

**Oregon Country Fair Path Planning Committee
Crafts Lot Stakeholders' meeting
November 18, 2012
Noon - 3 PM, Amazon Community Center**

Attending

Colleen Bauman, Justin Honea, Dennis Todd, David Tipton, Chris Browne, Chewie Burgess, Deane Morrow, Paxton Hoag, Jon Pincus, Dean Middleton, Susanne DeFazio, Steve Wisnovsky, Lisa Parker, Tom Bruvold, Hilary Anthony, Codi French, Katie Cousins, Bear Pitts, Tomas Brandt, Jon Silvermoon, Timothy Clyne, Laurie Childers, Bud Chase, Indigo Ronlov, Amy Hand, Peggy Day Fitzgerald

Introductions

Justin spoke and thanked everyone for attending. He introduced himself and Colleen as co-chairs of the Path Planning Committee. He explained it was a work session to get information from the stakeholders involved in the infrastructure surrounding Crafts Lot opening in 2014.

Background/History by Dennis Todd

The Crafts Lot turning into public space started about 25 years ago. There were record crowds in the '80s, 22,000 people in one day and without Chela Mela or the Left Bank it was a crowded fair. So, recognizing that, the Fair decided it was time to get serious about expanding the path space and the best place to move was into Crafts Lot which included Chela Mela and the Left Bank. That was all a part of Crafts Lot. We did a land swap with Veneta and gained Far Side. It was easy to move Security crew to the Far Side because there was no competition for that space. It was a much simpler effort than what remains of the Crafts Lot. The drive to open more public space slowed down because the gate receipts were not increasing but it seemed to get more and more crowded. Well, we have been doubling our internal population every ten years. We have known for the past 10 years that we must expand and Crafts Lot is the final area left. Six or seven years ago, we formed this committee and recognized at that time that we needed more path space. It wasn't just the pressure of our own expanding population but also the loss of the riverbank meant we had to move booths away from the river. The space we had set aside for little parks was being filled up with booths which were refugees because there was no other space to put them. Our open space within the fair got more crowded as we in-filled what little rest space we had. Finally, a couple of years back, the Board entertained these ideas and approved opening the Crafts Lot to the public in 2014. We on this committee had advocated that for many years and had a number of plans. We tried to look at a whole range of plans from a minimum aspect of public space which would have been a connector between Phun Gate and Mellow Space or the kids' play area. And just a minimal plan, an intermediate plan that would have fenced off half of Crafts Lot and used half for the public. The other half could be opened for the public later, but the more we thought about it the more we thought if we opened up part of the Crafts Lot, we would be setting in place things that would become 'permanentized' not because they are permanent structures but because people have an expectation they're going to be there year in and year out with the booths set up and to have to move booths because you're opening up the

whole space and they're in what was the corridor and a fence that's disappearing and booth people said we don't want that and we had counsel from people like Hilary who said open the whole thing at once. And so we decided that out of the three options, the maximum development option was certainly the best and we need that space now for paths to move. We developed a plan that would have semi-permanent booths configured in the open space of CL but speaking with Charlie and thinking about how we can give the space the most flexibility to provide the most opportunity for the longest run, we realized we really need to keep hard structures out of the open space so we can reconfigure with temporary booths for the Fair and if we have a second event after the Fair, we can configure the space in different ways for those events. That's what led to this concept here, the maximum flexibility option. We have all temporary structures with some less impermanent structures here in the periphery because we recognize the food booths need something that they don't have to take down every year. Any booth that needs a hard structure that stays up year round would be in this area.

Maximum Flexibility Concepts by Charlie Ruff

Thanks everybody for making time for this today. To me this is one of the more critical things we are going to address in the next 20-30-40 years of the Fair. The area the CL represents from the big picture perspective has multiple different potentials. One of the key pieces for this is it is a singular space that we don't have elsewhere on the site, particularly in an approved activities area. It's one of the last areas that we can expand public path space but also not just because of that but it's a unique area where the lines of sight, the open site, the ability to gather large groups of people, we can do things there we can't even dream of doing at Main Stage. That's what this space provides us and that's what leads to this concept of maximum flexibility so that we wouldn't get too entrenched in one template of structure out there, but we could, one year to the next or five or ten, have a big vision and bring that big vision to bear for a year and then do something different the next year, stay vital and vibrant for our public as well as our Fair family and not get too entrenched in one specific way of thinking. We've done that historically and had good reason for that. We wanted Charter members and early booth folks to commit to the Fair and put roots down so they would have a stake in it and it lead to the long term success, it was vital to the success but we've changed and grown through that and other aspects of CL in the big picture is to address growth, not just the physical growth but crowding on the path, placement of booth space, it's also important to revenue. The Fair at this point is this blossoming organization that's like a one legged stool, and that stool is almost entirely dependent on events to drive revenue for the organization. There are places we are trying to change that model and CL offers that opportunity. One of the things that I think really started to change this conversation a few years ago was the discussion going on by management and consultants about overall things on the fair site. Right now our nonconforming land use verification gives us very clear direction on what we can and can't do on the Fair site and when we can and can't do it and it's a pretty limited picture. We stretch those uses throughout the calendar year but it would be in our best long term interest to have better standing in compliance with Lane County and one of the ways to do that is to submit a special use permit which would be an overlay and sit on top the nonconforming land use verification that allows us to do the event in perpetuity under those guidelines as long as we don't take a year off, we don't get a breather year at any time in that process. That leads to an almost intuitive feeling about

the CL as we look at things we do that are second events already or pre-Fair events like the construction party that happens almost every year and post-Fair events like the Beaver Open, the Cross-country run that happens, and I hope other people sense as I do that CL creates an opportunity for a stand-alone venue for additional events and the beautiful thing about the special use permit is it will make our current outside the Fair uses compliant and will allow us to use the fair site year round in ways that we haven't technically been allowed before and to envision other evolution. One of those things would be using that CL venue for additional singular events. That is a variety of things, I'm not trying to pin that down to one thing or another, everybody can fantasize about what that means whether a little summer concert series or some other type of event. There's lots of different things that could happen in a space of that size that could be easily controlled. To deal with our own internal growth, the move to CL was always going to happen as it is the last space we have to really use as a tool to manage our future growth and I mean our internal growth. There has been a lot of discussion going on and going through this process as to how it is going to look. How do we engage booths to make the commitment to move there if we can't get some type of zoning, which is a new kind of idea in the Fair world in terms of the end use, for booth use or use of space in general, common space, the potential for CL is endless if we do it properly and thoughtfully. Obviously there is some sacrifice and hardship that comes with that. Hopefully that will be minimal. The greater good is the long-term health of this organization. Folks will at some point see the necessity of moving into CL and having it be a play space for the rest of the year and we can continue to dream and do other things and make us less dependent and give us more options for our benefit and that is our primary purpose and always will be.

Site Manager Steve Wisnovsky speaks.

Small space and a lot of people; We are putting more thought into how to handle that. There are many reasons for opening up CL. To me the most compelling reason is the river. It continues to erode our banks and booths have had to move off the edge, Dana's has moved, Mario's has moved, Flying Clipper has moved. We have in-filled and utilized park space because we don't have other space. We have in-filled to take care of small problems but in the back of our minds there has been always the possibility that one year we will come out and find out that we don't really have a practical way to keep Upper River Loop alive. We've lost path access around Shady Grove and we're right on the edge so we should be mindful that someday we may need to replace major performance spaces. We continue to work at small-scale solutions and that is why we need to figure out how to utilize a big space.

Charlie said he wanted to speak about the necessity of booth replacement and the fact that if we do this properly, is that we can open this up, that the booth population of the Crafts Lot will not just be new people coming in from outside to swoop into this thing, in fact my intuition is exactly the opposite, we will reach out to the existing Fair community first and foremost and say here is an opportunity and that can allow some creative change inside the existing figure eight as well, create some back spaces for change.

Hilary: It's not just booth space, in Chela Mela, the Yes You Canopy used to be parallel to the river about 10 feet to those maples that got planted and about 10 feet to the barrier

and about 8 feet to the river bank and we've lost about 25-30 feet of river bank just in Chela Mela, that's a lot of public space that we've lost. We've wondered over the year if we were going to lose Dharma Garden but it is stabilizing but it's much smaller than it used to be. We can use the entryway into Chela Mela camping.

Justin: We have formed a subcommittee of Path Planning that incorporates other people of the fair, Craft Committee and Food Committee and we are going to establish the priorities that Charlie mentioned. And it is not a first come first served land rush but we are going to establish priorities based on various different factors in terms of how this movement goes to Crafts Lot. There is a desire in the craft community to get back to where they were prior to losing some booths to get back to 250 and food booths are a little more hesitant in terms of adding more food booths to the Fair. In Registration we have what we call Solutions, people that are displaced crafters, displaced for various different reasons, and we are trying to take all these factors into consideration in terms of making the decisions and being transparent in these decisions and having some priorities in how this movement goes in how to do things. There will be new craft booth just to present us with exciting opportunities, we are calling it zoning, defining a new way to do what we do. We are looking at it from the standpoint of portability of structures, the ability to have new crafts coming in and out of there create new areas, have portable arcs, just basically creating the space to let it reinvent itself and it is really an exciting concept and I really appreciate Charlie championing it as well as this committee from a standpoint of presenting it in this light. I think we will be out there talking to people, if you are in the Upper River Loop we are going to be there communicating with you we are going to be asking you questions and trying to get a sense of the priorities in terms of who is going to move and why and that there is reason for it behind it. We have some time to do that. Definitely there is going to be a lot of outreach going on in the community for various different participants in the process which we are developing in order to move the Crafts Lot. With the Crafts Lot maximum flexibility option, these are our goals. (pointing out on the map)

Please note that all the plans are preliminary and conceptual right now. The whole map is just that, a concept. There are elements that we have identified as elements but the stakeholders that are here in front of us might not want to be in Crafts Lot, that is an option as well. These are what our committees have identified as potential players within Crafts Lot.

Steve added that the river continues to take land and will take our upper loop some day and also Shady Grove so we'll need to find a new home for two stages and 20 booths.

A brief discussion was held on; Who are stakeholders? This focused on the fact that we have two distinct groups of stakeholders, infrastructure and puzzle pieces. Today's meeting was on infrastructure.

Hilary Anthony (Chela Mela): Tend the grass in Crafts Lot. Phun Gate, Morningwood Odditorium, puppet theater need changes. Crafts Lot needs a draw.
Chela Mala- traffic flow/concern for stage #2 and "ballroom"

Bear Pitts (Water): Need to complete water line loop around CL. (Relayed from Archaeology: they need shade.) Additional storage and pumping capacity was built up this last year at the Chicken Ranch. Some questions were raised about the concrete reservoir, which was addressed later to be adequate for the foreseeable future.

Fire- Tom likes the existing plan. Access is important. We now have stations at Phun Gate and the Bus Stop. The two stations could be combined with those apparatus, perhaps where designated near Dragon Plaza location on Map 4. There might be concerns about having the apparatus too close to the "action"/mud/early staging during pre-fair /need to enlarge the NW passage (Reefer Pass), Ho Road, and Phun Gate access to 30' for large vehicles. It would be good to have Fire sharing a counter with a Whitebird outpost.

Lisa Parker (Whitebird): WB has more questions than answers. They don't want another hospital, but maybe an outpost, like Odyssey. A second 24/7 center in CL is crucial. Where is the ideal location for where our field hospital should be to best serve our 440 acres? Far Side needs to be served also.

Traffic- quick access and the defining of arteries is a key to building up new flow patterns. Understanding the three traffic times, Pre fair, Fair, Monday. Creation of new roads in the South Woods that include gator paths, truck paths and tender roads. Each day we need to have traffic flow maps made available for each day. Maps are desperately needed.

Amy Hand (Recycling): Put recycling stations near toilets. Recycling stations are very moveable. Better two large stations than several smaller stations. Food courts need to get serviced. Kiosks should be in the shade. We now have three stations in Crafts Lot--Ho Road, Wind Gate, Decon. New stations will be needed in new camping areas. Access roads are important.

Timothy Clyne (External Security): it's hard to tell now what type of security fencing and how to staff gates. We'll need things to firm up. We have to get rid of the old dangerous wire fences. Camping changes are huge for External Security. Changes to front of Fair, CL and access road changes will affect external security locations. Not too many new staff will be needed but restructuring of existing staff will have to be done. New "line in the sand" will be set as we move our camping out further into the parking lot. Clearly the front of Fair discussion is critical to where and how we manage the public.

4-A Growing need for the Fair. Putting everyone that has accessibility needs at the front of the Fair is not possible. Perhaps we need some mechanical solutions in place. Our family needs to respect better the parking restrictions we already have in place.

Back-up managers - We will help institutionalize the direction that comes from these conversations. Management team has discussed this. Creating program and crowd management for the area is going to be a large task for all management teams. Experience says that no matter what we plan and start it will change over the years. It's important that we allow this to happen in an organic manner.

Jon Sinclair (Dog Pound): Could add rest area for service dogs/animals. Usually have 2 - 3 dogs rescued out of cars. They have a vet, food, meds. They need a public interface. Could work together with Whitebird to store meds, provide services to dog owners. Could switch camping from CL side to Miss Piggy's side of woods. Has 23 tents and cars.

Laurie Childers (Stage Left): Sound conflict is a concern. Needs specifics about what new venues there might be. In addition to concerns for sound corridors and sound pollution they have concerns about porta-potty siting.

Dance Pavilion- Dance bands can be very loud. We are concerned that we would create issues because of that.

A discussion about whether Arch Park will fit into the new space. This led to a brief discussion around whether or not Energy Park, Arch Park, and Community Village get second locations in CL because of earlier discussions.

The question was raised: What does this look like in twenty years ?

Camping plan kind of defines the boundaries for the new front of Fair and CL discussions.

Meeting evaluation...

Kudos to all.

There is a concern about a conflict on March 17th meeting.

It's good that the committee is organized and it is appreciated.

The civility that exists among the stakeholders is greatly appreciated.

The path planning committee is on the oregoncountryfair.net site. Check us out. If you need to reach us you can get email there.