

Path Planning Committee

Date: January 17th, 2010

Time: Noon to 2:00

**Location: Alice's Newly expanded Living Room
(Alice's Wonderland)**

***Agenda ***

Guest Speaker: Hilary Anthony

Preliminaries

Introductions

Attending: Attending: Colleen Bauman, Chewie Burges, Chris Browne, Dean Middleton, Deane Morrow, Dennis Todd, Jay Hogan, Jon Pincus, Michael Richard, Paxton Hoag, Diane Albino, Susanna DeFazio, Tom Churchill, Bill Wright, Sylvia Fireman, Kirk Schultz, Sue Moore, Michele Gila, Amanda Moore, Dave Tipton, DJ Rogers, Steve Wisnovsky, Ann Rogers, Wally Jones, Bear Pitts, Danielle Thomas, AJ Hazzard, Peggy Day Fitzgerald,

Announcements

We now have the URL OCFPathPlanning.org as a temp web placeholder.

3/14 will be the camping workshop that will include LUMP.

Dahinda is in the hospital after suffering a stroke.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and 2nded to approve the minutes of 12/13/09. Motion passed.

Public Comments

Suzanne thanked Steve for the *Pieces of the Puzzle* report. Cathy spoke of the discussion by the craft committee of moving the barter fair to the Dead Lot. They believe it is an operational decision but wanted to voice their opinion that the craft lot could be used for other than the barter fair in the 2010 fair. Lara will speak with Steve and Charlie about the move.

Agenda Review/Amend/Approve

A motion was made and 2nded to approve the agenda for today with the addition of introductions. Motion passed.

Staff Reports

Charlie was unable to make the meeting so Steve gave his report that the work on the website is moving forward, funding approval pending. There will be a way for Path Planning to plug in their needs. The river has been going up and down but not much erosion with the exception of near Chela Mela camping where there is bad undercut. Log jam has increased size. Ops will continue to develop contingency plans in case it they are needed due to erosion, flood or other issues. Since this is a board mandate to the PP committee, this will be discussed at the PP meeting. This can be discussed further at the 5 replacement booth item in the agenda.

Sub Committee Reports

Hilary gave a report on Chela Mela (her notes are included at the bottom of the minutes)and discussed how the lessons they learned when it was implemented could be valuable when designing potential new areas: She would be happy to give a presentation at other times too. It was opened after much discussion and study and a myriad of meetings. People were very interested. She felt the biggest mistake in the planning was to not point out all the replacement areas and to leave anything loose to be handled later. It was difficult to convince people to make the move. The open meadow was accidental but welcomed as a park-line area. Two of the views

of what it should be were to be educational or carnival-like. It is now very crowded. Early flexibility was an important asset. Staff people appointed to handle different areas were helpful. It took a couple of years of strong security to maintain the grassy area but now it is self-enforced. This last year it was a blessing during the rain and mud and most activities were able to continue. There are 15 crew and about a hundred activity managers with Hilary coordinating. She feels one of the best values is participatory cultures and she sees the benefit in other venues where the children of the fair are continuing the activities elsewhere. It has give us ideas on what people like and work well. Shaded areas, sails and/or trees. Alternate types of stages that are accessible to more people. A study pointed out that the ideal for entertainment is about 14 activities. The majority of the people are outside of a stage. All ages are interested in participating in many activities. It needs a skill facilitator to manage the people. Hillary pointed out on a roughly outlined map where different areas could be used for various activities. It has a combination of chill space and more participatory activities. It takes years of tweaking to make a new area work efficient.

There is an area for utility access.

It was suggested that the Crafts Lot drawing has good options but a bit premature. The committee appreciates the work put into the suggestions and all will be reviewed before any one plan is put into place. A suggestion was made to incorporate seating space around any food court area and the reply is that it is a part of the LUMP manual. A question was asked about if there was a difference in attitude between changes that are expected or a surprise. It was pointed out that it is very difficult for booth people to move for many reasons. The Left Bank was a forced move as a surprise but Chela Mela had people requested to move and it worked well. It is appreciated for anyone to attend the pp meetings with drawings and ideas. Any homework presentations will happen later as it comes up in the agenda. It was reiterated that the concept of big open, sunny space was difficult for the crafters to accept as they were used to shady dark spaces. What made Chela Mela possible was moving security out of the area and having the open space available. The next move will be more difficult as there is not the space available. It was pointed out that when we communicate amongst ourselves the designs are better and more people have buy in. It was pointed out that the new design didn't include the solar people from energy park. Thanks were given to Hillary for her hard work and thoughts she presented. There was an opinion that there might not be a need to change crafts lot over other possible areas of change.

Energy Park Annex-Jay

The coordinator of energy park attended and it was pointed out that the wheels of revolution (bicycle and alternative transportation) have already occurred. Steve said they are trying to move things around to allow more food booth parking. They are trying to move things out a bit but security would need to be addressed. Energy park is an integrated concept and will need to work together for a solution and if any move is made they want to move as an integrated team. They would like an area with more sunlight. The camping areas wish to stay where they are as is the case in most neighborhoods. They would prefer to expand but not move. It is felt that energy park needs a bigger presence in the fair. They want to keep who they are there and expand. The energy park people were thanked for being the stewards they are. We have their input as part of our knowledge base.

Dragon Plaza- Dean and Colleen

Drawings were handed out. They decided it was premature to handle Dragon Plaza but to manage the space in front of the fair where cart central and solar are. They reorganized the parking lot without taking any parking away and addressed the parking for vendors and staff and VIP parking. They tried to address the areas where the cars and people are merged by separating the cars from the people and setting up bicycle, motorcycle parking and a fire road access. They are trying to create two rows of reserved parking for special interests. It was also

suggested that secured pods were an option for storing wares.

Possible New Stage/Dance Stage-David, Wally, Jon

A drawing showed where a stage truck could be used for a temporary stage. A suggestion for new showers by refer camp is included. Joyful entrance is a desirable concept. It includes temporary booth spaces, open space and trees. The camping coordinators are aware that craft lot will probably be moving and some are already moving into Miss Piggie to find camping spaces. There are many more crafters out there that want to be a part of the fair and there needs to be room made. It is pointed out that it is desired to have generic things designed without pinpointing a specific area. It is good to make the sketches although we know the final result will not be exactly like any of the sketches. Some felt that small developments were important also.

Theater in the Round- Chewie

It is a large octagonal multi access stage with different uses. It would have a foldup backdrop with the ability to have more than one activity happening at once. The points that don't work were pointed out

Vaudeville Stage Workshop-Dennis

The vaudevillians want to hang on to their area as long as possible but are aware that the river could take them out at any time. They said it was important to manage sound conflict by orientation. They don't want the stage too big because they want to preserve the intimacy and don't want to be in a noisy area. Many entertainers perform multiple functions so they need a space to rest and store their instruments. They would prefer gypsy stage area to craft lot area. Any camping area should include a fire pit. They don't use a vehicle during the fair.

A motion was made and 2nded to take a 10 minute break and extend the meeting to 2:30. Motion passed.

Old Business

Prep for All Fair Family Workshop

An offering was made to the group about concerns re the charette. We need to prepare ourselves for the workshop and there is a need for a process for the design. One method is brainstorming and another is systems analysis. He has a process from the book "The Universal Traveller" available for our use and he feels it would be to our benefit. Another paper was offered to help with community process. An objection was made to the later paper that he personally had experience with the Public Forum process and it appeared to be more prohibited of the design process. It was felt the public input should be after the groups have presented their designs. This focuses the public on actual designs. It is suggested that a professional facilitator should be hired not necessarily an architect. A suggestion was made to hold the workshop over 2 shorter days rather than 1 longer day. It was suggested there be tables available at the design workshop. A reminder was that this workshop is for all fair family. It was pointed out that the public forum process allows people to hear different points of view.

A motion was made to appoint a subcommittee to plan for the logistics of the fair family workshop that includes Paxton, Steve, Dennis, Chewie, Jon, Colleen. Motion passed with 1 abstention.

Something exciting for 2010

(Pony rides - Deane) No response, just a suggestion.

Spiffing up the front entrance would be a great idea. Joyful entrance with early exposure to alternative energy. This is important to include safety issues. A concern is if something is done and then then we would have to change it in following years.

A motion was made to task the subcommittee of Dean and Colleen and Jay to come up with an

idea for the spiffing up of the entrance and fleshing out the design.

It was pointed out that this is already being done on an operational level and includes food reps, parking reps, cart central reps, etc. It is felt that a modular design would satisfy the need to not have to change it later. It was felt that the ops already is working on the idea with the needed groups and this would be sufficient. The motion was withdrawn. A motion was made that Steve W be the liason for path planning with Ops for spiffing the entrance. Motion passed.

5 Replacement booths

A concept draft was handed out that contained the ideas that ops needs to be ready for long-standing river issues and/or other emergency contingencies.

Looking at the area where it is solid camping would require moving a large chunk of campers. The area is held to one year only booths until needed. It was pointed out this is not a 5 booth replacement booth but a much larger plan that would require board approval. It was explained this was a placeholder for a capital project request but wouldn't be put into affect without more design and fair family input. It was felt that it circumvents the process and even if temporary it would displace underbrush and holds the potential of ecological damage. It was felt it need much discussion from the fair family.

A motion was made and 2nded to extend the meeting another 20 minutes. Passed with 1 opposed and 1 abstention.

It was felt that this would feed the cynicism about the fair family not being involved in the process. It was stated that the earlier that other groups have notice of changes the better. The question is how specific does the placeholder have to be for the 5 booth replacement. We need to have a plan for the budget by Jan 31. One was worried that the weather cycles are entering a wet plan and we need to plan for river flooding so we need to have a plan in place. We can apply for the budgetary funds for whatever comes out of the fair family meeting. It can certainly be a placeholder but would not be finalized until after the meeting.

A motion was made to have Steve head a subcommittee to continue to design the Gysy Way draft concept to present to the budget committee by Jan 31 as a placeholder. Motion approved with 9 for and 4 opposed.

There were archeological resource issues brought up. It was suggested to put in for the budget as a placeholder without tying it to one design. Is it necessary to think about the River Loop as an emergency. The plan violates the board decision of a few years ago to keep that area as a green area. We need to include more fair family as planned.

A move was made and 2nded to continue for 10 more minutes. Approved with 1 opposed 2 abstentions.

It was stated that this was a plan to only get the funds available. You need enough of a plan to justify the figures. It was felt that there was plenty of notice and opportunity give to the fair family to comment. There is no area in the fair to locate 5 booths.

The question was called. Motion passed.

A motion was made to continue the discussion next month. Motion withdrawn

New Business

Finalities:

Meeting Evaluation

Homework Review

A motion was made and 2nded to set next meeting time and place: Feb 21st, noon - 2 pm @ Alice's (note: date changed due to Oregon's Birthday and Valentine's Day)

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

Notes prepared by Hilary Anthony to talk to OCF Path Planning Jan 2010

What we've learned from Chela Mela and implications for Other large, open development.

Characteristics of Chela Mela that are replicable and important:

People like open grassy spaces. Activities can co exist with no distinct borders. People can sit in one place and see several types of activity. Groups that are together can stay in sight lines while one juggles and another listens to music. I think people get a feeling of vicarious participation.

We can make our own shade.

Our stages do not have to be built in contained, bowl-shaped areas. (In fact we now have limited our audiences in most of our stages by having audience space that was defined by acoustic performances... and there is no way, mathematically, that our patrons can all be at stages at one time. The vast majority of people must be outside of stages. Lots of people have given up on trying to get into audiences.

Some people stay for several shows. Audience turn over is low at many stages.) Some of that time is more pleasantly spent in a park-like setting rather than on a crowded path.

Stages work with no bowl...around the edges of the audience area, people can drift in. Big groups, like March 4th, can keep an audience dancing way beyond the normal audience area. Being in sight of a stage gives people a chance to fade in and out, and audiences can expand and contract.

People want to participate. All ages of people want to participate. Participation includes games, learning, physical activities, open mics. If we had room, we'd have hula hooping, kid's gymnastics, sing alongs, big prop-heavy games like in survivor, a mellow busker stage (with time limit), more puppet shows, sculpture installations, rituals, dance, public art building (mural painting, giant puppet building). Participatory activities often depend on having a skilled facilitator/manager/artist. We've run out of room in Chela Mela.

People come and go depending on the performance schedules. Sometimes people need a chill time. Signage does not change behavior—it provides information. Performances and scheduled activities motivate people in a time orient way. Food and craft items motivate people in a less time structured way.

Benches are vital. I cannot over state the importance of benches in bringing remote areas to life, and creating a place people use. We need more simple, storable, moveable, comfortable benches. (most we have are big, heavy, hard to move and some are very fragile)

Statistics generated by amusement parks are helpful in thinking about our density and the number of activities that should be available to people. We are extremely densely populated compared to amusement parks, and we provide much more limited access to organized entertainment (again, our limited audience areas).

I think people have a smaller chance of being able to see a performance or have a relaxing time on the path than they used to.

Relating to the rain...Chela Mela was a comfortable place to be on Sunday. Our paths were not destroyed. Our audiences stayed. Our sun protection kept out a lot of rain. Our performers were troopers. Our sound system could not operate in the rain. We were all acoustic, and it was easy for the performers, they were not competing with amplified sound from other stages.

Over view of the Chela Mela process:

Path planning considered at least 3 areas, with considerable thought given to each area. Design charettes were used to brainstorm possibilities.

The board picked the Chela Mela option (and later Sesame Way). From that time it may have been 2 years of more meetings—groups met to discuss moves in and out, design, activities, process.....The path planning committee remained heavily involved for the first two years.

We were implementing the “no permanent structure” rules at the same time as we were asking established booth people to move. That was hard. We had lots of meetings about design options for the booths and booth selection was an onsite process.

We had meetings with booth people who might move, who were neighbors, and who were being forced to move by the river. We met with security, entertainers, community village. We had meetings about design, activities, philosophy, implementation..... It was great to have people likes Sallie and Kirk involved.

My thoughts for Crafts Lot:

We need it. It will help us create quality experiences.

Take time, but do the whole development in one year. (less painful, more efficient). It will not absorb as many activities as you might think.

The scale can be larger there, but not by a huge factor.

Main initial features: a wide service road around the perimeter. Create a backstage rim...30' of service road **and** 15 or more feet of camping. If the area is about 90,000 sq ft, this perimeter could use up about a 3rd of that—and what is left will be more than 2 to 3 times the size of Chela Mela's meadow—but not that much bigger than Chela Mela when you include the booth/path areas of Wooten Way and Phun Way and Star Lane.

Think about that last paragraph—we can make a service road that goes BEHIND booths. There can be grass in front of booths. People can drive up to behind their booths to unload. (the existing road could remain as an emergency road and recycling access road)....

Leave Stage Left camping where it is. Leave Artis close to where he is. Leave as many of the campers in the tree line as possible.

Continuing on features: a super big dance stage. Performance and participatory dance. A band stand. Tango, contra, ballet, jazz, square dance, modern, ethnic..... Should be shaded by trees or tent or combo.

dome or enclosed area for performances like speakers, group meetings, tom nobby....

Morningwood odditorium to have a nicely designed performance space.

Area for hula hooping.

All necessary clusters—food booths and eating areas, craft booths, recycling, toilets, info....

It will take several years of tinkering to see what is working and to slowly add features.

The activities should not be over planned—they may need to be adjusted for a few years to get good flow and use of space. The open spaces will attract offers of sculptures, activities, etc....there are lots of groups who will set up spontaneous activities—if they just have the open space to do so.

Worth trying: an educational feature with a global perspective, some energy awareness, ways for people to become engaged with ocf as an organization, more youth driven programming. (Our 20 and 30 year olds have less input into entertainment programming than our teens do now...no wonder they are claiming the night)

Lessons from developing Chela Mela:

1. It takes time.
2. Lots of meetings. People who never come to meetings will come to these meetings.
3. It's hard for people to move
4. Booth people have a strong preference for camping behind their booths. The large food booths tend to have young workers who want to camp in the overflow camping.
5. Booth people really appreciated having a staff person contacting them and communicating with them about items like: traffic patterns, gate hours, water delivery, safety.....especially in the first 5 years. People remarked that it was different to have someone to go to who could help them get questions answered and things done.
6. In the beginning, it wasn't clear we'd get traffic, and booth people hesitated to move. It took several years of adjusting programming to bring activity to Phun Way. Now it is very alive all

day.

7. The first few years, protecting the grass was hard. Now people who are based there (with the exception of a small number), are very protective of the grass and our no vehicles (other than service vehicles) on the meadow policy.
8. We are too crowded in chela mela to have buskers...we have lost about 20 feet along the river, Dharma Garden is shrunken. The jugglers have moved more into the center of the meadow. We can no longer have the children's parade because we are so crowded.
9. Management of an area takes a balance of directing and stepping back.

Emails:

Hey folks,

Thanks for your great work!

We're Trillium Farm booth #86, in that location since '79 (earlier locations 75-78). We all camp behind our booth (primarily crafters & helpers), usually 7-8 tents, as sometimes others in our family are in other booths/crews, musicians, etc. We want to stay together. We tried to get on the lists via the website listed in FFN, but it wasn't available on the 'net.

Thanks,

Chant

trillium@deepwild.org

I recieved your email from another fair member. Said I could pass on my comments and suggestions to you.

shade-I work at piggy gate from 330 to 10. I was wanting to make a suggestion on shade. Every year there is one shade tent staked to the ground near the gate. By the time I arrive for work, the sun has moved and this shade tent is practically useless. The shade has moved so far from the gate that I cannot properly man the gate and stay in the shade. I think it would be very helpful if there was a shade tent on either side of the gate. This would make it so there is shade for the whole day and the workers can stay near the opening and stay out of the heat.

signs-Again, I work at piggy gate. Could there be signs put up that say "you will not be able to remove your vehicle until" I have to spend a big portion of time arguing with people who want to take thier cars in and out of that gate. They are not allowed to and the gate is locked. They get very angry saying they were never informed. Also, if there would be more detailed signs about the barter fair inside giving the details of when, how much, and who to contact that would be helpful.

Just a general suggestion. The crafts are getting a bit stale. Don't you think it would be a good idea if some of the long term boths developed some new crafts? They should not stop selling there established products, but maybe have a thing were they should add something new every 5 or so years. This could keep the shopping more excieting. It gets to a point where if you have been to the fair so many times, it is dull as you have seen most everything and own it already.

Thank you for listening.

Suzanne

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