

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, JANUARY 4, 1999

PRESENT: Brad Lerch, Michele Sharpy, Marlene Monette-Showker, Palmer Parker, Jim Newhall, Tom Alexander, Jack Makarchek, Charlie Zennache, David Liberty (arrived during Announcements) and Doug Carnie & Etienne Smith (alternates).

MINUTES APPROVAL

Jim S moved, and Jim N seconded, the minutes of the December 7, 1998, BoD meeting be approved. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALENDAR

Date: The House Oversight Committee will be meeting on the civil forfeiture law from 9am-noon and 1-5pm at the Capital building in Salem.

Tues. 1/19 Work session on the budget at the WOW Hall, 7pm.

Mon. 1/25 Special BoD meeting to approve the 1999 operating budget, Central Presbyterian Church, 7-9pm.

Sat 2/13 Highway Pick Up. Meet at the warehouse at 10am rain or shine, but probably not snow. Call the site phone to confirm.

Wed 1/13 Grand opening of Chez Ray's new restaurant (10th & Olive/Willamette in Eugene). Rumors of music and special guests!

Wed 1/13 Benefit for the New Old Time Chatauqua with many of the Fair's vaudevillians and the Flying Karamazov Brothers will be held at South Eugene High School at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$12.00. There will be no work session in February.

Wed 3/3 ONE Day Workshop, 9am-4pm at the Unitarian Church in Eugene with XXX regarding XXXX sponsored by NCAP and Royal Blue Organics.

Happy Birthday to Hilary Anthony on January 11, and to Brad Lerch who will turn 30 on January 9. Congratulations to Raimon Franck who helped his wife create their new son, Noah Erin.

And sadly we announce the death of Dr. Ed Sargent of White Bird on Christmas eve and Rick Martinez from Lot Crew who passed away a couple of weeks ago.

MEMBER INPUT

Raimon Franck (crafter) responded to norma's letter in the last issue of the Fair Family News. For his part, his comments about the Election Committee's decision and process was not intended toward anyone individually but rather on the action. Jeff Allen echoed Raimon's sentiments.

Raimon said he'd been asked by some folks to serve on the Craft Committee, however, he's already pre-committed to a baby boy at home. He cautioned the BoD to move carefully on this issue.

Reggie Soto (Traffic) would like the BoD to deal with the issue of camp site rights. Who has the right to tell someone to move? Does a camper have the right to stay in their historical campsite? We are all Fair family and the land is for us all.

Paxton regrets not seeing the agenda and supporting documents on the web site yet. An e-mail chain could generate feedback and act as a community builder. He also volunteered to help set this up!

STAFF & OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager. Happy New Year! Many thanks to Andy Strickland who changed his plans and stayed on site during the holidays so that he could monitor the pipes during the big freeze. Thanks to the Guidelines group (norma, Andy, Arrow & Anne Morris) for a wonderful effort and follow through with ideas generated at the last Open Space Evaluation meeting.

The property tax appeal has been filed. The special attorney for this is working on a contingency basis. He will take 50% of the savings from the first year if successful. The taxes on the land in Veneta increased approximately 30% for no apparent reason. Field Trip has nothing to report yet. The permits applications are imminent. The BoD may want to consider appointing a BoD contact person/liason to Field Trip if we decide to pursue a second event. Many BoD members were present at the last Craft Committee meeting. It was a long and sometimes difficult yet ultimately productive meeting. Thanks to the Committee and all who participated for going through this process. Many thanks to the Budget Committee and the Treasurers for all their work. Budgets will be presented to the BoD at a second meeting on January 25, for approval. The library endowment focus has received eight proposals. At least six of them will be funded. The deadline to submit grant proposals on Basic Needs

to the Jill Heiman Vision Fund is January 31. The BoD will have a second retreat/slumber party in town on February 20-21.

Administrative Assistant. norma thanked Bella Wren, the wonderful office fairy. Thanks to the Guidelines group -- it was so much fun working together that they intend to continue. Thanks to Andy and Steve W for some wonderful canoe rides. Thanks Andy for being so conscientious & responsible for the site even tho she was personally bummed that she and Dick were not able to caretake the yurt in Andy's absence. It's been a quiet week at the office. She did just purchase a new scanner today so items for the website will not need to be retyped!

Site Manager. Steve W brought photos of the Fair under water. The most recent high water mark was last Monday when two and a half feet of water covered Chickadee Road and he and Andy were stranded for two days. The floods are a great re-decorator; booths, furniture and soil have been redistributed throughout the Fair and downstream. The Fair site is getting hammered. So far, we've had a flood, snow, deep freeze, and the fastest rising flood in memory (that memory belongs to our neighbor who's lived there all of his 65+ years). And winter isn't over yet. We can expect a Spring Fling clean up party. The big holiday freeze hit the drain lines under the yurt and the supply line. They are all repaired, improved and operational once again.

Thanks to Anna DeLocis, Andyman, & Blake Scott who built recycled beam covers for the Jill's Crossing bridge. We may consider the need to replace the beams every three to seven years due to weather damage. Or we may consider making it a covered bridge and thus protect the beams. Steve is unable to thank David Hoffman (Community Village) enough. Thanks to the VegManECS who built an alter-abled access ramp to the yurt last weekend.

Attention gardeners: the Fair has accumulated a very large pile of compost, 75-100 cubic yards. It is yours for the hauling and screening. Use the Fair's wonderful screener, take half for yourself and leave half for the Fair. Steve is considering Compost Saturdays which would be on the first Saturdays of the month. Call the site, 935-7846, for more info.

Lastly, tread lightly while on the site; the ground is very soft from the freeze and floods.

Treasurers. Hilary reported that the bulk of the work has been completed since Dec. 15, just prior to Steve Gorham's departure for Hawaii. With only a few more bills to post to 1998 the Fair will end the year with approximately \$10,000 in the black! The Budget Committee is contacting crews. They will also be available at the Coordinator Potluck on the 16th to work out more details with coordinators prior to the BoD meeting on the budget. Craft and Food Committees members are also invited to this potluck to discuss proposed fee increase options. Thanks to David Helton, Registration Coordinator, who has drafted analyses of several options.

Jack noted that the end of the year \$10,000 excess revenue is due to the efforts of many crews consciously going under budget. Thank you all.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel. Palmer is the personnel liaison this month. Forewarned is fore-armed.

OLD BUSINESS

EEF DONATION

Last month's motion by Marlene, seconded by Charlie, to donate \$500 (for arts & music) to the Eugene Education Fund was brought off the table.

Background: Bonnie Henderson, the Family School liaison to EEF, informed folks that EEF is a non-profit formed to channel money to Eugene school district 4J schools to make up for the shortfall caused by Measure 5. Thanks to the Meyer Memorial Trust grant which pays for all the administrative costs all monies donated by parents, businesses and other groups goes directly to the schools. Donated money may be directed toward specific schools or programs. 5% of each donation is given to the equity fund that is available to all schools. The schools use this money to bring back what most of us took for granted: part-time librarian, music & art curricula, after school homework clubs, or whatever each school determines for itself.

BoD: Jim S advocated the Fair be very frugal with its money this year. Many volunteers gave up a lot so that the Fair could remain financially healthy. The refrain "Only \$500" is beginning to grate on him.

\$500 is a lot of money for anyone, including the Fair. David supported this motion as he sees it as the beginning of expanding the scope of the endowment. Others agreed, though they would like to include arts funding through the whole state of Oregon. Palmer stated, that although it is widely known that he doesn't like kids he supports education. However, he saw a conflict of interest in that two BoD members (Charlie & Marlene) as well as the Secretary (Jen-lin) all have children in the same 4J school, Family School. A strict reading of the bylaws prohibits any financial gain by a board member or any member of their family. Marlene & Tom countered that this money is not being targeted for Family School directly but, rather, to the common pot of all 4J schools. She added that a small donation like this can make a big difference to a lot of kids. Michele's friendly amendment to target arts & music was accepted.

The motion passed: 8 in favor, 1 opposed (Jim S), and 1 abstention (Charlie). Doug voted for Marlene who stepped out of the room.

GUIDELINE CHANGES

The following Guideline changes have been submitted for public comment. They will be voted on at the February BoD meeting. Please send your feedback to the Fair office.

BOOTH CONSTRUCTION

additions or deletions = italics

* = changes proposed by Andy Strickland

Booth Construction

Replace section #39 with this:

39. General Construction Requirements

All booths will be inspected *and* unsafe booths must be repaired before use. Lane County building permits may be required (see *Guideline 43. Permits*). **Absolutely no booth demolition or construction prior to June 15. Booth construction requiring inspection must be completed by Friday, July 2. All booths must be completed Thursday, July 8.** Booths not completed by that date may lose the right to participate and their booth fees will not be refunded.

Booths must be built with adequate structural support but must be temporary in character. No poured concrete is permitted (*delete "without the approval of the Construction Coordinators"*). Foundation blocks may be used under posts to hold them off the ground.

All booths must be set back a minimum of 10 feet from the Long Tom River banks. No postholes will be allowed within 20 feet of the banks, as they accelerate erosion.

* (*change*) Wood used on booths may not be painted, stained or sealed. Do not use lumber treated with penta or creosote—both substances are highly toxic. We suggest the use of cedar or redwood where rot might be a problem. Copper naphthanate may be used as a preservative.

* *Delete portion about Refridgerators—redundant (Food Booths)*

Be careful to avoid starting forest fires. Generators must have U.S. Forest Service- spark arrestors. You must have a fire extinguisher and keep it within 10 feet of any gas-powered equipment—be prepared to show it to staff.

* (*moved*) *Stack dimensional debris in front of your booth for recycling. Separate and cut up non-dimensional wood to 16" firewood size for pick up. There must not be any scavenging of lumber by the public or Fair participants.*

No nailing into trees. No brush cutting. Violations will result in disciplinary action, which may include probation, suspension, or expulsion. The explanation for this policy is given in *Guideline 26, Environment*.

During Main Camp **contact Quartermaster before you dig any holes in the ground. Do not cut any wiring!** All open holes must be covered at all times. The Quartermaster has maps that identify where underground wiring and water systems are located.

* (*moved*) Those who wish to remove their booth materials must do so by August 1. Hazardous or abandoned booths, lumber, and materials may be removed by staff. The Fair will not accept responsibility for materials left at the Fair site. All temporary booth/loft structures must be removed from the Fair site by August 1 as per county codes. (*new*) *All ground platforms must be taken up and stored at least four feet of the ground. The Fair will remove structures not removed and a fee will be charged. See Guideline ??, Clean Up, for more information about post Fair procedures.*

40. Aesthetics

Booth construction should be simple, yet imaginative and attractive. *(add) Organic, asymmetrical and non-rectangular designs are encouraged.* Please strive to maintain the Fair ambience of a small, temporary village. Materials should include wood (poles and old weathered wood are best) and/or fabric (canvas, parachutes, tie-dyes).* *(add) The Fair no longer permits plywood, lattic, chipboard, and pallets as building materials for new or rebuilt construction. However, covered plywood countertops in food booths and removable plywood signs are acceptable.* Plastic, including woven plastic, must be covered and out of sight during the Fair unless it is actively raining. Automobiles, trailers, camping tents, or converted trucks may not be used as booths. Signs may be no larger than 16 square feet, but not necessarily square in shape. No signs are allowed in the paths. Personal camping tents must be kept well hidden from public view. The Fair has the right to reject a booth that is not in keeping with the aesthetic standards of the Fair.

Discussion: These proposed changes were submitted to Oso who approved them before presenting them to the BoD. Concerns: Leave the section regarding refrigerators in. People other than food booths use them to store dry ice, etc. Perhaps, move them to the section under Clean Up. Concerns that plywood is in all the stages, and many of the Fair booths. Are removable decorative paintings ok or is it the exception. Insert "US Forest Service" approved generators. Changing the word "may" to "will" has stronger impact. What is and who does enforcement? Doug asked who makes sure electric and phone lines maps are available. Jack -- I know where not to dig now! Possibility of one deadline for all staff. Concerns about the ground platforms-- does this apply to all booths (existing and new?) Some old booths built with permanent flooring. This may imply huge expenses to booths. Rules must apply to all aspects of the Fair. Booth construction lesson from Jack: Eventually, all booths will be temporary. No booths are grandfathered in. We have been struggling to come into compliance with County codes for some years now. This is part of a long term plan by and with the County. Use the Teddy Bear Picnic weekend as final dates for all. No scavenging material unless it is on the path. Change text to: Stack dimensional debris cut to 16" firewood size in front of your booth. Separate non-dimensional wood for pick up. There must not be any scavenging of lumber by the public of Fair participants unless on the path. Andyman suggests a slow implementation of these policies becoming more stringent as time goes by.

PREAMBLE

Preamble: These Guidelines are to help ensure the smooth operation of our event and the health and well being of our Fair family and site. Adherence to the guidelines is not optional. They apply to everyone, regardless of age, affiliation, or seniority. Please make sure you read and know your guidelines and help us assure that they are followed by all. The Oregon Country Fair is a three day event. The rest of the year the land is considered to be a natural habitat . Please treat the land with respect and practice the "Leave No Trace" ethic. Minimize your impact and restore the land back to its original condition when you leave. Adherence to the guidelines helps us all be responsible stewards of our land, our family and our event. This is our time to play and to work together as a family; cooperation will enhance the experience for everyone.

Discussion: The purpose of the preamble is to reach as many fairies as possible and to engender as much compliance as possible. It emphasizes the fact that the land is present always, not just 3 out of 365 days a year. It also attempts to insure that all beings have a quality experience.

Historically, when we rented the property, the site would be left spotless on Sunday night. It has become worse as we have become over-populated. Emphasize that, historically, everyone is responsible for clean up especially of their own space. Does this preclude a second event?

CLEAN UP
CLEAN UP

PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT

Hay, straw, and wood shavings are detrimental to, and inhibit growth of, the native ground cover. It is also a fire hazard. The use of such materials in campsites or on trails is prohibited. It is your

responsibility to remove from the site, or take to the compost pile, within one week after the Fair, any hay straw, or shavings used in your booth. The use of carpet, cardboard, plastic, plywood, or sod as a ground cover has a similar detrimental effect and must be taken up within one week following the event. Failure to comply may result in and up to a \$100 cleanup fee.

During the winter the entire site is often flooded and the water must be allowed to flow unimpeded. Therefore no permanent structural shelters, platforms, lofts, benches, tables, altars, etc. (other than those attached to established booths) shall be allowed. All movable benches, tables, dimensional lumber, firewood, pallets, and other loose wooden materials must be secured to a booth at least four feet off the ground. All plastic sheeting, tarps, carpets, bedding, buckets, milk crates, coolers, signage, and any other manufactured items must be removed from the site no later than one week after the Fair. After such time the property will be considered abandoned and removed by the Fair with with the possibility of up to a \$100 cleanup fee.

Any items brought to the Fair must be removed from booths and campsites by the Sunday after the Fair.

A coordinator will be appointed by the Board and available on site to facilitate interpretation of and compliance with Fair cleanup guidelines. The coordinator will have a written set of standards and a specific schedule of fines set by the Board.

Sunday, July 18 is a Fair-wide cleanup day. All Fair family are urged to participate in completing the cleanup and preparing the site for winter .

Discussion: Fairy folks disagree as to the timing that everything should be clean by. It varies as widely as Pack It In, Pack It Out by Sunday night, to the following Sunday, to Teddy Bear Picnic weekend. Folks also disagree if we should consider fees, fines, or incentives or nothing to get compliance. However, it should apply to all fairies equally. The difference is it is harder to distinguish specific staff campsites than it is to distinguish craft and food booths. David Helton has offered in the past to work with the BUMS, VegManECS, etc. to notify booths of any guidelines infractions. However, aside from Doug Green coming to him about a booth nailing directly into a tree, David has not been contacted. We should use the existing policy and test its effectiveness first. All forms of mulch are prohibited. Whose dog is this? Who does the assessment, notification & collection of fines? Bold text for significant changes. Punishment won't stop the offensive behavior until we have an attitude paradigm shift. How about a prize for best clean up? Do fairies know they can add to the Fair compost pile? Can't prohibit straw; it's necessary at times. Staff camp sites are some of the worst offenders of leaving straw behind. More education for Fair family.

After folks returned from the 5 minute break, Jen-lin advised the group (with attitude) to practice better group process by not repeating what another person had said, stay on topic, and not make political speeches. Her patience had been consumed by the soreness and stiffness resulting from a car accident the prior day.

CRAFT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Jim S moved, and Jack seconded, the Craft Committee redux & Craft Committee Appointments be tabled.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed. (Doug Carnie voted in Jim N's temporary absence.)

ADMISSIONS CO-COORDINATOR APPOINTMENT

Michele moved, and Marlene seconded that Tamara Crafts be appointed as Admissions Co-coordinator.

The motion passed 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

BOARD LIAISON TO THE BUDGET COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Jack moved, and Marlene seconded, the BoD appoint Michele Sharpy as the BoD liaison to the Budget Committee.

BoD Discussion: Brad appreciates that Michele often asks about the budgetary implications of agenda items.

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

BUDGET COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Michele moved, and Etienne seconded, the BoD appoint Sheldon Doughty to the Budget Committee.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

When asked if there was any BoD comment on these issues Michele joked, "No, we're too afraid of Jen-lin!"

PROPERTY ACQUISITION TEAM APPOINTMENT

Palmer moved, and Brad seconded, the BoD appoint Dennis Todd to the Property Acquisition Team.

Peach Gallery: Anna DeLocis (Construction) said Dennis is a fine choice. Steve W agreed that Todd is a fine choice and added that we still need someone with real estate or real estate law experience on the team.

The motion passed 10 in favor and 0 opposed. (Jim N resumed voting at this time.)

BOARD PROCESS

Charlie has decided that as the President's delegate to facilitate the meetings he may use whatever process he chooses. Thus, we will test the process he suggested last meeting for a while. See the accompanying article or the motion presented at last month's BoD meeting.

LAW REFORM MAILING

Charlie moved, and Jim S seconded, the Fair will allow the Law Reform group to do geographically targeted mailings from the Fair's mailing list. The mail piece will include a space to mark if the recipient would like to continue to be informed and active.

Background: John Flanery (CV) The Law Reform group wants to do geographically targeted mailings to fairies in legislative districts specific to committee seats. There are programs on the web that will 1)determine the 9-digit zip code from the address and 2)determine the legislative district from the 9-digit zip code. Thus, names would not be revealed. Members of the Law Reform group are willing to do this research. This is a time sensitive issue. The legislators are willing to listen earlier in the session than later. The Law Reform group would like the legislators to switch the burden of proof on the government, not the property owners on civil forfeiture issues. The money will come from their budget which is scheduled to be carried forward. Heidi Doscher, Membership Secretary, is willing to assume a supervisory role for this work.

David moved, Etienne seconded, the meeting be extended for 15 minutes.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

BoD Discussion: Jack said he's given this issue a lot of thought. A sophisticated non-profit would want to effect political change. And we've seen from the last election that the general voting population helped us the most by defeating the marijuana recriminalization bill and passing the medical marijuana act. This should mean less pressure. Jim N agreed. The mailing list is our biggest tool to change the laws. If we don't use it and if the membership does not respond, then we are all just bullshitting about our desire for law reform. Brad suggested a friendly amendment to separate this motion into two parts. 1)Add the legislative districts to the mailing list. 2)Do the geographically targeted mailing. Charlie did not accept this proposal. As a member of the Law Reform group, he is unwilling to do the first part as an abstract concept. Marlene wondered about the success rate which led to the discussion whether to have folks opt in or opt out for more information. Palmer offered a friendly amendment to have folks check an opt in box. Charlie initially did not accept this proposal but later changed his mind. Jack made the persuasive argument that those people who take the time to send the opt in portion back to

the Fair are most likely to also contact their congress person. Thus, any future mailing will be done to those that take action.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Membership Survey has been postponed so that the BoD members may read the letter from Charise Prouty, chief petitioner, which they just received tonight. A work session was held in December on this topic. It was attended by BoD members, staff and officers. Where were the rest of you?

The following items were postponed or tabled until the February BoD meeting: Guidelines Changes, Vehicle Shed Revisited, Donation Process, Legal Fund, Membership Survey, Field Trip, and Craft Committee Appointment.

The BoD will hold a special meeting on Monday, January 25, at Central Presbyterian Church at 7pm to approve the 1999 operating budget. The next regularly scheduled BoD meeting will be Monday, February 1, at EWEB at 7pm. The agenda, subject to change will include those postponed or tabled items listed above in addition to: Capital Projects Budget, PR Workshop (Brad) Appointments: Advertising/Media Coordinators, Bus Coordinator, Property Acquisition Team, and Far Side Coordinator.

Happy New Year,
Jen-Lin