as follows: 16,000 on Friday, 18,000 on Saturday, and 16,000 on Sunday.

Background: This cap is the same as past years and yet it had been agreed to set the cap each year. .

Public Discussion: Michele stated that from an Admissions perspective, a straight cap of 18,000 each day would be easier. Leslie questioned whether this is a target or an absolute cap. Are these guidelines or set policy? What are the consequences if we go over the cap? Is there a wiggle factor? Hammond agrees with the target. Sixteen thousand is too low and yet we should never go over 20,000 again. Hilary prefers an exact cap and questions who is ultimately responsible for closing the gates. Michael James stated that 20,000 is difficult for safety and liability issues. Shirley believes we should never go over 20,000. When it is that crowded vendors aren't conducting any business, no one's having any fun. John Stamp believes we should accommodate all who want to attend. Kelly thinks we could possibly restructure the Fair site so it would not be so crowded. Barney Sullivan states we should institute procedures to implement the cap, i.e., contact with radio stations.

BoD Discussion: Many Board members stated that we should never be as crowded as we were on Fair Saturday '95. Yet how high or low the cap should be is still up for discussion. Neither Jack nor Jim is comfortable with setting a cap. Jack is sorry for those who would be left outside the gate. Paxton says that from his observation over the last three years even 16,000 seems crowded yet he cannot imagine Saturday's numbers ever being that low. That is why he proposes 18,000 on Saturday. Jeanne supports the motion as it is. She is concerned about overloading the services, (e.g., the toilets). Eighteen thousand is workable and it is good to leave a couple of days lighter. Tom added that the budget needs the proposed figures. David is ok with a cap of 18,000 and would prefer we talk about safe and acceptable limits; 20,000 is too much and 22,000 is dangerous. Anne spoke as a booth vendor and as a mom. No sales happen at 18,000 and there is the added fear of young children being trampled. Martha thinks 18,000 is too high and will not support this motion if it remains

stated as a target. Many spoke about not wanting to be exclusive or elitist. Yet they also want to be able to have fun that is fun. Palmer agrees with David and supports a consistent number each day. A little forethought by the public to purchase advance tickets should insure that all who want to attend may. No one need be excluded.

On a related issue, according to Daniel, the General Manager's job description states that the General Manager has the authority to call the gates closed. As always this is based upon a close collaboration with other Fair crew.

Other potential solutions: An admission cost increase could deter some folks from coming on Saturday. Restructure traffic flow, widen the paths. Is it time to open the next loop?

The motion failed: 6 voted yes, 4 opposed (David, Jack, Palmer, and Martha)

David moved and Palmer seconded to set a safety attendance cap target of 18,000.

Public Discussion: Hilary listed the past 4 years attendance:

1994 1995

1992 1993

Friday all years reported low 14,000+; never over 15,000

Saturday 19,600 16,900 18,900 22,800

Sunday 16,500 14,300 16,500 14,800

Dennis Todd suggested Advance ticket sales only for Saturday. Barney suggested moving the Drum Tower to the Dead Lot!

BoD Discussion: Anne would really like the Fair to consider the safety of small children and family needs. Jeanne supports 18,000 each day.

The motion failed: 6 voted yes, 4 opposed (Anne, Martha, Jim and Jack)

End result: There is no population cap for 1996 yet there are many months (well, only 6) to revisit this issue.

Admission Fees

David moved and Jeanne seconded to amend admission fees according to the proposed schedule: Gate fee will be \$10 on Friday and Sunday; \$15 on Saturday. Discounts for seniors and alter-abled will be \$5 on Friday and Sunday; \$8 on Saturday. Kids under 12 free.

Public Discussion: Steve thinks this is a good idea. These fees are comparable to other events and may be an economic discouragement for Saturday attendance. The funds could fund the

infrastructure and capital improvements. Kelly thinks a change to advance tickets that are cheaper than day of event may increase advance ticket sales. Yet we need good advertising about advance tickets' wonderful qualities and availability. Hilary supports an admissions price increase as the #1 choice to raise revenue this year. We should also publish in FFN what the Fair vision is for such income so that family could have a good understanding of what the infrastructure and capital projects include. John Stamp opposes setting any economic barrier to attending the Fair. Michele agrees we should publicize alternatives for entrance. Advance tickets intended to be cheaper than day of event but couldn't go lower last year without cutting into revenue. Dennis advocated a discount for bus riders and users of alternative transportation.

Tom asked to amend the motion to include advance ticket fees according to the proposed schedule: \$7/Friday, \$12/Saturday and \$8/Sunday. Discounts for seniors and alter-abled will be \$3.50/Friday, \$6/Saturday and \$4/Sunday. (Jeanne and David accepted)

BoD Discussion: Jack and Palmer agree that we are overdue to raise the gate; the last increase was a small one in '92. Palmer rhetorically asked and received clarification that the deadline for setting the price is March/April. Family should have the info sooner than later. Anne thanked those who work on advance tickets and expressed a desire for more publicity about them. Tom and Martha responded to questions of where this revenue will go: capital projects (some of which were canceled last year), an in-town office, improving the new land, a second event, better care of entertainers, retirement accounts for employees, hay. The dream list includes a crew lodge at the Fair site, etc. Priorities must be set.

Jack rhetorically asked and received clarification that advance tickets may be purchased by mail. Martha noted the budget discussion in January needs a grasp on proposed revenues. Jack stated that he would like us to handle new revenue in a more socially responsible manner. Jim doesn't like this proposal but it is less unsavory than an artificial limit as a discouragement to over-attendance on Saturday. David moved and Daniel seconded to table this motion for further discussion at a work session.

*Motion to table passed 7 yes, 3 opposed
(Jack, Martha, and Jim)*

Booth Fees

David moved and Tom seconded to amend craft and food booth fees according to the following proposal: \$250/craft booth = \$50 base fee, 4 passes @ \$40, and 2 vehicle stickers @ \$20. \$400/food booth = \$100 base fee, 6 passes @ \$40, and 3 vehicle stickers @ \$20.

Public Discussion: Hilary is unable to support this motion this year. More communication and collaboration is needed with booth people. Steve, on the other hand, thinks this is long overdue and if not this year, then next. It would be good to bring us in line with other fairs. Leslie wants to emphasize that this is not intended as a revenue enhancement strategy. It will establish a small base fee to cover inspection and permit paperwork. She agrees that this issue needs a work session. John Stamp thinks the Fair is in an enviable financial position already and does not need increased revenue. He does not think booth folks would support this motion without targeted projects. We should be the example of how an alternative community could be. Raimon Franck questions pursuing this proposal now with just a 2 month window for consideration. He's been a booth person since the early 80s and it seems as if services have been reduced. He would like to see more booth peoples' input.

BoD Discussion: Anne is going to table since this needs to have public input. Jim wants to know if we need this money and what are the targeted projects. He added that "we have the power, and I use the term 'power' in the most perjorative sense, to assess these increases. I oppose the motion to 'get more money, and spend more money.'" David listed drinking fountains and handwashing stations as Fair improvements. He added that we could use revenues to fund other projects to extend the water system, 6-packs in private camping areas, etc. Jack says there is no problem going to the well but let's choose whose well we'll use. That is to say, let's get our funding from the general public (admissions) and not from Fair Family. We need to support craft and food booths. Daniel would like to have these questions answered: Do booths consume more resources than they pay for? Are they being subsidized by other Fair sources? Consider the following expenses: \$32,700

for "free buses" (a valuable expense that helps the environment and serves the economically distressed), imported (from the city) drinkable water, garbage service. Recycling crew statistic: Even after everything's been recycled the crew still disposes of 1# of garbage for each Fairgoer. (What were those population caps again?) It seems reasonable that as these everyday fees increase, Fair fees also increase. Martha thinks that booth folks are the ones who have the opportunity to make a profit through the Fair. She objects to revenue dedicated for targeted projects. The Fair is a year-round operation, not just a three-day event. Please come to the work session. Jeanne thinks this is a reasonable fee structure; we are on the low, low end compared to other fairs. Jim commented that the OCF cannot be compared to anything else because there is nothing else like the Fair. Palmer would like to point out that this is not an us-and-them issue. Five of the Board members are booth members and the other five are booth impaired. A base fee would build in equitability. Paxton agrees with Jack and would like more info at the work session. David moves and Paxton seconds to table this motion for more discussion during a BoD work session. The motion to table passed: 9 in favor, 1 opposed (Jim)

Fair Storage Needs

David moved and Jeanne seconded to appoint a temporary committee to research Fair storage needs.

Public Discussion: Leslie asked if this would be a follow-up to last year's work session.

BoD Discussion: David said the committee will consider past studies as well as our current capacity and how that meets/doesn't meet our current and projected needs. The committee will estimate costs to bring capital projects on line and begin the permit process. Several BoD were in agreement with the goal but wondered if a temporary committee is the best vehicle. The process would be expedited by using the resources already on hand, i.e., a combination of LUMP, the Site Manager, and any interested parties. Martha suggested Bill chair the committee and all interested folks call him or the Fair office. Palmer wondered rhetorically about a deadline. Leslie said the Capital Projects budget is approved at the February BoD meeting.

The motion passed 10 for, 0 opposed.

Camping Plan

Daniel moved and Martha and Palmer seconded the board instruct the General Manager and LUMP to develop a camping plan for Fair staff and booth people on the neighboring land owned by the City of Veneta.

Public Discussion: Dennis stated that LUMP is already considering this.

No BoD Discussion

The motion passed 10 for, 0 opposed.

Camping Permits

Daniel moved and Tom seconded to amend the current budget up to \$500 for camping permits to fund the camping plan on the neighboring land owned by the City of Veneta.

Public Discussion: Leslie clarified that the cost for camping permits on Dahinda's acres cost \$1600. The permit process for the same land began the last week of January '95 and the permits were issued the day before the Fair. Steve prefers this be a '96 expenditure rather than an amendment to the '95 budget. He confirmed that the funds would be available Dec '95 or as soon as needed even tho listed in the '96 budget. Daniel moved and Tom seconded to amend the motion to budget in '96 up to \$2000 for camping permits on the neighboring land owned by the City of Veneta.

BoD Discussion: Jack wondered rhetorically if we can get permits for land that is not yet leased. The answer is yes. Jack and Reggie are uncomfortable with the city spraying effluent on our newly acquired property. David stated that this motion will allow the funding for the General Manager and Lump to act in a timely manner on the prior motion.

The motion passed 10 for, 0 opposed.

Employee Bonuses

Martha moved and Daniel seconded to move the new business item of Holiday Bonus for Fair Employees to old business.

Motion passed 10 for, 0 opposed.

Martha moved and David seconded to give Fair employees (the General Manager, Site Manager and Administrative Assistant) a \$250 bonus each.

The motion passed: 9 yes, 1 no (Paxton)

Ok, folks, there you have the first BoD minutes by Jen-lin. If you've paid attention you can figure out next meeting's agenda by combining 'new business' and all those items postponed until January '96. Most of the tabled items will come up after a work session. See you next year.

Next Meetings

Board of Directors: Monday, January 8, 1996, in the EWEB cafeteria. HAPPY SOLSTICE TO YOU ALL; KEEP IT LIGHT!

Work session on admission and booth fees: Thursday, January 11, 1996: Central Presbyterian Church, 15th and Ferry Streets, Eugene

Work session on the budget, January 15

Board Meeting to approve the budget, January 22