

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 12/7/98

PRESENT: Michele Sharpy (left after the Caretaker Contract decision), Brad Lerch, Charlie Zennache, Jim Sahr, Jim Newhall (aka Dr. Jim), Marlene Monette-Showker, Jack Makarchek, Palmer Parker, David Liberty & Tom Alexander, and Doug Carnie (aka Woggle) & Etienne Smith (Auntie Em) alternates.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Jim moved and Tom seconded the minutes of the 11/2/98 BoD meeting be approved.

Etienne corrected that she said releasing the vote count "is an issue." Cory Sullivan (Entertainment Co-ordinator) wanted to add that Entertainment will remain responsible for entertainment in Chela Mela. This was raised during the discussion about the creation of a Chela Mela Coordinator at the October BoD meeting.

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 abstention (David).

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mon. 12/14 The public workshop on lobbying for law reform will be held at 7pm at the EWEB Training Center.

Tues. 12/15 The BoD work session on implementing the membership survey will be held 7-9pm downstairs at the WoW Hall.

Thurs. 12/17 The Craft Committee will hold its next meeting at 6:30pm at the OCF office. 442 Lawrence St., Eugene.

Weds. 12/23 Deadline to submit guideline changes proposals so they may be put into the January BoD meeting packet. Turn them in to norma at the Fair office.

Budget Process:

Sat. 1/16 Coordinator potluck at Leslie's (time to answer questions about your crew's budget).

Tues. 1/19/99 BoD work session on the budget will be held at the WoW Hall, downstairs, 7-9pm.

Mon. 1/25/99 Special BoD meeting to approve the '99 budget will be held at Central Presbyterian Church, 7-9pm.

Check out www.efn.org/~andyman. This is Andy Strickland's (Caretaker) new website where he will write about conditions on site and other natural visions.

Etienne's new e-mail address is auntieem@efn.org

Steve W. pleaded that the Property Acquisition Team needs people with real estate expertise. Send your letter of interest & background to the Fair office.

The Guidelines Group has created a new list of Clean Up guidelines, is working with construction to revamp some of those guidelines, and has created a different format, and a new preamble. They will propose a new distribution plan.

MEMBER INPUT

Paxton Hoag (Photo I.D.) offered feedback that now that he sits in the Peach Gallery he agrees with other members who say they do not have adequate information about agenda items. He misses the BoD packet. He would like to see the agenda and basic supporting documents uploaded to the web. Charlie said that he, Leslie, norma and Marshall are working on that same issue. Hopefully, at least the agenda will be posted.

Raimon Franck (crafter) agreed that posting more meeting info on the web would be very helpful. He also suggested that the BoD minutes on hot topics such as last month's vote count release discussion be transcribed verbatim. He added that several folks commented to him about the biased recording of the discussion such that the negative comments were presented first and the nice and flowing comments presented last. He wanted to correct the minutes that he was "bothered" not "upset" that no one had returned his call. "Upset is a loaded word."

Jim Sahr read from Kelly O'Neill's letter stating that he emphatically favors releasing the vote counts. Kelly added that law reform group should prepare the mailing and then give it to those with access to the membership list.

STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager. Leslie announced Gale Hoolihan's resignation from the Budget Committee. She thanked him for his great work. Leslie added that Sheldon Doughty (Traffic) has submitted a letter of interest to serve on this committee. He has been attending Budget Committee meetings for one year. The Budget Committee has been working very hard this past month. Thanks for your wonderful effort.

The Endowment Committee met with the schools in the Fern Ridge/Veneta area to discuss this year's decision to focus on art for the library. The Veneta Library is very grateful to the Fair.

Leslie will attend the Craft Committee meeting on the 17th to help identify the policy issues. A certain amount of upheaval remains in the committee.

The printing deadline for the Guidelines is February so all changes will be proposed at the January BoD meeting. Discussion and decisions will happen at the February BoD meeting.

Thanks to the BoD members for their great presence at the work session last month with the Veneta City Council. She would like to clarify that the City of Veneta has not made a land swap offer as was mis-stated by one councilor. Their city engineer has yet to ascertain the acreage needed for their plan. They will continue to crunch the numbers as more data is recovered from the test plots on the viability of using native forests. Contact Dennis Todd, Jack Makarchek, or Leslie if you'd like more details.

Administrative Assistant. norma thanked Karyn Kaplan who set up the great recycling center in the office. norma has been working with the Guidelines group and with Media & Advertising. Following the Personnel Committee's recommendation that she take a computer class, norma will not be in the office Friday afternoons. She will be attending a web site building class instead!

Site Manager. Quoting from the Site Manager's report, Dec. 7, 1998. "Change in the weather, sure to be extreme..." B. Dylan. Seems like only a few weeks ago I was whining about the drought, that as late as mid-September Indian Creek was dry under Jill's Crossing, that the lack of rainfall was frustrating our attempts to grow grass on the paths. Well, our little rain gauge out at the site recorded 17.25 inches in November. Andy & I got our first canoeing of the season in the lots on Sat. Nov. 21. We reached a high point on Dec. 3, with a foot and a half of flood over our access on Chickadee Rd. Andy canoed the paths that day and reported that the flood was over the tops of counters in many places.

Two early assessments of site/flood situations- first, the weather-related delays in path reseeding efforts this fall, and the resulting poor growth in some places, means that these big and early floods are eroding critical areas of the paths, particularly 13th from the Junction downstream to WhiteBird. We'll be trucking in more loads of river loam and rebuilding path in spring. Second, while I think we're doing better every year in cleanup and flood prep, it is really distressing to canoe around the Fair, especially Pooh corner/Sesame St. sump, and see the amount of crap we contribute to the debris stream. The solution is beyond the best efforts of those who work off-season on site -- every booth, every camp, everybody has got to do their share.

We're still working on the vehicle shed building permit issue - thanks go out to David Liberty and Tim Wolden for their continued help. Until we know all the changes the county may force us to make in our plans, we won't know the final cost, and how many additional dollars we'll need for completion. So, please continue to hold an agenda slot for vehicle shed budget. We're still holding out hope for a barn-raising work party, perhaps after the holidays in January.

The skies were thankfully dry on Sat. Nov. 14, for our fall highway pick up work party -- a good turnout, thanks go to those who participated. Howard McCarney, (VegManECS) who organizes the clean up, informed the group that the Fair will be receiving an award, one of eleven in the state, from the Oregon Dept. of Transportation, in recognition of our trash-pickin' skills and perseverance. My thanks again to John Doscher, who had the idea and got the ball rolling years ago on what I still think is one of our best, and certainly one of our most visible, community involvements.

Andy & I want to thank Arrow Anders (Traffic) (and Sierra) for Fair-sitting once again, allowing each of us to spend Thanksgiving with our families.

Anyone who's got an idea for a site-related capital project and wants my help in preparing or presenting a budget, get in touch: as always, site phone is 935-7846. The message machine also carries updated information about site conditions regarding flood levels and canoeing opportunities. And maybe, at some point this winter, snow totals and skiing conditions.

Added at the meeting: Our neighbor reported that he saw a cougar in Trotter's Field. We are a year-round wildlife refuge, not just a 3-day wildlife refuge. Also following the Personnel Committee's recommendation, Steve will begin attending an Intro to Computers class.

Treasurers. Hilary stated that the Budget Committee has been meeting a lot. The two-year budget cycle process is working very well. New budgets have been solicited from crews with operational changes. Otherwise the Budget Committee is approving the '99 budgets submitted last year unless any changes were submitted this year. All budgets have a liaison who will be contacting each budget presenter. After the big meeting this Saturday, they will know what may be possible for capital projects while maintaining a non-deficit spending budget. The capital projects budget will be presented at the February BoD meeting. Hilary thanked David Helton (Registration Co-coordinator) for educating them about booth fee structures. She added that they will be meeting with members from Craft and Food Committees to explore their concerns on these issues.

OLD BUSINESS

REVISED CARETAKER CONTRACT

Charlie moved, and Jim seconded, that the Fair sign a one-year revised caretaker contract with Andy Strickland.

Additional compensations include: a \$500 monthly stipend and benefits similar to other OCF permanent employees.

Peach Gallery: Anne Morris (VegManECS Co-coordinator) said the site is looking better and better. Except for David Hoffman and Arrow or the VegManECS no one else works on site this time of year. Andy & Steve make a great team. It's time to change the caretaker job description. Arrow added that \$500 is nothing; Andy's efforts help the organization greatly. Charlene said she hopes the BoD gives Andy the authority to back up Steve in his absence. Hilary stated that she is confident that this will not hinder the Budget Committee's ability to put together a budget. Andy's work on maintaining Fair equipment and vehicles will help offset other line items.

BoD: Dr. Jim stated that the compelling argument to support this motion is the maintenance and upkeep of Fair property and equipment. Tom said that Andy's work on site enhances the volunteers. Woggle and Charlie added that as a year round volunteer his time is better spent when the equipment is up and ready to roll thanks to Andy. Also, Andy continues to clean out the accumulated trash left on site from the past 20 years. It's work that very few folks want to do. Jim Sahr stated that money does not determine a person's worth. He added that \$500/month is not a minimal amount of money. Point/Counter point -- Palmer said that \$500 is just a token. Jack said that this is an opportunity for both Andy and the Fair. It will be good to review the contract in one year.

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

PROPERTY ACQUISITION TEAM APPOINTMENTS

David moved, and Marlene seconded, that the BoD appoint Steve Wisnovsky and Tom Alexander as the first two members of the Property Acquisition Team.

Peach Gallery: Steve W put out a plea for any Fair family members with real estate expertise to become involved with PAT. Leslie said she hopes the BoD will give the team clear guidance about their interests and expectations.

BoD: David said he hopes to see this become a standing and rotating committee to assess the viability and use of any property contiguous to the Fair that may become available. I.e., weathervanes. A past BoD stated this as one of their priorities. Jack had misgivings about creating this team and about the desire now to acquire all property available. Jim added that the team could be a contact for a rural real estate agent.

The motion passed: 8 in favor, 1 abstention (Tom), and 1 opposed (Jack).

CRAFT COMMITTEE LIAISON

Jim moved, and Dr. Jim seconded, that the BoD appoint a liaison to the Craft Committee.

Peach Gallery: Connie Pruen (Craft Inventory Co-coordinator) relayed Jeff Harrison's desire that Charlie Zennache be the liaison because of the way he conducts himself and the BoD meetings.

Charlene stated this is a necessary position. Wren Davidson (Crafter) agreed. This standing committee has some members who have served for nine years and yet issues are not being dealt with. It is a time of hurt feelings and fur-flying. Leslie clarified for Daniel that it is important the liaison not be

a voting member. It would be good to help identify policy issues on operations and operational authority. The liaison should be an informational conduit. Dave Peek (Crafter and Craft Committee member) supports this proposal.

BoD: David offered the following friendly amendment: The BoD liaison be appointed for one year and reviewed/confirmed after the next BoD elections. Jim did not accept this. Jim did not think the BoD liaison had to be a current BoD member. He would support Charlene or Paxton. He is unsure what to do to make this a productive committee again. Charlie disagreed. Each committee should have a BoD member as liaison. The committees are liaisons from the membership to the BoD. As BoD members attend their meetings, listen to their concerns, the committees will feel as if a two-way discussion is happening with the BoD. Etienne said she attended the last Craft Committee meeting and would like to serve as the BoD liaison to the Craft Committee. Marlene is sorry that these issues persist on the Craft Committee. She, too, is willing to serve as BoD liaison. Brad read from the Bylaws: "The Board may appoint committees and delegate such authority to the committee as the Board deems necessary, proper or convenient for the effective, lawful and beneficial operation of the Fair. Any committees so appointed shall report to the Board or to such other persons on committees as the Board may designate. The Board shall remain responsible for ensuring that the committee function is properly performed." Brad added his belief that the BoD should reaffirm all the committees each year. Dr. Jim agreed. It seems as if we are appointing new cabinets. He is also interested in serving as the BoD liaison. Jack disagreed. The Fair needs and wants stability. He doesn't want to evaluate every committee with each change of the BoD. Generally, all the committees function well and only need a light, guiding touch.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

BOARD LIAISON TO THE CRAFT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Jim moved, and Jack seconded, the BoD appoint Jim Newhall as the BoD liaison to the Craft Committee.

Peach Gallery: Anna DeLocis (Construction) and Charlene agreed that it is critical to attend all of the meetings. Wren also agreed. She added that the last two meetings did not have a quorum of committee members. A set meeting day and time should help with this.

BoD: Jim said that he has been impressed with Dr. Jim's sincerity and dedication. He did not intend to diminish Etienne or Marlene who also expressed interest to be the BoD liaison. Marlene supports Dr. Jim as the liaison. Both she and Etienne said they plan on attending the next Craft Committee meeting and would be willing to be an alternate if Dr. Jim were unable to attend any future meetings. Palmer said he could not support this motion as Etienne was the first person to express her desire to be the liaison.

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

CHILDREN FIRST MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Jim moved, and David seconded, the Fair rejoin as members (\$200) of Children First.

BoD: Jim opposed this motion as he says the Fair has no abiding interest in this group. David disagreed. This group acts as an advisory panel to the lawmakers as to how we (Oregonians) are treating our children. This helps inform and set policy. Brad noted that this is the last meeting of the fiscal year and the BoD has spent none of its membership line item. Supporting Children First is important especially as we become a more child-friendly event.

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

WOW HALL MEMBERSHIP

Brad moved, and practically everyone seconded but Jim's voice came through first, that the OCF renew its membership (\$500) in the Community Center for the Performing Arts, aka WoW Hall.

Peach Gallery: Charlene suggested again that this become an on-going line item in the budget. All who spoke were strongly in favor of this measure. Bob Fennessey representing the WoW Hall made his pitch that the OCF along with other past, continuing members have been grandfathered in as part owners of the WoW Hall and will still be able to send two members to vote in the WoW Hall's BoD elections. Hilary thanked Bob for all that he does for the WoW Hall.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

EUGENE EDUCATION FUND DONATION

Marlene moved, and Charlie seconded, the OCF donate \$500 to EEF.

Peach Gallery: Steve Gorham (Treasurer & Traffic Co-Coordinator) opposed this motion. The Fair has no stake in the Eugene Education Fund. The majority of the membership is not 4J District families. Kimberly Gladen (Community Village) said that anything that affects children affects us all. These kids will become the future policy makers. The world we create for and through them is the world in which we will grow old and die.

BoD: Marlene moved, and Charlie seconded, this motion be tabled until the January meeting. The motion to table passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Jim).

'99 SECOND EVENT -- FIELD TRIP

Jim moved, and David seconded the BoD grant Field Trip Productions permission to apply for both the temporary use and mass gathering permits for a second event on the Fair site in 1999.

Background: "Field Trip Productions has once again been offered the opportunity of bringing our friends, the former members of the Grateful Dead, to our area for a summer concert in July or August of 1999. The venue preference for all involved is the Oregon Country Fair site, encompassing the same areas as used during the Further Festival in 1996." Kit prefers to seek both options and have the opportunity to choose the type of production to pursue.

Peach Gallery and BoD Discussions: A lot of interest was expressed on both sides. The majority of folks would like the Fair to retain more control and fill more of the volunteer/staff positions as possible including Dedicated Volunteers. Hilary raised the issue of how will Field Trip support the Fair's policy of no drugs or alcohol on site. However, the issue is permission to apply for permits. The Fair has yet to approve a second event for 1999. A more detailed recording of the discussion will be published when Field Trip Productions actually offers a contract/proposal to hold a second event on the Fair site.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

BOARD PROCESS

Charlie moved, and Brad seconded, the BoD adopt the following BoD procedures as stated in his memo dated 10/27/98.

1. Procedure for placing items on the agenda-

Any Board member, officer, member or employee may place an item on the board agenda by either -orally placing the items on the agenda on new business during a board meeting; or -submitting a written motion request on a form to be created for this purpose.

2. Procedure for processing motions-

Except for emergency motions, the person placing an item on the agenda (Motion Sponsor) shall submit a written motion request form in time to be included in the BoD packet sent out to the BoD prior to its meeting.

The Motion Sponsor, or someone acting on his or her behalf, shall attend the BoD meeting at which the BoD will consider the item.

Only if a motion is made by a BoD member and seconded by another BoD member, the item will be considered by the Board.

After a motion is made and seconded, the Motion Sponsor will have five minutes in which to explain why the motion is needed.

After the motion is explained, people present at the session may comment on the motion or ask questions, provided however, that the motion sponsor shall not respond to questions until after all member input has been received.

After member input is completed, the motion sponsor shall respond to all questions and any comments made by the membership.

During Board discussion, the motion sponsor may briefly respond to any questions put to him or her by a Board member.

At any time during BoD discussion a motion may be made to table the motion.

If the motion is not tabled, the BoD will vote on it.

Peach Gallery: It's a valiant effort to give the membership more information on the agenda items.

BoD Discussion: After some discussion and hesitation on some BoD members' parts, Palmer moved, and Etienne seconded, to table this motion.

The motion to table passed: 8 in favor and 2 opposed (Charlie and Jim).

PROPERTY TAX APPEAL

Charlie moved, and Jim seconded, the BoD authorize Leslie Scott to proceed with the property tax appeal and that Jack Makarchek will sign the Notice of Appeal.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

VOTE COUNT RELEASE POLICY

Charlie moved, and Etienne seconded, that the Oregon Country Fair only publish the names of persons elected to the board. Actual vote counts will be released to candidates who request them.

However, upon hearing all who spoke from both the Peach Gallery and the BoD (all BoD members favored releasing the information) Charlie amended his motion to The Oregon Country Fair will release the names and totals for all persons running for the Board beginning with the 1998 election. Very few members spoke in favor of not releasing the count.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

FOOD FOR LANE COUNTY DONATION

Jack moved, and Brad seconded, the BoD donate \$500 to Food for Lane County.

BoD Discussion: Brad stated that this donation will be matched in a fund-raising campaign to build a new warehouse and kitchen facility. At present, Food for Lane County does not have enough space to store all the donated food it receives. Charlie said he would oppose this motion solely because he wants the BoD to adopt a different donation process.

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

Note: The meeting was extended three times for a total additional half hour. The following agenda items were postponed: Appointments: Craft Committee, Admissions Coordinator, Board Budget Liaison; Vehicle Shed Budget Revisited, Donation Process, and Legal Fund. The following agenda items were tabled: Donation to Eugene Education Fund and Board Process. The postponed and tabled agenda items will appear again on the next BoD meeting agenda which will also include: Guidelines, Craft Committee Redux, Committee Reports, Law Reform Mailing, Budget Committee Appointment, and possibly more on the Field Trip. The agenda is subject to change. The next BoD meeting will be held Monday, January 4, at EWEB, 7-9pm. A second BoD meeting will be held Monday, January 25, at the WoW Hall, 7-9pm, to ratify the 1999 operating budget.