

Oregon Country Fair *
Path Planning Committee
Date: September 20th, 2009
Time: Noon to 2
Location: Hub Yurt or check sign at Hub

Agenda Path Planning 9/20/09

Preliminaries:

Introductions

Colleen Bauman, Steve Wisnovsky, Chewie Burgess, Dean Middleton, Deane Morrow, Bear Pitts, Bill Wright, Wally Jones, Diane Albino, Sylvia Fireman, Noah Gray, Tom Hyers, Tom Churchill, Ann Rogers, Jon Pincus, Charlie Ruff, Sue Moore, Paxton Hoag, Jay Hogan, Chris Browne, Michael Richard, Marcus Hinz, Cory Henning

Announcements

Only committee members can vote. Please turn off all cell phones. A card is available to sign. Some are up for re-election to the Board and please do vote. The minutes and agenda for Path Planning will now be posted on the website. The first budget and financial meeting will be held at 2 PM. There will be an October 11, 6 PM celebration of life for Wally Slocum at the WOW.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of May 17, 2009. **Passed unanimously**

Public Comments (and emails to date)

The committee received seven emails from Fair Family with input for future path planning issues and those emails will be attached to the current minutes and also sent to the committee as they arrive. The emails came from James Smith, Peggy Wendel, Eben Sprinsock, Tom Sackett, Mouseman, Artis and Hilary Anthony

Agenda Review/Amend/Approve/Adapt

Motion made and seconded to approve the agenda. **Passed unanimously**

Election of Officers (Chair, Vice Chair or Co-chairs, Recording Secretary)

PeggyDay was nominated and seconded for recording secretary. Motion passed unanimously

Colleen and Dennis were nominated and seconded for co-chairpeople. Motion passed unanimously

Staff Reports

Steve gave an abbreviated report on the fair and said it is greening up. It will be further discussed during debriefing. Deane offered the help of path planning if wanted/needed for mud help and it was felt that staff could manage that well. It was suggested that path planning keep these issues in mind when forming future areas. The technical issues will be looked at for future path planning. It was suggested to use the information from archeology who has good knowledge of the geography.

Marcus asked if anyone had any questions he could answer. He was asked about the web site and he said the rfp was out for bids both to local companies and posted on Craig's List. Expected start of work around the end of November. This will be a significant shift in capacity and an improvement in level. A content management system that will allow posting what the committee wants and needs. This will spread the workload out and make it more efficient.

Fair Debrief

The Elder's Still Living Room was a resounding success. A question was raised about why there was a 12x100 ft fence in an area behind the Front Porch that was being kept pristine. The answer was it was expedient due to a tree falling in a camping area and operations made the decision. It is temporary and still being worked on and reconfigured. 3 camps were displaced. The objection was made that it was an area that had been kept green for 20 years and it needs more discussion and planning. It was thought it was necessary to allow the staff to make those decisions when the need comes up on site. We need to maintain balance and allow ops to make these decisions but perhaps to discuss protocol for these kinds of issues. People need to not make assumptions as feelings are hurt when miscommunication happens. The committee was reminded their role was to advise the BOD. Thanks were given to both the staff and the committee for the dialog and thoughts given to these issues.

Sub Committee Reports

None

Old Business

Attendance and Quorum Policy Review/Amend?

Do we want to make a protocol requiring if missing 3 meetings in a row they should contact the committee or lose their spot? Do we want to make it so that whoever shows up constitutes a quorum? Do we ask members who don't attend to become inactive? A discussion can happen without a quorum but not vote and due to the weighty subject matter we should enforce the quorum. One possibility is even with a lack of quorum, a unanimous vote would be valid but if contested could be revoked. Maybe 50% of the committee and 1 guest could constitute a

quorum. Perhaps the recording secretary could check with someone who has missed 3 consecutive meetings. Vision Quest is evaluating efficiency of committee meetings. Have a temporary inactive list? Are there members who have been missing for a number of months or do the long distance members inform when they are not able to make it? With the goal being that the membership be full, active and involved, a motion was made.

A motion was made and seconded to reduce the required quorum to 8. It is important to have the members involved and active. It was stated that by definition, 8 out of 18 is not a quorum. The motion was **withdrawn**.

A motion was made and seconded that the co-chairs would come to the next meeting with a motion concerning the quorum issue. **Motion passed with 1 abstention.**

Questionnaire feedback

Wally discussed the area he participated in the survey of Gypsy Way and spent a few hours discussing the area with the campers currently there. He pointed out on a map, the quantities of campers including an area where Recycling has overflow camping of 30 people, not because they wanted to go there but because there was no room in their main area. The Gypsy Stage camp, 50 people, requested that they have an area near their stage to camp and they need to be all together and have shaded camping. Phoenix Rising has 50 campers. History booth has 17 campers. Bauer camp is 14 people. Babes in the Woods are 38 people. Gypsy Cafe has more uncounted. Veggie Heaven has 14 campers. The camping is in the understory and some of the camping areas dry out only about 2 weeks before the fair. There is a central area full of blackberries and trees with possibly one camp. No one is totally against moving but each want to move as a group and want shade. One area seemed to have non-affiliated campers or people who didn't want to give their affiliation. Measurements were taken and detailed drawings were made. Did we not get the survey questions answered? We should contact the appropriate people to ask those specific questions. Not enough survey papers were made available and the questions set up by the committee were not a part of the papers. The questions were condensed. Some survey papers were given out. Some people did get back re the survey. We know some people got the papers because the emails mention them and questions were asked about them. Mostly the papers were given to the camp hosts. There were misunderstandings about what was actually being requested. We should address the actual 5 questions. Will this work out to a longer time-line?

Crafts Lot map is a Google photograph of the area with fair depictions of the camping areas. The numbers in individual camps is not available but the full area is estimated to be around 1000 to 1900 people. Part of the survey was not done due to the inclement weather on Sunday. Most of the camps are vehicle camping. We need to keep in mind that some campers are singles from vendors and not affiliated with any of the official sites. Old time campers don't want to move and others don't care as long as they have a place. They would be happy to move for the sake of the fair.

Take the survey and post it in the FFN. The 5 questions were reread and they will be posted along with the maps.

We need to consider some of the other areas like Dragon Plaza.

Mass Meeting, Planning,

Paxton put on the Board agenda to have LUMP and other groups review new camping areas in October.

It is felt we need to have a meeting looking at camping before we have the mass meeting. We need to show the future displaced campers that we have considered much of their needs before the mass meeting. It is felt it should be held off to allow the time to study the issue. It is felt we are not yet ready for the mass meeting. It is felt that it is too early to set a date and that it can be set out with 6 weeks lead time. Can we concentrate on the Camping solutions and the mass meeting as our full October agenda?

A **motion was made and seconded** to limit the October meeting to concentrate on the camping solution, mass meeting and yearly plan.

Passed with 6 for, 3 against, 1 abstention.

Postponed:

Date Time Place:

Facilitator:

Outreach/Publicity

Process/Goals

New Business

Yearly Work Plan

Camping Solutions

Mass Meeting

Finalities:

Meeting Evaluation

It was agreed that much work has been accomplished and much left to go. Very productive and open for information. It was felt that much discussion could have been skipped and allowed more time for the survey input. Thanks were given to co-chair and recorder. It was reassuring to hear the dialog. We can learn to be more succinct. It's good we remain civil even with diverse opinions. More maps are available. We need to concentrate on supplying something of interest to attract the Public for the 2010 Fair.

Homework Review

Jon will continue to work on his maps.

Confirm next meeting time and place: **October 18th, noon at the Hub.**

Motion to adjourn made and seconded. Passed unanimously at 2:08

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Friends of Path Planning

This is a one-way program that distributes only.

Send your opinions or requests to the Path Planning Committee:

Fair Family input emails received for September 2009

1.

hello all,

it's great to see effort put into gathering info, ideas, involvement and feelings about future path planning issues before anything gets decided...

it sets a precedent we can all benefit from and i appreciate it a lot, so thanks!

in case you don't all know me my name is "jar", i am a co-coordinator with construction crew and spend over a month, sometimes two, camping and working on site.

i live in "decon" camp next to "dog" camp ("El Woods" and N-43 on the map) and helped establish this camp over 20 years ago back when it was the worst possible place to live/sleep. between the dozen or more dogs constantly barking and the unmuffled generator for the reefer trucks, no one wanted the space back then, but now it has developed into an amazing spot with much fair history.

there are more than 50 folks who live in the decon trees and car camping spots we have been taking care of for all these years, so your future choice will effect us a lot.

i could talk story for hours about this, but i will try to stick to the point... i don't want this camp moved, and if crafts lot does get turned into booth areas then i think it best to keep staff between the "inside" areas and the "outside" for security reasons. (we stop sneakers, crashers, and scavengers from taking advantage of this weak spot in the line)

our crew all camps together and many travel from far away places and need to car camp for the time we are here. and please keep in mind that though we are called "decon" and our work officially starts the monday after the fair, many of us need to be here pre fair to help with other construction projects too. if crafts lot gets used as you propose then please consider keeping us where we are and allowing the car camping part of our crew to just move to the other side of the trees near the reefer trucks in miss piggies. we want to stay together as a family, we have staff needs to be close to our tools, protected from the "outside", and to remain close to main camp and the places we work.

crafts lot does make sense but will involve a huge shift for ultimately hundreds of camping staff who have been here for well over 20 years and spend weeks/months volunteering. i don't envy your workload at all!

that's a lot of grumbling to have to listen to and change will be difficult for all us traditionalists.

when i look at the gypsy park area with all the shade and very few campers at all i can't help but believe it would ruffle far fewer feathers to expand the fair in that direction.

as i said before, i could talk about this till i we all get bored, but if there is ANY more info you would like to ask me about i would be happy to respond.

be well, take care of the volunteers, and i look forward to the future growth.

thank you all,

-jar, construction/decon co coordinator and 24 years on staff.

James (jar) Smith

2.

Concerning Stage Left and the Craft parking lot.

Two issues: facilities and decibels.

1) Vehicle access, sani-cans and recycle facilities make it possible for us to work the parade and stage.

Many of us at Stage Left are on a tight schedule. We dress, rehearse until the last minute, parade around the fair then onto the Stage Left stage. Then it's either into the orchestra pit for the show or dash backstage for a costume change and onstage for the show.

This scenario is fairly unique to Stage Left because many of our musicians and actors work double duty with the parade.

I don't have time to run out to a public toilet and stand in line. Nor is there anywhere to put an instrument while I'm inside.

Our vehicles serve as a safe lock up for valuable instruments and costumes as well as storage for any number of things we may need for emergency costume/prop creation/repair. It's not practical to drag everything out that we may possibly need. Much is done on the fly. No puns intended but I can think of three. (That's the problem with vaudevillians. We think funny.)

I like our camp. It feels like home and I'd like to stay there. However if we must move, let it be with facilities. When we moved before, facilities were part of the deal.

2) Plan for sound.

We are blasted by amplified music from at least two sides so that we are limited in what we can do in our camp. It keeps us awake when we would like to be sleeping. In my opinion, the worst thing is that we can't play our own acoustic music and build camaraderie in camp. We have to raise our voices to have a conversation.

Rather than having our own scene, we have to leave camp. And our valuables, which are better locked in vehicles.

A few people playing amped up music is an oppressive, bullying force that blasts an area far beyond where people are enjoying it. And it eliminates many small scenes where people can play acoustic music, share jokes, have magical discussions.

Some of the fair's magic is dying out for many as a few crank it up.

Let us plan an area where decibel despotism can rule and their ample amps be contained.

And give us the freedom of our airwaves.

Sincerely,

Peggy Wendel

3.

Hi path planners,

I'm Eben Sprinsock, leader of the Fighting Instruments of Karma (marching band), and leader of the stage band for Stage Left. I am concerned about the possible development of the Craft Lot as a new path for the Fair.

We used to do our show at Chumleighland, which is now W.C Fields. When the new path across the Long Tom was developed, including Chela Mela, we agreed to move our show to a new stage, which became Stage Left, to help anchor the new path. As part of this move, we were promised some things, including porta-potties back stage, a water line to backstage, access to the Craft Lot to load in and out from our vehicles, and parking and vehicle access in the Craft Lot so that some of us could camp in our vehicles. Over the years we have taken advantage of these things, and now a significant portion of our Stage Left family camps in vehicles parked behind our camp in the Craft Lot. The backstage porta-potties help make sure that our parades and shows are on time. (We never did get that water line, but we have backstage water barrels which work almost as well.)

If we lost the Craft Lot and a new path appeared in its place, we would no longer be able to have our backstage porta-potties and we would lose our vehicle camping. If this was to happen, I would favor moving to a new stage where we could have these things again, or I might just stop coming to the Fair (I'm getting to old to run to a public potty before a parade).

Thanks for listening.

- Eben

4.

Hello path planning people,

I'm a member of the marching band, the Fighting Instruments of Karma, and play in the Stage Left show band. I've only been part of the Stage Left family for about five years, so I don't have the long-term perspective that some others might be able to offer. However, I can tell you that having facilities at Stage Left has been critical. Many, if not most, of the band members work both the march and the show (which both happen twice a day) then perform in the bands for other scheduled shows on other stages. I see this level of participation not just in the musicians, but in the actors and stage workers that make up the Stage Left family, and in both the older generation and the younger players. Working this kind of schedule requires a lot of organization and coordination, particularly for those of us who have families who are also participating in multiple shows. Without having Stage Left as a home base, this just wouldn't be possible. I can't see this level of participation being maintained without the backstage and vehicle camping, the porta-potties, the water barrels, and storage for performing gear. In particular, having Stage Left be the center of both our performing and camping lives at the fair makes it possible for those of us with young children to participate as much as we do.

We all know that the Fair is a changing, evolving thing, and that we can't expect our stages and camping areas to remain exactly as they always have been. However, community is precious and, maybe, a bit fragile. We've seen how communities outside the Fair have been lost due to destruction of their infrastructure, or their access to resources and services. The kind of community that has grown up around Stage Left is exactly what the Fair is all about.

I hope that you will keep this in mind in your planning process.

thanks,
Tom Sackett
Fighting Insrum

5.
Howdy path planners!

Mouseman here; for those of you who don't know me, I have been a security guy for 32 years and now (for the past three years) work with Zak & Charlie Z in Humanistic intervention training. During two of the past 3 years I had the kettle corn booth; one year in Arch Park, the next year in Chelamela. I am also a Fair "neighbor" whose property is almost immediately next to the Fair. I am telling you all of this because it is germane to both my suggestions/ideas and as a continuation to a concept that Leslie (ex GM), Heather (my wife), and I had spearheaded three years ago that we have been calling "the disappearing booth" concept.

It became apparent to us that as the Long Tom eroded away and displaced some long standing booths, the reduced space could, in fact, accommodate a smaller vendor with a small footprint especially if there was no necessity for included camping. We went to Leslie with the idea of a small booth that did not "own" the spot, and when the fair was over; no trace was left. We volunteered to be the guinea pigs with our Fair approved altered pop up booth. Part of my deal with Leslie in running this experiment was that everybody who worked as part of my booth would camp at my property, off the fair property to minimize an already overcrowded scene. Granted, part of this concept was used to help us get to vend at the fair, however I had been toying with the idea years before I got into the kettle corn business because it was apparent that there was a need.

Everybody knows that there is a huge list of crafters and would-be vendors who have already been juried in but have no place to sell. Every year these same folks are pleading to share a booth space with some one lucky enough to have a spot. Additionally, there has been grumbling of lack of new stuff at the fair. What I am proposing is that a sizable part of the inevitable expansion (most likely in Crafts Lot) be put aside for the exclusive use of a revolving variety of craft and food vendors who do not "own" the spot but have a one or two year use of the spot. My vision is kind of like a mid eastern bazaar with small footprint "booths" that will completely disappear when the fair is over. Additionally, a requisite for all those who are part of these booths is that they camp off the fair property at one of the many camp grounds provided by the neighbors. This will help to keep the booth footprint small and minimize the necessity for more large camp areas. Wrist bands, of course, will be provided but the agreement will be for them to camp off site. Now, some might say that this concept is creating two different classes of fair family, but I'm betting that it will be happily agreed upon by those who really would like the opportunity to show and sell their stuff. Plus it will be a revolving ever changing bazaar of new things to see, smell, taste and buy. It will open up an opportunity for already juried crafts persons that heretofore did not exist and that, I think, would be a popular destination for the visiting public.

I am sure that there are many things that I haven't thought of or considered that might be good or not so good with this concept; that's why I'm sharing it with you. You asked for input so we could work on our ideas together.

IDEA # 2

MOVE ENERGY PARK!

To those who are imbedded there, this might go over like a turd in a punch bowl, but here it is; Energy Park has out grown it's spot and the most important green energy sources e.g.

the Sun and the Wind are rapidly becoming unavailable in Energy Park: the trees keep growing and the Vegmanecs don't let you cut them (that's a good thing).

I have to admit that this epiphany is not mine. The guy who brought it to my attention was the guy who brought us the "Sol-man" mobile solar plant to the fair this year, which was an enormous hit. He pointed out that without (ever disappearing) sun and (no) wind, the major technological advances necessary to help wean us off fossil fuels cannot be properly demonstrated what is now Energy Park. I mean; solar showers and bicycle powered blenders and bike seat vibrators (huh?) are entertaining but there are important advances that have been made and we haven't seen anything really new at EP since the "Heart Interface" inverter was introduced there about 20 years ago. Also, the electric cars and other alternative (veggie oil etc.) fuel conversion options are not being displayed. People don't like seeing vehicles in the 8 even if they are electric. I met a guy this year at one of the neighbor camp grounds (Dr Joe's) who had a 45,000# bus with a restaurant in it. The guy had converted it to run on veggie oil and was getting 20-26 mpg!

Hell, 30 years ago Silver Bear used to drive to the Fair in his 1950s International Harvester school bus (home) that ran on gas or propane or wood (gen gas converter)! This kind of thing and others should be available for all to see at the New Energy Park out where there's lots of room, where the Sun shines and the wind (possibly) blows: maybe Miss Piggy? After all, isn't one of our goals to be an educational resource? This move would also open up the old EP as an additional space for some of the juried crafters who are begging for a spot.

OK, my fingers are getting tired and my brain is melting. I'd love to sit with all of you and expand on these and many more ideas.

Peace & Love,

Mouseman

6.

Concerning the 30' x 50' area I've occupied, along with several other peeps, with occasional varying area size; I am not concerned with management/Board/Craft Lot, whatever/ whoever's decisions. My base desires to be territorial, self indulgent, manipulative, domineering, remain unchanged, but the changes at our Fair are miniscule and inconsequential.

Today, I couldn't care less. Tomorrow - big deal. Your memory is better than mine. Mine is selective and skewed. Any discourse you need with the others in that area, is your business. The peeps I know for sure who will be affected are; Lynne Brown w/Laurel Grove, or Lynne Brown's Pottery; Ted Johnson w/Real Goods or one of the booths in Energy Park; Lynne is on-line, Ted is not. There are others, but I don't remember who. I pay little attention to other than my self.

Speaking of whom; I'm a user, an opportunist, an ass-hole, a passive/aggressive wanker, a whiner and a feigner of affection and attention. I am all the other loser adjectives that come to your minds.

I'll keep this note to refer to when I feel like retracting any part of it. For (whatever) 35?36 years, this Fair has been a dangling jewel of cultural influence to me. I have experienced the largest concentration of encouragement, on those protected grounds. Enough to distract me from the cretin I actually am.

You can remove me from this and all other OCF lists, please. I need a break from me, and all illusions, accusations, submissions, denials, trials and successes I imagine.

If you haven't heard/read from me by May, don't expect to. If you have, tell me to ☺🐷☺ off. Dare you!

Artis

PS: Don't trip on the camping spot. I am sincerely not concerned. If anyone discussed it with Beth (bless her loving heart), 2 or 3 years ago, she would have told you the same then.

7.

I just learned that you had solicited input on the craft lot as an expansion area. I hope you will consider this input as being received timely.

As a neighbor of the crafts lot by virtue of my involvement with Chela Mela, I have some specific ideas of dynamics pulling on that area.

There is huge demand for open areas.

I get many requests for large installations and activities that cannot be accommodated in Chela Mela. We have become popular to the point of being over crowded. (note we have lost about 20 linear feet in bank over the years, so we have more people and a lot less space). An example of an activity that we cannot host safely but would be great in the crafts lot--hula hooping.

We have asked path planning to consider include a reorientation for the Morningwood Odditorium as the Craft lot is developed. It is a very popular participatory stage that could remain near where it is.

I ask that you keep in mind that Tom Noddy would still like to be performing in a dome--and that type of space can be used for other focused activities as well.

Entertainment coordinators have talked for a time about wanting to have a dance stage--a large dance stage. Imagine a very large stage that can be used for participatory dance like tango, salsa, african...as well as performance dance....

I think these 3 attractions--Morningwood Odditorium, LARGE dance stage and Dome are all that is needed as attractions. add activities such a kid's tumbling area, a puzzle installation, a hula hoop area..Add some services and infrastructure (info booths, maybe whitebird....) and then with a couple of food courts and a cluster or two of crafts booths--voila.

I've walked the crafts lot and talked with our cartographer about the size and layout. I absolutely think the whole area should be opened at one time. It is not nearly as big as you might think. Most of the rest of the fair is so crowded. (Let's do some research into the density of people and attractions that are common to events and attractions--If I remember my reading, folks want to experience about 8-10 attractions a day, read performances or activities--not gridlock)

I think that this is a great chance to rethink how we design public space.

Access roads should go BEHIND booths. Imagine an access road along the tree line...with booths in front. That leaves the meadow free from impaction, dust and mud.

In chela mela, we have demonstrated that stages can be in open areas and that we can create adequate shade. People enjoy being in an area where they can see folks who are doing other things.

I hope we can figure out how to leave stage left, and its camping/parking, where it is. I know it created a donut hole, but I think it is easier than alternatives.

I also think that many of the crew people who are in the treelines would be able to stay where they are.

thanks for all your work.

love,

Hilary Anthony

Chela Mela Coordinator