

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, AUGUST 9, 1999

PRESENT: David Liberty, Marlene Monette-Showker, Palmer Parker, Jim Newhall, MD, Jim Sahr, Jack Makarchek, Charlie Zennache, Brad (arrived during the Site Manager's report), and Etienne Smith & Doug Carnie (arrived during Maple Gate topic) (alternates).

NOT: Michele Sharpy and Tom Alexander.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Dr. Jim moved, and Etienne seconded that the minutes of the 7/3/99 Board meeting be approved.

The motion passed: 8 in favor and 0 opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALENDAR

Fair attendance: Friday -- 12,844, Saturday -- 16,235, Sunday -- 13,247. Total -- 42,326!

Approximately 14,500 people in cars paid to park during the event.

Terry sends thank you's to the OCF fairies who volunteered at the Vashon Island Earth Fair.

The archeological dig on site received favorable press on tv and in the newspaper.

Welcome Talon, birthed to Mike & Shadow (Crew Services) on July 31!

The sheriffs arrested 15 people during the Fair weekend. They used to arrest more than that on a single day. Ray's Market in Veneta shopping center reported no shoplifting!

Mon. 9/6 Candidate statements for the Board of Directors, to be published in the Fair Family News and mailed to absentee voters, are due.

Tues. 9/7 September BoD meeting switched because of Labor Day. The meeting will be held at Lamb Cottage in Skinner Butte Park, Eugene, 7pm. Park near the playground.

Sun. 9/12 '99 OCF Evaluation Meeting open to all fairies will be held 10am - 4pm. Meet at the Warehouse. We will use the Open Space meeting forum in which the agenda is created by the participants. The Fair will provide lunch.

Mon. 9/13 The employee evaluations meeting will be held at Central Presbyterian Church at 7pm.

Sat. 10/16 The Annual Meeting will be held at the WOW Hall, 6:30pm.

MEMBER INPUT

Jim Lind, artist and creator of this year's commemorative t-shirt design offered to sell the original artwork to the Fair. He would ask \$650 in a gallery but will sell it to the Fair for \$500. The original watercolor is done on 100% rag paper and is archivally mounted on rag board. He will donate the original black and white drawing to the Fair, also, if we buy the watercolor.

STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

General Manager Leslie Scott said she has heard nothing but positive reviews about the Fair. Everyone was so happy during Main Camp and through the Fair. It was so beautiful and well organized thanks to our fabulous volunteers. The OCF is incredible to work for and with. Thanks to the BoD for working with Operations to make it all happen. Thank you to her co-staff who have brought the organization to new heights. Also, special thanks to Tom Keller for taking such good care of the town office while we were out on site. The Teddy Bears' Picnic is a big thank you from the Fair to everyone.

Leslie just received a memo from Jim Kloos, the attorney investigating the zone change possibilities, and will forward it to BoD members later this week.

The sprinkler system was installed at the town office while we were playing in the woods. The fire marshals required an alarm on each floor which increased the electrical and labor costs. The bills are still coming in. Look for this budget item on next month's agenda. Thank you to Andy Strickland, Caretaker, for painting the pipes so they blend in with the walls.

The apartment above the office is for rent again. Leslie asked the BoD to set clear guidelines regarding who may apply to be a tenant. Should the OCF rent to a BoD member, staff or officer of the corporation if the prospective tenant met the other qualifications per the rental agency? She would also like the BoD to consider switching from a month to month lease to a longer one. This will be the third lease in less than 18 months.

The budget looks very good thanks to careful compliance with budgeting by the crews, and the excellent job done by Paid Parking, Booth Registration, Commemorative Sales and pass sales to bring in extra revenue and the incredible hard work of Advertising and Media to bring an additional 4,000 patrons over last year. We should have approximately 70,000 in excess revenue, barring any unforeseen expenses before the year's end.

Leslie spent a few days at the Whidby Institute last week. Before the end of this month, she will submit a written proposal for a sabbatical to the Board.

Administrative Assistant norma thanked her co-workers, especially Leslie who pulls it all together. She, too, has heard nothing but positive feedback. Thanks to Rob Shirey and helpers for all their work moving us out of and back into the basement. She has been putting the office back to normal and preparing for the Teddy Bears' Picnic. Barbecue fairies will be needed. norma added that she has signed her name on a zillion checks this last month. Steve Wisnovsky noted that it's good her name is relatively short!

Site Manager Steve Wisnovsky passed aerial photos of the parking lots on Friday morning (before the public arrived) and on Sunday afternoon. He plans to spend some winter days counting cars and plan methods to make us less vehicle dependent.

Steve thanked his co-workers and all the volunteers, especially those who work on preparing the site: Tree, Flower, Site Crew, VegManECS, equipment operators, and the mechanics. The site is in great shape post-Fair.. The grass on E 13th is grown for winter flood erosion control not just a beautiful path that was gone by Friday morning. Andy and Steve have been watering the paths & meadows since the Fair, and that combined with a couple days rain as we had last weekend has helped the recovery. Tiny grass shoots are sprouting up on E 13th! We didn't kill it! Many thanks to the Quartermasters and Junk Yard Dogs for facilitating the "Please Tread Lightly" policy and keeping more vehicles off the 8. Steve & Andy will core-plug and seed the paths again in September.

There are still many clean up issues for crews and booths. While less hay and straw were laid down, too much remains on site. Steve suggested that it may take an outright ban on hay and straw to show a significant reduction. Please, come and remove your debris. Do not make more work for other volunteers.

Look for upcoming work parties in September and October to finish the east wing of the Warehouse. We have yet to hear whether the County will require us to pour concrete slab in the vehicle shed. This could be another budget item.

President Jack agreed that it was a great Fair. Thanks to everyone who did their part. He said that we are beginning to feel the benefits of the past two years' budget cuts. Jack suggested that we may want to consider continuing the 2% budget cuts.

The OCF purchased the Hubbard property for \$185,000, the high assessed value of the property, as per our proposal. This is \$17,000 less than the original asking price. Mr. Hubbard has placed \$7500 in an escrow account to be used to bring the outbuilding up to code so it may also be permitted. The bid to rewire the whole building to code is \$2,890.

Marlene thanked Charlie and Jack who put in many volunteer hours (days) and took time off work to complete the purchase. She added that this work required the skills that Charlie and Jack have and the BoD should reconsider what it requests volunteers to do. Charlie noted that he volunteered no legal services during this transaction.

Treasurers Hilary Anthony requested all coordinators turn in their receipts by 8/31 so they may begin to prepare the financial statements for the Annual Meeting. She said it would be hard on many crews to do another sweeping 2% reduction. This may be assessed by individual crews. Heads up! The budget process will begin earlier this year as Leslie is leaving on sabbatical. Hilary also appreciated Martha Evans, (Swimmer & NRT Coordinator) Philanthropia Gallery at the Fair this year. It was interesting to compare the budget of the early Fair years with the current budget. In 1974, the annual budget was \$5,000, most of which was spent on straw and sheriffs.

Steve Gorham added that as well as we did financially this year, it could be gone with a blink of the eye. He supports maintaining a financial vigilance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Palmer noted that they will be meeting next week. He is also the staff liaison this month.

OLD BUSINESS

Charlie moved, and Jack seconded, the September Board meeting be changed to Tuesday, September 7, 1999.

This avoids a conflict with Labor Day.

The motion passed: 7 in favor and 2 opposed (Palmer and Dr. Jim).

MAPLE GATE

Dr. Jim moved, and Jack seconded, that the BoD allocate up to \$13,500 for costs on our property to move Maple Gate as required by the Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODoT). Background: We have been fortunate that ODOT did not require this move before the Fair as we had been notified. Construction will begin in August or September. ODOT is assuming the costs for moving the gate on their side of the property line. Robert DeSpain and Staton Construction estimated OCF costs at approximately \$13,500 which includes using clean gravel. Steve W is investigating the possibility of using the free "grindings", recycled road material from ODOT, to redirect the road on our side of the gate. There is concern that the grindings may leach oil into the soil. However, Steve W has been conducting a small experiment by covering a bucket full of grindings with water. There is still no oil skim after five days.

Peach Gallery: Steve G said the Fair can depend on Steve W and Robert to protect OCF land.
 BoD Discussion: Palmer asked if this was the blink of the eye that Steve G warned us about.
 Yes. Steve added that the original estimate was \$25,000. During negotiations ODOT has since offered to pay the costs on state land. By law they cannot do the work on our side. Brad asked if other BoD members were confident enough with Staton Construction to not seek another bid. Again, yes. Stayton has done all of the Fair's road work absolutely right at low cost. Robert has donated his time in the past.
 The motion passed: 9 in favor and 1 abstention (Doug).

ODOT MITIGATION PONDS PURCHASE

Jim moved, and Etienne seconded, that the BoD authorize Steve Gorham to move forward on the possible acquisition of the mitigation ponds along side Hwy 126 from ODOT.
 Background: ODOT is offering these mitigation ponds to the OCF for up to \$100 each so long as they remain ponds. Leslie added that the new proposed boundary line for the land swap with Veneta, giving OCF ownership of both sides of the river, would put the eastern most mitigation pond contiguous to Fair property.

Peach Gallery: Steve G reported that ODOT swore that Hwy. 126 will never be expanded to four lanes.

BoD Discussion: Jim was concerned about liability issues. Palmer is concerned that the OCF has yet to make the land swap with the City of Veneta and this property is separate from our boundaries. Jack noted that this is an easy puzzle piece that fits in with our greater vision of wetlands and riparian zone restoration plans.
 The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

LEGAL FUND

Etienne moved, and Charlie seconded, the BoD of the OCF will ensure that a Legal Fund will always s be maintained for the activities of Law Reform to continue, 'til the laws reflect the Freedom and Justice we desire for a more Peaceful World.

The BoD, by petition, may grant a donation to any like (event, constitution, etc.) legal battle from this fund for the purpose of Solidarity.

That when necessary this fund can and will be used towards any legal or reform battles of its own.

That donations of time and money may be put towards this fund by the membership and the community at large for the protection and longevity of the OCF and any other events that are harassed legally or for legal incidents of Federal and State Constitutional rights.

Background: Etienne said her original intention was to dedicate this fund in Niels Peterson's name, who was going to make a similar proposal to the BoD in 1997. Her original vision was to make the current \$6,000 law reform line item in the budget permanent. Thus, the OCF could show solidarity with other members, patrons, events, etc. facing legal battles that affect our culture and community by granting a one-time gift. She suggested that perhaps, some of Charlie's time working on the Hubbard property could be reimbursed.

Peach Gallery: Lil and Reggie DeSoto (Horse/Lot Crew) supported this motion. We need to maintain vigilance and remain informed. The kiosk at the Fair and the presentation in Salem last October are good examples of what we can do to change the laws. We need to continue to

invest in ourselves. Hilary agreed with the philosophy but this motion is too amorphous. It needs specific guidelines. The Law Reform has \$6,000 in the budget for use this year. No proposals to spend any of it have been brought to the BoD. Others agreed. David Helton added that the BoD should retain control to choose legal battles. They may still not have supported the Southern Oregon Barter Fair (SOBF). Leslie noted that no committee has its own budget. If the BoD were to proceed with this motion then the BoD should make the Law Reform committee a formal committee with BoD appointed members. She also suggested that the appropriate timing for this discussion is during the regular budget process.

BoD Discussion: Charlie appreciates the great work that Law Reform has done. Sympathetic legislation regarding civil forfeiture has passed the House at the Federal level. He noted that John Flanery (Community Village) is the chief petitioner of Oregonians for Innocent Property. However, having originally proposed the \$6,000 Law Reform line item, he did not intend to guarantee it indefinitely. There are so many legal and public relations issues about where OCF money goes. He appreciates Etienne's work on Law Reform and on this motion, but the BoD must retain control of spending. Jack said he wants the Fair to be pro-active and supports a Legal Defense Fund. We should never forget the fear of '97. Dr. Jim said he is reminded every time he sets foot on site. He prefers to change the law rather than defend casualties of the drug war. Jim supports the BoD choosing on a case by case basis. If this became a permanent budget item it would be hard to resist spending the money. Folks would say, "the money is already budgeted." David agrees with Jack's desire for a BoD Legal Fund but said that the ways of spending the money is wrong. Etienne asked to amend the motion to, The BoD will continue a line item of \$6,000 in Law Reform. As the second, Charlie did not agree and the amended motion did not continue.

The motion failed: 0 in favor and 10 opposed (David, Marlene, Palmer, Dr. Jim, Jim, Jack, Charlie, Brad, Doug, & Etienne).

Etienne said she understood why this failed. She would have liked more support with the nuts and bolts of crafting this motion from other BoD members. Palmer welcomed her to the group of failed motion makers!

ARCHAEOLOGY BUDGET

Jack moved, and Charlie seconded, that the BoD allocate up to \$4,000 for radio-carbon dating on the core samples from the recent archeological dig on site.

Background: The dig was held last Tuesday. John Stamp (Tree Crew) said they found some very interesting items. They would like to do an "accelerated test" on six pieces. The cost is \$600 per test per item. Standard tests are less expensive but require larger samples. The current studies is building on 15 years work. The oldest archeological dates in Oregon come from the OCF site. Answering Lil's question, John added that past radio-carbon tests provide keys to when this area was land surface and the process that developed the river valley. Scientists may learn new evidence that changes the pre-history of the Willamette Valley.

Peach Gallery: Leslie & Hilary advocated seeking grants from other sources such as master's thesis candidates, the UofO O Museum of Natural History, etc. John noted that the OCF has been the leader promoting this archeological study. The OCF granted \$6,500 for the original study which attracted \$35,000 more in grants for continued study at that time. John answered

Hilary's other questions: The samples are donated to the Museum of Natural History because they can physically curate the material and they are made available to all research scientists. As to the time sensitivity to do the tests, the samples have been sitting in the ground for 10,000+ years and have a storage date of another 60,000 years give or take. Regie supports this motion. This further proves the magic of this piece of land that also protects us. It has been a cultural gathering site for hundreds and thousands of years. The results should be displayed in the History booth. Charlene also favors the OCF being a leader in archeological studies and educating our community. Steve G favors this motion but not the process. He said that this is ad hoc budgeting. It should go through the regular budget process as either a special item for Archaeology crew services or as a capital project. Then the Budget Committee (BC) could consider similar questions posed tonight and then make a recommendation to the Board.

BoD Discussion: David said he favors this study, however, he would like more information including an itemized list of the samples and diagrams of where they were found. He would like an estimation of which pieces are more valuable. He also supports that any written information be shared with the OCF. He suggested this go back to the BC for the 2000 budget process. Dr. Jim supports further study but is uncomfortable spending \$4,000. He supports seeking other grants. Jack said that this is a good motion but the death knell at this time is the budget process. He cannot see the BoD supporting it outside of the budget process. Jack suggested that they consider doing a series of tests over the next several years, thus lowering the financial impact on any one year.

David moved, and Brad seconded, that this motion be tabled pending more written information.

The motion to table failed: 3 in favor and 7 opposed (Palmer, Dr. Jim, Jim, Charlie, Doug, Jack & David).

Palmer moved, and Dr. Jim seconded, that this motion be tabled for two months so Archaeology could meet with the Budget Committee. John Stamp did not agree. The motion was withdrawn. There ensued a philosophical discussion whether this is a budget or a board issue.

The motion failed: 2 in favor and 8 opposed (Marlene, Doug, Palmer, Dr. Jim, Etienne, Charlie, Brad, & David).

BYLAWS CHANGE

Palmer moved, and Marlene seconded, that the Board of Directors shall conduct a bi-annual membership survey, beginning in 1999. The survey shall be conducted with the election of directors, and shall comply with the following requirements.:

A. All questions shall be set forth as "yes/no" questions or which ask that specifically identified items be ranked in order of preference.

B. Any question shall be placed upon the survey upon the petition of not less than twenty-five (25) members.

C. Petitions for survey questions shall be submitted to the Secretary no later than the deadline for submission of candidate statements to the Fair Family News.

D. Survey questions and petitioners' statements/explanations will be included with the published candidate statements in the Fair Family News and in the voter's pamphlet. Statements shall not exceed 100 words.

E. Results of the survey will be published in the Fair Family News no later than the December issue of the year in which the survey is conducted.

F. Survey items supported by a simple majority of the voting membership will be scheduled for discussion with the membership at a special meeting of the Board of Directors, to be held in January of the following year.

Peach Gallery: Steve G said the survey is a good idea while the bylaw is a bad idea. Also, he reminded everyone that the BoD can't change the Bylaws without notifying the membership of the proposed changes. Only one letter of interest to serve on the member survey committee was received. It does not seem that folks are willing to do the work required to produce a survey. norma informed the BoD and membership that Reese has submitted three survey questions. Leslie questioned why this kind of detail must be set in the Bylaws. She wondered how the membership can be given enough background on the issues to answer in a yes/no format. Marlene said that although the membership passed this resolution she is unclear what is expected of the Board. Charlie and Jack stated that such referendums are advisory to the BoD. Palmer withdrew his motion and asked that it remain on the agenda for next month so BoD members have time to seek clarity from the Fair's attorney.

MEMBER SURVEY

Jim moved, and Dr. Jim seconded, that the Board instruct the Elections Committee to implement the member survey and follow the guidelines A-F set forth above this year. Jim & Dr. Jim accepted Charlie's friendly amendment that pro/con statements will added to Section D. Section F was also amended to read that a special meeting of the BoD will be held prior to the next Fair.

BoD Discussion: Palmer state that there would not be time to publish pro/con statements in the Fair Family News this year. Others said they could be presented at the Annual Meeting. (Speaking as a member of the Elections Committee, this scribe thinks this process puts absentee voters at a disadvantage.) Jack said he supports surveying the membership but it does not need to happen this year in this manner. It would be better to create the correct process originally. Jim said it would be disrespectful not to give the Elections Committee any instructions. Etienne said she had a very different image of what was expected by the original motion at the Annual Meeting.

The motion passed: 8 in favor and 2 opposed (Palmer & Etienne).

The next BoD meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7, 1999, at 7pm at Lamb Cottage in Skinner Butte Park. The agenda, subject to change, will include Board/member Workshop, Crew Member Rights, OCF Scholarship, Booth Skirt Boards, Elders, Zone Changes, Bylaws Change, Resolution for Hubbard Loan, Hubbard Property Planning, Land Swap, Rental Terms, and Donation to First Night Eugene. Appointments: Internal Security Co-coordinator, Buses Co-coordinator, Election Committee. Budget Issues: Purchase Original T-shirt Art Work, Purchase Fire Truck from Forrest Larson, Eugene Celebration line item, Office Compliance, and Vehicle Shed (possibly)

Minutes by Jen-Lin