

Front of Fair subcommittee meeting June 20, 2016

Oregon Country Fair (meeting at LCC, thanks to host Dean)

present: Colleen, Dean, Justin, Dennis (scribe); by computer, Crystalyn and Shane

Add to stakeholders: Grumpy and Charlie Z, who are the area's BUMs.

We addressed two different surveys, one for Fair family and the other for the public.

Questions that could be incorporated into a written survey for Fair family, primarily Operations:

What needs improvement? How can we make the improvements? Where is the public the most confused? What additional resources or amenities does the public need? Are there areas of operational conflict? What are your crew needs that are not being met? Would you be willing to be interviewed by PPC members?

For the public survey, to be administered by interviewing incoming guests:

What works? What doesn't? How many years have you attended OCF? Did you drive, ride the bus, walk, or ride a bike to the site? How long did it take for you to get from your vehicle to the admissions gate? Were your needs for water, shade, seating, and toilets met? What could we do to make the way in even more enjoyable? Was your experience on the bus good? Did you find your way easily from your car to the admissions gate? Was your experience going through the security check pleasant? Do you need a designated meeting spot? Could you get help or information when you needed it? Were people in OCF staff shirts helpful? If you walked from a neighboring campground, did you find the way clearly marked and safe? Do you know what services we offer (e.g., White Bird, Info) and how to find them?

We should reduce the list of questions to half a dozen. Use a response scale from 1 (lousy) to 5 (great). Make the question format consistent. Offer the opportunity for extended answers.

We could get some of this info by direct observation and from time-lapse cameras.

We should contact local campground owners to see if we can improve their clients' access.

Personal Interviews with stakeholders have been successful in getting information that might not show up in a written survey. Let stakeholders know that they should take notes for later interviews. We need to go the extra mile to include stakeholders.

Justin will announce at the June-July BoD/potluck and coordinators' meeting. Crystalyn will be the backup for Justin for meeting presentation. We should have the operations questionnaire ready to distribute at the coordinators' meeting. We'll collect the info and do the interviews later.

We could follow the survey model used in the sound survey—ask Amy Hand about how she set it up.

Justin will contact Paxton about time-lapse cameras at the FoF.

Crystalyn emphasizes getting impression from the public about security, the Line in the Sand, and the length of time from the car to the admissions gate.

We could interview bus drivers after the Fair—what could we change to make things better? There's a bus supervisor stationed at Aero/Nansleez.

We could announce on the Facebook pages that we want feedback on the FoF.

Pull bullet points from the LUMP manual and the FoF meeting 4 years ago (appended to these minutes).

Crystalyn: Mid to late August is the best time to get feedback from Operations. We have a volunteer who could launch social media questionnaires on Friday (Facebook, etc.)

Set up a questionnaire for the public to post online.

Ask Elders and PPC members to stand out in front to interview the public.

Dean will contact Elders.

Meeting adjourned.

from the LUMP manual Corridors & Entries plan

Problems

- There is not enough open space for the public.
- Shade along the corridors, especially to and from the parking lots, is not adequate.
- Security may be difficult to maintain in parking lots and along corridors.
- The walking distance from the distant parking lots to the entrances may be excessive.
- Pedestrians and vehicles occupy the same roads.
- Egress from the parking lots may be slow at times.
- There needs to be more effort devoted to developing a sense of growing anticipation along pedestrian paths.

Goals

- Joyful entrances and exits; both portals and lateral views from buses and cars should be attractive.
- Shady and inviting pedestrian corridors with rest areas.
- Accessible alter-abled parking.
- Building excitement and anticipation along pedestrian corridors.
- Quicker and easier travel between parking lots and Dragon Plaza.
- Paths for pedestrians only; roads for cars only.
- Expanded public space west of Dragon Gate.
- Securable control points and boundaries.
- Less traffic congestion on public roads.
- More and wider egress routes.

Implementation

- Enlarge and increase the numbers of entrances and exits at public highways.
- Landscape, decorate, and place interpretive signage at entries, exits, and along corridors.
- Enhance Indian Creek as a pedestrian path; provide rest areas, entertainment.
- Establish security points, perimeters; maintain long axial views, water barriers, brush barriers.
- Provide shuttle services to and from parking lots, satellite lots, neighborhood campgrounds.
- Increase the use of alternative transportation.
- Expand public area outside Dragon Gate.
- Discourage pedestrian traffic along Highway 126.
- Facilitate safe pedestrian traffic along Suttle Road.
- Remove or screen unsightly features such as recycling stations and work areas.

Excerpts from the Entrances Path Segment Study (2009)

Strengths:

The most extensive connector area of the fair, offering the first and last impressions to the fairgoer. Vegetation in Indian Creek, the Dragon Plaza, and bus entrance previews the forest ahead. Dragon Plaza is exciting and attractive. Good wheelchair access. Many services available to the public. Main Camp and Fair Central are close to admissions gates, providing security and supervision. The best solar exposure for alternative energy demonstrations. Good shade at bus admissions gate. Close-in parking for special needs.

Problems:

There needs to be more effort devoted to developing a sense of growing anticipation along pedestrian paths. There is not enough open space for the public. The walk from the parking lots can be long, hot, dusty, and bleak with sparse shade, few rest spots, and little to build excitement. Inadequate signage and directions. Security may be difficult to maintain in parking lots and along corridors. Foot traffic and vehicles share roads. The area west of the dragon plaza is dry and dusty. Fairgoers waiting in line have little shade. There is no designated smoking area near the bus stop. There can be a bottleneck at the history booth and Auntie Em bridge. Egress from the parking lots may be slow at times.

Goals:

Joyful entrances and exits; both portals and lateral views from buses and cars should be attractive. Shady and inviting pedestrian corridors with rest areas. Accessible alter-abled parking. Building excitement and anticipation along pedestrian corridors. Quicker and easier travel between parking lots and Dragon Plaza. Paths for pedestrians only; roads for cars only. Expanded public space west of Dragon Gate. Securable control points and boundaries. Less traffic congestion on public roads. More and wider egress routes. More alternative energy demonstrations, satellite Energy Park.

Implementation:

Landscape, decorate, and place interpretive signage at entries, exits, and along corridors. Remove, beautify, or screen unsightly features such as recycling stations and work areas. Spotlight some recycling efforts. Establish security points and perimeters; maintain long axial views, water barriers, and brush

barriers. Plant trees, install benches and shade structures, and provide entertainment along Indian Creek. Continue Indian Creek enhancement. Expand Dragon Plaza to the west and incorporate current area into the Fair. Build new dragon incorporating solar panel array. Designate smoking area near bus stop. Use banners, fabric dragons, other decorations to mark entrances. Provide shuttle services to and from parking lots, satellite lots, and neighborhood campgrounds. Maintain special needs parking availability. Increase the use of alternative transportation. Discourage pedestrian traffic along Highway 126. Facilitate safe pedestrian traffic along Suttle Road.

The minutes from the [Front of Fair BoD work session 2/11/2012](#) are available here:

<http://ocfpathplanning.org/studies/FrontofFair2-11-2012.pdf>