

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, FEBRUARY 1, 1999

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

MINUTES APPROVAL

Jim Newhall moved, and Michele seconded, the minutes of the January 4, 1999, meeting be approved. The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALENDAR

Σ Sun. 2/8 VegManECS work party. Meet 10am at the Warehouse. Come out and see the flood damage thus far. They will also begin sifting dirt as the beginning process for reseeding the paths with grass.

Σ Sat. 2/13 Highway Pick Up. Meet 10am at the Warehouse rain or shine. Snow, that may be a different story. Call the site number, 541-935-7846, for an update.

Σ Sat. 3/6 The 11th annual Shy Person's Talent Show will be held at the River Road Annex in Eugene from 8-11pm. We are the show. All profits will be donated to a local non-profit to be chosen by the wheel of fate.

Sat. 3/20 PeaceWorks holds its annual Give Peace a Dance fundraiser in Salem.

Σ Sat. 4/10 Application deadline for entertainment.

Σ Sat. 5/8 The Spring Fling will be held at the WoW Hall!

Σ Charlie thanked all the coordinators, the staff, the Budget Committee and especially the Treasurers for all their wonderful work preparing the operating budget which was passed at the special BoD meeting last Monday, Jan 26.

Σ There is no Board work session scheduled for February

Σ Two new Fair babies were born this past month! Rudy was born to Carolyn and Crow Sykora on Jan 14, and Achaia Joy was born to Carolyn Hewitt and Rex from Recycling.

Forms to purchase the newly published Lane County Bicycle Paths map are available at the Fair office. The cost is \$3.

Locks of Love, the group that makes wigs for kids with cancer, sent a letter to Michele Sharpy thanking her for the dozen pony tails she has sent them thus far. Cory Sullivan (Entertainment Co-coordinator) is the latest fairy to let Michele cut her hair short (for free) to be sent to Locks of Love. A local news group would like to do a story about this so if anyone would like to be the next one... (And Arrow tucks his long ponytail under his shirt!)

MEMBER INPUT

Millie White (Traffic) challenged the Fair to consider/plan ahead for Y2K and beyond by setting aside a good portion of farmable land to be used by local CSA's (community supported agriculture) to grow food. Y2K prophecies may include the closing of our major food supply due to a lack of fuel for transportation. This may create a heavy demand for local produce. Even if Y2K is just a blip, the need for local, home grown food is great. This is a challenge to meet the needs of our community.

Etienne advocates the eradication of star thistle, an obnoxious weed, on Fair property and stop its spread onto neighboring land.

STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager. We're busy cranking out all the budget materials and developing a capital projects budget. Leslie added her thanks to the Budget Committee and the Treasurers for their very hard work during this process. Thanks to all the crews who have been so responsive as well. Thanks to the Poster and Commemorative Sales committees. The new poster is very exciting, but, you'll have to wait for its unveiling at the Spring Fling. Thanks to Craft Committee for their input on the vendor fee increase. Thanks to David Helton (Registration Co-coordinator) for creating vendor fee and revenue generating scenarios from which the BoD approved a combination package as recorded in the Jan 26 minutes. It is hard to thank the out-going coordinators enough for their great work over the past years. Kevin Dougherty will be resigning as Bus Coordinator and Nora Roberts will be resigning as Info Crew Co-coordinator. Kevin has helped negotiate the LTD contract in addition to interfacing with LTD during the event and purchasing pairs of flip-flops and old sneakers from Goodwill. Thus, people could ride the bus appropriately attired as required by LTD even tho they did not bring their own footwear or lost it somewhere during their journey through the Fair. Nora has led a wonderful and dynamic crew that has assumed many new responsibilities over the past few years: night time staffing of Info booths, neighborhood centers, and Info Path Rove. We will miss you. Thanks to Hilary Anthony for writing a response letter to the management letter from our CPA regarding the '97 audit. This helps put the management letter in context. The President and the Treasurers have a copy of the complete audit. The original is available in the office for review. Contracts have been signed with Best Pots and Autzen Stadium.

Administrative Assistant. Thanks to Etienne who has done a wonderful job organizing the basement. Thanks to Bella Wren, the Office Fairy who has turned all the files around to 1999. Thanks to Al Thomas who donated a new desk which sits in the front office. And Paxton, this meeting's agenda was posted on the web! Application season has begun in earnest; people still want to sell and perform at the Fair! norma recently bought a photo scanner. New, updated contact sheets will be mailed out this week.

Site Manager. Excerpts from the Site Manager's Report, February 1, 1999:

January has been a typical grab bag of winter weather on site: the late December flood was followed by a spell of no rain which allowed Andy & me to work in the flood plain, resetting bale dams and securing another crop of floaters. We then got another shot of heavy rains that kept the flood over Chickadee Road for almost a week. I'm disappointed in the lack of snow for cross-country skiing and hoping for February.

If you're coming out to the site to canoe the floods, please use safe boating practices: carry and wear proper life preservers, notify site staff of your plans, and be aware that unexpected swift currents and hidden obstructions exist on site. We've had accidents and close calls this winter, so please be careful, tread lightly and enjoy.

Lane County has issued us a permit for the vehicle shed without any changes from our plan and it cost us only \$933.22. ... We're tentatively planning work party weekends for March 6/7 and March 13/14.

I'm setting up rural mail delivery service for the Fair site: 24550 Chickadee Road, Veneta, OR 97487. Andyman has crafted an amazing mailbox. It will be at the Aero Road entrance. We've got a new fax machine in the site office, but the separate line for fax and e-mail is awaiting a visit from one of the communication crew tech heads.

The LUMP Committee met this past month with Alan Makinson of the Natural Resources Conservation Service about the conservation easement/wetland restoration project. We'll be filing a non-binding application which is the essential first step in the process and reserves us a spot in the funding cycle.

Lastly, regarding capital projects: Steve cannot make an accurate flood repair estimate until the floods are over. He is also chasing leads on additional rental shower units, which besides the rental cost will require water supply, gray water haul-away, and staffing from the new Hospitality/Crew Services crew who don't yet know about this possibility (Hi, Marshall!).

Treasurers. Hilary stated that the outside auditor's opinion letter says that our accounts are clean and fine. The management letter describes some operational issues the Fair may want to address but are not necessary such as using QuickBooks for payroll. It is Hilary's opinion that the Fair is in really good shape with financial reporting.

President. Jack said he'd like to initiate a President's Report so folks can know what's been brewing. This month's topic is increasing input from the general membership so that the decisions on broad policy/operational issues, especially as the Fair rejuvenates itself (a recurring theme), have a legitimate base among the fairies. Lately, many of the work sessions have consisted of sucking the brains of two or three experts present at the work session attended mostly by Board, staff and officers and maybe a few coordinators. We need to stimulate fairies into active discussion in forums on these issues. The most recent example was the work session on the membership survey which was attended only by staff, officers and BoD members. Fair family must help create the survey.

Jack is still involved with the land swap with the City of Veneta although progress is moving more slowly now. He is also active in the conservation easements process which is drafting an exploratory, non-binding agreement at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Reform. This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at the Fair office, 7pm. Anyone is welcome to participate.

OLD BUSINESS

GUIDELINES -- PREAMBLE

Charlie moved, and Jim S seconded, the BoD approve the Preamble as published in last month's Fair Family News. During the course of BoD discussion, two friendly amendments were accepted to change the following sentences. (italics = published version, bold = approved version). "Adherence to the guidelines is not optional." is changed to: "Adherence to the guidelines is essential." (Brad) "The Oregon Country Fair is a three day event." is changed to: "The Oregon Country Fair hosts a three day event." (Charlie)

Peach Gallery: Lil & Regie Soto (Traffic) think the language seems harsh compared to the 1990 Guidelines and basically repeats the Code of Conduct. Must we, also, police our own family? Anne Morris (VegManECS Co-coordinator and co-author of proposed Guidelines changes) said the intention is not meant to be harsh. But, the bottom line is too many of our family do not follow the Guidelines and are seriously threatening our land. Leslie added that the Guidelines is a compilation of Fair policy agreed to by the Board and other info about functioning on site. Each BoD has the option to change the policies. This is how we govern ourselves.

BoD: Etienne & Jack expressed a desire for more poetic language. Palmer was glad that Charlie did not accept Michele's friendly amendment to delete the sentence, "Adherence to the guidelines is not optional." He often uses a copy of the Guidelines on site when dealing with family. It is useful to have this clearly stated. If fairies are reading the guidelines then they should know they are personally responsible. Marlene's belief that "the Oregon Country Fair is a three day event" is too simplistic spurred Charlie to make his friendly amendment. Brad added that we are an essential event.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

GUIDELINES -- CLEAN UP: PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT

Charlie moved, and Jim S seconded, the Board approve a modification of Guideline 26 (Environment) as drafted by David Helton. The text with other friendly amendments from Palmer (underlined = new text) would read: ...Use existing campsites and encourage the growth of natural barriers between camps and elsewhere. <new paragraph>

Hay, straw, and wood shavings are detrimental to native ground cover and are a fire hazard. Use of these materials in booths, campsites, and other areas is discouraged. All hay, straw, and wood shavings must be removed from the Fair site or taken to a Fair-designated compost pile within two weeks after the Fair. Cedar shavings are not allowed because they inhibit the growth and are difficult to compost. Because all commercially available lawn sod is now grown with a plastic netting that is not compostable and is difficult to remove, grass sod is not an appropriate ground cover. Any carpet, cardboard, plastic, plywood, or sod used as ground cover must be removed from the Fair site within two weeks after the Fair.

Pack it in, pack it out. All plastic sheeting, tarps, carpets, bedding, buckets, milk crates, coolers, signage, and any other items brought on site must be removed from the Fair site within two weeks after the Fair. During the winter the entire site is often flooded and the flowing water moves our debris downstream. All moveable benches, tables, dimensional lumber, firewood, pallets, and other loose materials must be secured at least four feet off the ground to a booth or other existing structure (not to trees!) or taken off site.

Peach Gallery: David said this draft eliminates the fines/fees and approaches the issue of clean up with a positive, proactive manner. The original version would disproportionately fall on vendors because their spaces are easier to identify. He is willing to use the existing process effectively if Registration is notified of those booths violating the guidelines. So far, he has only heard anecdotal complaints. Other discussion included: how can we encourage more people to read the Guidelines, encourage fairies to be personally responsible, \$100 fines are punitive and insulting, some fairies need the threat of an expensive fine (three-figure not two-figure) to take action, leaving your garbage behind is insulting to those volunteers that stay to clean up the site. Historically, five volunteers would stay to clean up the site during the next two months. This was before Boards and Main Camp. Recycling and Decon exist to clean up the event, not the garbage left behind. When should the cut off date be for clean up? Mulch left on the ground more than two weeks kills the plants underneath. Many crafters are on a fair circuit and cannot return.

BoD Discussion: Fines are empty threats -- VegManECS hauled out 75 refrigerators and no fines were levied, policy needs to be integrated throughout the guidelines, need date consistency for all clean up activities. This year fairies (all clans) left enough hay to make a new compost pile as high as one flatbed truck and as long as four flatbed trucks! It was beyond the point of asking volunteers to clean it up. Palmer offered the friendly amendment that the word "should" be replaced with "must". People argue that "should" means optional. Other friendly amendments were not accepted and are presented below as separate motions.

The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Jack). Etienne voted in David Liberty's absence.

Palmer moved, and Michele seconded the Board add the following statement edited from the original version. -- "After such time the property will be considered abandoned and may be removed by the Fair with the possibility of up to a \$100 cleanup fee."

The motion failed: 5 in favor and 5 opposed (David, Jack, Marlene, Jim S & Jim N)

Charlie moved, and Palmer seconded, the Board add the above statement to read: "After such time the property will be considered abandoned and may be removed by the Fair." The fine was deleted.

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

Palmer moved, and Marlene seconded, the Board add the following statement from the original version to this passage. -- "The Site Manager and/or the Caretaker have been authorized by the Board to be available on site to facilitate interpretation of, and compliance with, Fair cleanup guidelines.

Peach Gallery: Andy said that this came from a suggestion by Robert Painter (Recycling). Having a specific contact person might help get the place cleaned up. David Hoffman (Community Village) -- Registration,

Quartermaster and the VegManECS should be handling these issues pre-Fair. Anne said this was originally put in so there would be one final voice of authority to settle disputes.

BoD Discussion: Marlene said that Steve or Andy could also designate a person or persons to handle these issues. Palmer liked the original wording because after all the part-time fairies go away the Site Manager and the Caretaker are the most important folks for fairies to know. Charlie is concerned this dilutes the VegManECS authority in the eyes of other family members.
The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed (David).

GUIDELINES --#39 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

Charlie moved, and Michele seconded, the Board approve the proposed booth construction guideline as published in the Fair Family News. After all the member input and BoD discussion the passage reads:

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 by 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. 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 post holes will be allowed within 20 feet of the banks, as they accelerate erosion.

Wood used on booths may not be painted, stained or sealed. However, decorative painting is allowed if removed after the Fair. 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.

Be careful to avoid starting forest fires. Generators must have U.S. Forest Service approved 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.

Stack dimensional debris in front of your booth for recycling. Separate and cut up non-dimensional wood to 16" firewood size for pick up. Materials inside a booth belong to the booth. Materials in front of a booth are fair game for recycling and scrounging. Anything placed in front of a booth will be removed, recycled, or scrounged.

No nailing into trees. No brush cutting. Violations may 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.

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 structures must be removed from the Fair site by August 1 as per county codes. All ground platforms in temporary structures must be taken up and stored at least four feet off the ground. The Fair may remove structures not removed and a fee may be charged.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed. Doug voted in Jack's absence.

GUIDELINES -- 40. AESTHETICS

Charlie moved, and Jim S seconded, the Board approve guideline #40 as published in the Fair Family News. Again, after discussion from the Peach Gallery and the Board the passage reads:

Booth construction should be simple, yet imaginative and attractive. Organic, asymmetrical and non-rectangular designs are encouraged. Please strive to maintain the Fair ambiance of a small temporary village. Materials should include wood (poles and old weathered wood are best) and/or fabric (canvas, parachutes, tie-dyes). The Fair no longer permits plywood, lattice, chipboard or pallets as building materials for new or rebuilt construction. However, covered plywood countertops in booths, removable plywood signs, and removable 4A ramps 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.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

GUIDELINES -- DEADLINE STANDARDIZATION

Charlie moved, and XXX seconded, the standardized deadline for removing all stuff will be July 31.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

The first agenda item was finished at 9:50pm and we took a well-deserved break..

SECOND EVENT LIAISON APPOINTMENT

Michele moved, and Jim N seconded, the Board appoint Jim Sahr as the Board liaison to Field Trip Productions for a possible second event on site in 1999.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed. Note: The Board received a letter today from Kit Kesey of Field Trip Productions. It stated, "At the present time, the former Grateful Dead ("The Other Ones) are not booking tour dates, due to the health problems of Phil Lesh. The current thinking is that the band will play limited, select dates this summer, and the possibility of a Field Trip being one of those dates was very appealing to BGP."

ADVERTISING/MEDIA CO-COORDINATORS APPOINTMENTS

Brad moved, and Michele seconded, the Board appoint Robert DeSpain and Kevin Dougherty as the Advertising/Media Co-coordinators.

Peach Gallery: We are so very lucky.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

BUS COORDINATOR APPOINTMENT

Palmer moved, and Michele seconded, the Board appoint Chris Powers as the Bus Coordinator.

Peach Gallery: Kevin Dougherty (newly resigned as Bus Coordinator) said Chris has shared the responsibility for Bus Crew for the last three years. He is the best choice for managing the crew and bus service. Arrow said he'd be willing to teach Chris how to park cars at Autzen. Kevin added that he'd be available during the Fair to help troubleshoot and interface with LTD.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION TEAM APPOINTMENT

David moved, and Michele seconded, the Board appoint Charlie Zennache to the Property Acquisition Team.

BoD Discussion: Palmer appreciates the input Charlie brought to the Personnel Committee from which he (Charlie) has just resigned. Note: Charlie stated in his letter of interest that early in his legal career he practiced in the area of real-estate law. At present, the committee consists of Tom Alexander, Steve Wisnovsky, and Dennis Todd.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

FAR SIDE COORDINATOR APPOINTMENT

David moved and Jack seconded, the Board appoint Bill Verner, as the Far Side Coordinator.

Peach Gallery: Leslie reaffirmed that this is an area coordinator appointment with no crew and no budget. Steve W appreciates the work Bill has done on the Far Side since we first opened camping there.

BoD Discussion: Brad hopes that we continue to foster good neighborhoods with more camping area coordinator appointments.

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

CRAFT COMMITTEE EXPANSION

Jim N moved, and Marlene seconded, the Board expand the Crafts Committee to 9 members from 6.

Peach Gallery: Leslie said that after meeting with Craft Committee she sees value in adding two operations staff as members. It is an important move for the Fair to build a good working relationship between the vendors and volunteer staff especially as they propose policy to the Board. Other folks disagreed. Operations staff should not be voting members. The ratio would be 7 crafters and 2 staff. Ken Kirby (Craft Inventory) who has sat in on many Craft Committee meetings in the past and said that a lot of the perceived animosity between vendors and staff is imagined. This perception dissolves when they sit face to face and work together.

BoD Discussion: Marlene appreciates David's advocacy for crafters. Brad -- "If six turned out to be nine, I don't mind."

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

CRAFT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Jim N moved, and Marlene seconded, the Board appoint Vince LaRochelle (crafter), David Helton (Registration Co-coordinator) and Ken Kirby (Craft Inventory) to the Craft Committee.

Peach Gallery: David Helton said he values both Vince and Ken's input. Dave Peek (crafter & Craft Committee member) said David Helton has been attending the meetings for three or four years now and has a good, working relationship with the committee. Ken offers a great perspective and a balance in demeanor. Vince has expressed an interest and recently began attending meetings. He has been a crafter at the Fair for a long time. Tom Heneghan (Fire Crew) has also been attending meetings. He observed that often when David speaks people disagree but it sparks things moving again and getting done.

BoD Discussion: Etienne -- Vince brings a fresh perspective to the Craft Committee. Charlie thanked Jeff Allen (crafter) for his letter of interest. However, he supports Vince as the nominated crafter appointment since Jeff's booth and life partner, Kim, is already on the committee. This opens the position up to other folks. Jack thanked Jim N for tackling this issue after all these months.

Michele moved, and Charlie seconded, to call the question. The motion failed: 6 in favor and 4 opposed (Jim S, Marlene, Brad and Palmer).

Palmer also thanked Jeff for his interest and agreed with Charlie. He, also, said that he does not believe it is appropriate for the Registration Co-coordinator to be a voting member of the Craft Committee. The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Palmer).

The meeting was extended three times and finally ended at 10:30pm. The first time the motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed. The second and third times the motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Michele).

The following agenda items were tabled: Capital Projects Budget, Vehicle Shed Budget, Donation Process, Legal Fund, Membership Survey, Field Trip, and PR Workshop.

The next BoD meeting will be Monday, March 1, at 7pm at EWEB. The agenda, subject to change, may include the tabled items above, Appointments -- Info Crew Coordinator & Recycling Co-coordinator, St. Vincent dePaul proposal to sell sun catchers at the Fair (Anne Morris), Purchasing Guidelines (Doug Carnie), New Bank Account -- OCF Land Fund at Citizens Bank (Steve W), Camping, Increase SOP Availability and Increase the Food Voucher Value, a proposal for a Public Television Documentary on the Fair and ongoing Budget issues.

Happy Valentine's Day,
Be My Peach -- Jen-lin