

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING,  
March 3, 1997

PRESENT: Tom Alexander (arrived during announcements), Anne Henry, David Liberty, Palmer Parker, Arna Shaw (alternate), Daniel Dillon, Charles Drew, Martha Evans, Paxton Hoag, Jack Makarchek, Michele Sharpy (alternate)

NOT: Jim Sahr

MINUTES APPROVAL

Anne moved, and Palmer seconded the minutes of the 2/3/97 Board of Directors meeting be approved. The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 abstention (Arna) This scribe apologizes for any appearance of derision toward the Tree Crew in last month's minutes. She was trying to convey the ambiguous status of the Tree crew which is not an official Fair "crew" by itself when she wrote "(not)crew".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Congratulations to Jack who was married on 3/1!
- 3/17, BoD work session on distinguishing policy and operations, Central Presbyterian Church, 7-9pm.
- 5/10 Spring Fling, WOW Hall, 7pm. This is a Fair family event, not crew sign-up.
- Happy Pisces Birthdays (that we know of): Cory Sullivan, Marlene Showker, Leslie Scott, Justin Scott, Charles Drew, Ruth Atcherson, Don Doolin, Norah Roberts, Gayle Martinez, Deni Shaddegg & Toes!

MEMBER INPUT

Nils- A dear, rock-solid, activist and friend, Judi Bari, died of breast cancer last week. We should be inspired by her life and consider what we hold true as individuals and as the OCF. It is time to create a vision statement that reflects our firmly held beliefs.

Jack- The Fair has been taking a less controversial path as a means of survival. But, we must remember that the Fair began in struggle against the mainstream (ab)normalities. He hopes we continue to confront the community on issues and not back down.

STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager Leslie is saddened to announce the resignation of J.R. (Jerry Robinson) as Traffic Coordinator. Many thanks to him and also to his wonderful wife, Erika, for their years of extraordinary work. The month has been full of many intensive meetings to identify and resolve the operational changes to implement the Drug and Alcohol Free Fair policy (security, traffic and access issues) as well as the creation of the New Loop and Far Side camping. We will have as many as six ticket windows at the County Fairgrounds (so folks can buy their ticket before boarding the bus) and the Fair will have to provide security there over the weekend. Leslie has also begun meetings with Steve Amundson (Community Village) about a proposal to do support work for folks regarding drug and alcohol issues. Resources are available at the Fair. We can do more fair-like prevention through education.

The Site Manager, Steve, and our new Caretaker, John, are working with Tom Lanfear and the LUMP liaisons David Liberty and Dennis Todd to nail down the development permit process for the Far Side Campground. They have recently walked through to mark off spaces. Cost estimates for a bridge to the Far Side range from \$1000 (rental) up to \$6000 for a temporary bridge which we would own but have to permit. Bridge plans B and C are being worked on by Bob Durnell and Tim Wolden.

Many thanks again to the Treasurers and the Financial Planning committee for their hard work and the completed clean audit opinion.

Administrative Assistant norma thanks Bella Wren, Nick Lougee and Rob Shirey for all their wonderful assistance in the office. Folks will be meeting Thursday, March 6, to brainstorm about office space needs and a new site. The office will probably have to move by year's end. Kevin Dougherty (Bus Coordinator) is creating a new Fair brochure. The Guidelines will be completed soon. Anyone wishing to participate in this year's Fern Ridge Spellabration on April 5, should contact norma.

Site Manager Thanks to all the usual suspects! The Fair site experienced a weather sandwich during the month of February. It flooded on Feb 2, gorgeous weather for the highway clean up, and it's flooding again now. On the hopeful side, trilliums, delphiniums and skunk cabbage are emerging and grass, trees and shrubs are greening up. Thanks to the VegManECs who recently cleaned up the stage areas for reseeding. Maintenance and repair continue on the tractor, flatbeds, and big mowers in preparation for spring activity. There was some minor vandalism on site during the last school holiday, Feb 17; this has been reported to the sheriff.

Treasurers Hilary announced that our first outside audit, for the year ended December 31, 1995 is completed. Copies are available at the Fair office. Contact Hilary if you have any questions. Some of the recommendations made by Shirley Henderson include adoption of uniform procedures to document all items to be recorded in the financial records and that copies of the documentation remain at the Fair office; consider alternatives to minimize the risk of exceeding the FDIC \$100,000 insurance limit in our bank accounts; and time records need to be maintained to document certain donated services in the financial statements.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Martha stated that meetings have been scheduled for the first and third Mondays of each month, 5:15pm at the Fair Office, except when BoD executive sessions occur. They are currently reviewing/updating existing policies to actual practice. Deni has resigned and Brad Lerch has asked for a leave of absence. Steve W has successfully completed his probationary period as Site Manager. Well done! The Personnel Committee welcomes any feedback for Steve.

Endowment Seven grants totaling \$10,000 have been given. They range from \$400 to \$2100. For the first time, two grants were distributed to groups outside the school district. One went to a Native Americans' program and the other to the Family Resource Center for a performing arts and activities camp for youth.

Path Planning/New Loop We've divided into groups with liaisons designated to spearhead action. The stage location is identified, the Karamosovs have a proposal for other activities, the operations and construction issues are clarified and budget line items are being filled in.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### CAPITAL PROJECTS

Anne moved, and Paxton seconded, the BoD approve (an initial) capital projects budget totaling \$37,750 for 1997. This was later amended to \$35,750 by excluding the Fair Central Roof line item. (This item awaits a more firm estimate.) 1996 projects carried over total \$8,450. The BoD decided in November to reallocate the remaining \$15,400 in flood repair to New Loop. \$1000 for Warehouse '97 and \$2000 for two Energy Carts were approved at the January BoD meeting. New capital projects in this motion include: AAAA \$800 (main stage accessibility and more plug-ins for wheelchair batteries), Computer Office \$500 (new printer, CD drive), new Energy Park Stage \$800, Mount Pincus (gravel mountain) \$800, and up to \$6000 for the Far Side bridge including permits. The Mount Pincus line item is a prototype enclosed gravel area by the water barrels near Main Stage. It would prevent the gravel from scattering across E 13th and hopefully reduce our continued import of gravel.

Peach & BoD Discussion: We all became more confused and then hopefully enlightened as dialogue ensued about "carry over projects from '96," "theoretical numbers", "conservative estimates of revenue", and "realized anticipated revenue." And just where did the unspent money budgeted for '96 capital projects go? Why, back into the bank as savings, of course.

Hilary pointed out that, excluding the projects carried over and the New Loop, the '97 budget is less than during an average year. While Arna was concerned about deficit spending, others noted that the new loop is a priority and we cannot short ourselves on quality nor to quote Jack operating "with austerity for the rest of the Fair." The motion passed: 8 in favor and 2 opposed (Martha and Arna)

#### NEW TRAFFIC CO-COORDINATOR

Palmer moved, and David seconded, the BoD appoint Gayle Martinez as a new Traffic co-coordinator.

Peach Discussion: Steve W thanked J.R. and Erica for their wonderful work. They will continue to handle much of the administrative work for this year's fair. The traffic coordinators have resolved to make J.R. and Erica's continued involvement in the traffic family happy and positive. Gayle Martinez has been a crew leader on Steve's shift, 6-10pm, and preparing to step in as a co-coordinator. (And she's a Pisces, too!) He added that Chris Roop and Sheldon Doughty will be co-coordinators-in-training during the '97 Fair. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

#### OFFICE TOWN/FAIR FAMILY NEWSLETTER CREW CO-COORDINATOR

Charles moved, and Martha seconded, the BoD appoint Mary Shuler as Office Town/Fair Family Newsletter Crew Co-coordinator. Mary would be responsible for the newsletter aspects and Heidi would remain responsible for the office town aspects of this "slash-crew" (or is it /crew?) norma stated that this makes the reality official (at least in the eyes of the Peach) Mary has been doing a great job already. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Anne Henry left after this motion (9:15 pm, capital projects took a long, long time) and Michele proceeded to vote in her absence.

#### DONATIONS

##### FERN RIDGE LIBRARY

Daniel moved, and ? seconded, (the voice on the tape was too soft) the BoD allocate \$10,000 for the Fern Ridge Library Charles later moved to table, and Martha seconded. The motion to table passed: 8 in favor and 2 opposed (Jack and Palmer)

Peach Discussion: Jack Gray, member of the Fern Ridge Library BoD, said they have received a \$300,000 matching-grant challenge which lasts through Dec 31, 1997. Their BoD has assessed the library building's needs for the next 20 years. The library is a crucial facility in their community and has placed a special emphasis on kids. Leslie said the library serves in many ways as the area's community center and suggested 1% for literacy.

BoD: David, who lives in the Fern Ridge area, stated that the library is used heavily and is in tremendous need. Literacy and community are fundamental to the Fair's basic mission statement.

##### NORTHWEST BLACK PIONEER EXHIBIT

Charles moved, and Martha seconded, the BoD allocate \$500 to the Northwest Black Pioneer Exhibit. Funds would come from the BoD's Donation line item total \$3500, none of which has been spent to date.

Peach Discussion: Rene Knowles stated that the exhibit runs from March 3-14 at the Valley River Center mall. Black pioneers from Washington and Oregon are the feature of this exhibit which is also available in book form. They are adding a local perspective with photos and historic panels on Eugene's black history. The unifying theme is "Black History is Part of MY American History

too!" The project is short on funds because some major funding sources were unexpectedly cut when Measure 47 affected the budget of several of their funders.

Nils wondered whether the exhibit could be shown at the Fair.  
The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

#### BUILDING COMMITTEE

David moved, and Martha seconded, the BoD form a Building Committee responsible for the design, permitting, and construction of permanent structures above the floodplain, including bridges. This motion was subsequently withdrawn and David moved, and Martha seconded, the BoD create a Building Committee with the proposed Building Committee "Mission Statement" submitted by Bob Durnell in the March BoD packet. After more discussion Paxton then moved to table this motion. The motion to table passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Charles)

Peach & BoD Discussion. It seems that neither proposal fully satisfied everyone. To some it was too loose. For others it was not loose enough. Some felt they needed more clarity about who is responsible for what and whether those tasks overlapped with the Site Manager and General Manager's tasks. Paxton noted it would be critical how such a proposed committee interface between the BoD and Fair staff.

#### LAND USE PLANNING

David moved, and Tom seconded, the BoD adopt Land Use Planning as a (not "the") guiding principle for management of our land and its uses.

Peach Discussion: Dennis, Bob D, and Steve W agreed that the Fair must proceed with this if we truly believe we hold reverence for the land. Bob stated that we have a tendency to over-develop the site. Consideration for all land-use guidelines would be far too immense to bring forth in a single proposal. Dennis noted that this would be an operational document subject to change and that the success of the event is the first priority. Leslie said this is the result of many years' worth of incredible work by LUMP which has so far not been recognized. The New Loop and Path Planning Committee has been using Land Use Planning guidelines in every facet of their process. They constantly balance the needs of the land with the needs of the event.

BoD: Paxton, who has been involved with Land Use Planning doubts that unanimity regarding guiding principles exists among LUMP members. Jack was of the opinion that this begins to address our past mistakes and mitigates our future actions.

The motion passed: 7 in favor, 2 opposed (Paxton and Arna) and 1 abstention (Palmer).

#### DISCOUNT TICKET PRICE

Michele moved the BoD set the discount ticket price structure as follows:

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Advance	\$5	\$8	\$5
Day of Show	\$6	\$9	\$6

Alter-abled and people aged 55 and older are eligible for discount tickets.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

#### YOUTH = 10 AND UNDER

Michele moved, and Palmer seconded, the BoD approve the age for youth to enter free when accompanied by an adult be lowered from twelve to ten and under.

Michele said it is much easier to identify a ten-year-old than many of today's twelve-year-olds. Hopefully, this will help resolve the problem of older youth who try to pass as twelve-year-olds and stay at the Fair overnight. The motion passed: 8 in favor and 2 opposed (Jack and Arna).

#### BUM POLICY

Arna moved, and Paxton seconded, the BUM policy be changed to authorize the GM to appoint the BUMs annually.

Peach Discussion: norma stated that this gives the GM the tools she needs to do her job. Leslie noted that there was a good rationale for the BoD to be involved in the OM Team (pre-BUMs) selection when the General Manager was a volunteer position. But, that's no longer the case. Bottom line, the GM needs to be able to choose her or his team.

BoD: Most BoD members agreed that this is an operational issue. Palmer said he would be more comfortable if an annual selection date was included in the motion. Martha Arna disagreed. Arna added that this is the first step in updating the whole BUM policy.

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Palmer).

#### PAID PARKING IN 1998

Tom's moved, and Daniel seconded, the OCF charge \$5.00 per car per day for public parking during the Fair starting with the 1998 Fair.

Paxton moved to table this motion until the August 1997 BoD meeting. The motion to table passed: 8 in favor and 2 opposed (Daniel and Charles).

Several folks expressed concerns about paid parking. Steve W urged we wait to consider the effects of the first series of filters proposed by operations -- that is folks aren't allowed on-site without a ticket. Traffic's goal is to move vehicles off Highway 126 as quickly as possible.

The next BoD meeting will be held on Monday, April 7, 7pm at EWEB. The agenda (subject to change) will include:

- Personnel Policy Changes -- David
- Concert on OCF Site -- Daniel
- Creation of "Menstrual Hut"
- Cart Contest -- Paxton
- Budget "loose ends" -- Treasurers
- Vision Fund Decision
- Appointments:
  - Vaudeville Co-coordinator
- Donations:
  - Family School
  - Elmira Schools Gardening Project
  - Southern Oregon Barter Fair
  - Gay Pride Day -- Palmer
  - Fiesta Latina

#### Carried forward from March 1997 meeting

- Capital Projects Recommendations -- Treasurers
- Appointments:
  - History Booth Co-Coordinator -- Anne
- Baby Zone Proposal -- Anne
- Ticket Price -- Michele
- Jill Heiman Vision Fund Recipient - Arna

Note: Donation requests from OSPIRG Right-to-Know Campaign and Alternative Work Concepts died for lack of a presenter.