

Path Planning Committee
February 15th, 2009, Noon to 3 pm
Alice's living room

*Preliminaries:

*Introductions

The meeting began without a quorum. Participants arrived over time. No formal introductions began the meeting. Present were Colleen Bauman, Dennis Todd, Susanna DeFazio, Kathee Laure, Michael Richard, Steve Wisnovsky, Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Bill Wright, Jay Hogan, Dean Middleton, Chris Browne, Jon Pincus, Katie Cousins, Paxton Hoag.

*Announcements and public comments were combined as we discussed how Genevieve's proposal would be supported and implemented by operations.

*Approval of Minutes (Jan. 18, 2009) The minutes were unanimously approved without amendments after a quorum was reached.

*Staff reports

Steve reported that there has been no major erosion and little flooding on site. We are likely to have escaped catastrophic erosion this year.

*Agenda Review, Amend, Approve

Jon argued against further planning on the Gypsy Way area until we had examined all options and completed overall planning. There was confusion on the intent of the motion that he proposed at the previous meeting, which he thought precluded further planning on the area until all options had been examined and others thought precluded construction but allowed planning. Dennis: We need parallel tracks, with both short-term planning and long-term planning happening at the same time. Jay: We need to keep our focus. Dean: We need to present some ideas to the family soon to get feedback. Chris: We're re-arguing old issues. Jon: Crafts Lot would be easier and quicker to develop than the pony ride area, argued for a systematic approach to planning. Michael: Last year's small projects were successful, and if we can do something to reduce congestion on East 13th we should. Steve: This committee and the board need to address conflict of interest issues that affect the planning and decision-making process; personal interests should not hinder planning for the good of the fair. Paxton: We should prepare posters for this year, for two or more big projects, to stimulate discussion. Dennis: Crafts Lot will involve greater investment and displacement than Gypsy Way. We should prepare proposals with three levels of development, from green zone restoration to full build-up. Bill: We should do what we can now and not wait until we have everything together. Jon: Gypsy Way area is important as green zone, advocates of development try to overpower these considerations.

Colleen, as chair, withdrew one of the agenda items, Round 4 of the path segment study (already done), and replaced it with consideration of the 5-replacement-booth yearly mandate. The Gypsy Way and long-range planning issues would be addressed only if time permitted. The agenda was approved.

*Sub Committee Reports. No reports were made.

*Old business:

Five replacement booths.

Cathy: Craft Committee, Registration, Craft Inventory get the number of booths that will be available then try to get space for new artists; supports increasing the number of booths. Jon presented a proposal to put a path around Kids Loop for the five replacement booths. Bill: We need to bring in new people, new vitality; our own population is growing but we need new crafters. Steve: We can't direct people to go down certain paths. Maybe we need to foster booth swaps between people who aren't happy with the traffic on their path. Dennis: We shouldn't do anything with Crafts Lot until we have reviewed the whole Crafts Lot. Cathy: Promises were made to the vendors moved to the area from Strawberry Lane to complete their path into a loop. Paxton: Jon's proposal is a good first step, likes multiple options. Michael: Entrances could be added to direct people to certain areas. Colleen explained her conflict of interest; the proposal would affect her booth and her neighbors, pointed out that it won't be easy to take over the old alley, which has been used for booth areas and camping. New entrances could lead to a lost lane effect. First, do no harm. Jon: The proposal would take away the service road and move the toilets. Everything would be temporary. Development could be incremental, with a stub-out for five booths. Dean, in an aside, asked whether we could create a subcommittee that identifies booths whose "ownership" is being transferred so that they can be made to move or be rebuilt to widen the path. Kathee: Avoid temporary solutions—it can take years to rebuild clientele at a new location. Chris: The whole Crafts Lot master plan should be developed and presented to the family before implementing Jon's plan. Jon: Temporary booths worked last year and would work here. Steve: The Booth Construction Manual (see www.oregoncountryfair.net) encourages setback. Crafts Lot development needs water system upgrades, which are underway. Colleen summarized the discussion and pointed out that Jon's proposal would have serious impact on three booths. A straw vote was taken; most voted to postpone Jon's plan until a full Crafts Lot review has been done. Jon and Paxton voted to have it as a stand-alone item on next month's agenda.

*Remaining Path Segments, Round 1 and 2

1. Main Stage. Strengths: music, gathering, food, medical facilities, toilets. Problems: Hand washing station distant from food booths. AAAA area and access lane need protection from interlopers. Bridge to Far Side is crowded. New path opportunities include Kilgallon Acres, Graceland-Abbey Rode connectors.

Sesame Street. Sauna, Ring of Fire food booth are strong draws. Suffers from new loop syndrome with low traffic, lost vendors. Good shade, services and seating. Signage not clear, needs stronger visual draw. Good respite from Main Stage. Concrete structures multiplying near Sauna. A loop within a cul-de-sac.

2. Off path Venues (Community Village and Energy Park). Strengths: Non-profits, education, entertainment, showers, open space, filtered drinking water (CV). Sometimes too crowded. More benches needed. Satellite venues needed, with solar access for new EP site near Dragon or in Craft Lot. We could incorporate big trees across from CV entrance into public space. Toilets are a big problem—smelly and busy. Brush along connector between CV and Shady Grove makes passage claustrophobic, stinky. Recycling station difficult to access in this connector. New path opportunities between EP and booth across from CV entrance, between EP and Gypsy Stage.

Meeting Evaluation: The chairs apologized for having to ask speakers to cut their time short and implored the members to be succinct in their statements. Some members expressed gratitude for the facilitation.

Homework Review: Members were reminded that we will soon edit the LUMP manual sections on loops, corridors, and entries and that we should re-read and edit the text before the meeting.

We set the next regular meeting time as March 15 and voted to add meetings March 1 and April 5. All meetings will be at Alice's, noon to 3:00 PM.