

Oregon Country Fair Path Planning Committee

February 19, 2017, noon to 3:00 at the OCF town office

minutes

Present: Craig Butler, Otis, Members and Staff: Tom, Dennis (today's scribe), Sue, Ann, DJ, Sylvia, Shane, Crystalyn, Jon; online: David and Paxton (excused: Amy and Kirk)

Announcements.

Shane, Crystalyn, and Stephanie have been meeting with scribes and trying to develop standards and incentives for note-takers at committee meetings. They recognize the need for committee minutes and how difficult it is to recruit and retain scribes.

Dean: The second annual KOCF fundraising will occur on March 18 at the Deepwoods Event Center.

Dennis: There will be a workshop focused on stickered parking on March 5. E-mail Stephanie to reserve your place.

Crystalyn: The Diversity Task Force will meet on March 12 at the LCC Longhouse. E-mail Stephanie for sign-up info.

Sue: Next Sunday, Feb. 26, there will be a bingo fundraiser for the Caring Fund at 76 W. Broadway, 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Minutes were approved without changes.

Public comments.

Craig, a booth holder on Pike Street, said that food booth lines at the junction of Pike Street and Sesame Street often block the path. He measured the longest line and mocked up a roped queue line just as long. He brought photos to show (off-season) how the queue, folded back and forth, would keep most of the path open. He also pointed out that Pike Street gets dusty. Water Crew fills a barrel with water that he uses to dampen the path, but often runs out. He would like a tap into the water lines to control dust.

Dennis: The Water Crew historically has been very reluctant to grant non-Crew access to the water lines.

Colleen: PPC should take on the issue of developing roped queue lines as a test this year and adapt the technique more widely if it is successful. Sue said she would take some of Craig's photos to the Food Committee. David: A roped queue line has been used at certain booths on E. 13th. Red tag crew can work with booths. DJ: The roped lines would have to be removed at night.

Paxton: Saw Nature Commode humanure toilets in action at a festival at Astoria, met with NC representatives. Toilets were odorless and might not need daily truck access.

Shane: Spoke with NC a few times. They don't have the capacity to cover our whole event. Their capacity is 3,000 people now.

Paxton: A pod of 20 toilets might be worth trying as a test and demonstration.

Dean: Might be a good solution where frequent service by a pump truck is not feasible.

Otis: Worked at the Pickathon, saw a few issues with NC toilets.

Staff reports.

Crystalyn: Lots of meetings. No news on the SUP. Barter Fair won't happen unless we have the SUP by the Spring Fling.

Shane: Two floods in the last month. Back and forth with Lane County Land Management Division. We may have limited construction activities this year if things aren't sorted out. There is a turnover in management at the Division and, as seems to happen every 15 – 20 years, we need to re-establish the relationship.

David: Construction Crew coordinators are planning to hold meetings to try to develop plans to accommodate the LMD.

Shane: There have been three floods this year. There was less ice damage on site than in Eugene. The Story Pole installation has been approved and is on schedule, not affected by OCF negotiations with LMD.

BoD liaison report. Ann: There wasn't much at the latest meeting re path planning.

XAG report. Shane: At the last BoD meeting, five new coordinators for Xavanadu were appointed—three for Art Stewardship and two for Flow Arts, with 40 people on each crew. XAG is stepping back and handing matters off to the new crews.

Subcommittee reports.

Colleen: Front of the Fair group met on June 20, came up with two surveys, one for the public and one for the Family. They defined the audience, outreach, and stakeholders to interview.

Crystalyn found the survey questions developed last year and will e-mail them to the committee. Tickets West has email addresses of ticket buyers—they could refer the survey form to them.

Paxton: We need to check on the survey done last year, wants to work with the survey crew.

Crystalyn: There isn't much duplication between the survey done last year (mostly demographics) and the proposed survey.

Ann: What is the status of the carving area subcommittee? Archaeological permits are done for the pole installation.

Colleen: The subcommittee is on hiatus. She will re-convene the group.

Crystalyn: The pole raising will be by invitation only.

Work plan review.

Next month: Still Living Room, Memoria Space, survey crew guests.

April: 50th Anniversary guests.

Old business.

Map work focusing on sound corridors, busker places, smoking stations, Sesame Street path segment review, Dragonfly/Pooh Corner stage, Library.

Sound corridors.

Paxton: Big maps show stage orientation, may be used to determine sound projection. Volunteers to work on sound corridors.

Dean: What is our focus? To minimize impact on nearby stages and/or neighbors?

Dennis: There is a map on our website that shows sound projection corridors from Xavanadu that minimize impact on neighbors.

Jon volunteered to work with Paxton on sound corridors.

Colleen: Amy and Justin worked on sound issues.

Dean: Monitors on Main Stage may be audible behind the stage.

Busker places.

Otis: Buskers at Arch Park benches can block a path at the junction. It's an intermittent problem.

Colleen: What is OCF policy on buskers?

Crystalyn: Ambience coordinator manages buskers.

Sue: Peace Parker is used by smokers almost all the time. The smoke can drive buskers and audience away.

Colleen: Do we want to be proactive and develop a map of busker spots?

Crystalyn: Let's wait until we hear from Ambience.

David: We try to preserve areas like this when relocating booths. Buskers will go where they want. Crowds are part of the ambience.

Otis: Fair Central hears of path blockage by buskers, then relocates or stops them.

Smoking stations.

Jon: It's hard to understand why we still allow smoking when Lane County parks and the UO campus are non-smoking areas. There is no way to confine smoke to the smoking areas.

Colleen: The BoD allows smoking. We need to implement policy.

Crystalyn: People will smoke. We should encourage Fair family to use smoking areas at night. If we don't have smoking areas, people will still light up.

Dean: We no longer have anyone coordinating smoking areas.

Paxton: We need to mitigate smoke drift.

Sue: Lots of crew folks said enforcing smoke-free would be problematic. Place smoking areas away from drinking fountains.

Colleen: We need more discussion about controlling smoke drift. Smoking places should be away from food, water, toilets.

Dennis: Could we have only two smoking areas? At the entrance and near Main Stage? We could incorporate one into the Main Stage plans. Having fewer smoking stations allows greater investment in smoke control infrastructure at each.

Tom: We should focus on protecting public health.

Sue: Should we include in the public questionnaire a question re smoking? A number of BoD members want to address smoking. There might be energy to limit areas or develop infrastructure. We could have a BoD workshop on smoking.

Sesame Street path segment review.

The study needs updating. Dennis volunteered to revise the text.

Craig: Sesame Street needs a banner or sign to point the way.

Dean: The gravel in the area around the Ritz is not barefoot-friendly. There are three or four possible busker areas on Sesame Street.

Dennis: There is too much noise in the Dragonfly/Pooh Corner area. Not a good place for buskers or scheduled performers.

Jon: A stage manager could regulate performances.

Colleen: Should we change the stage to seating? Or a non-amplified youth stage?

Dean: We have lots of venues for music performers. Could we designate it for non-music performances? An art stage—watch an artist at work? Mimes?

Paxton: Food booth people thought a little stage would be good. Nobody ever authorize a stage there—it was built by happenstance. It would better be used for seating than performing.

Colleen: Let's urge Construction to make it seating.

Tom: There is a member of Construction who supervises and maintains this area.

Library.

Paxton was contacted by Jim Evangelista regarding the plan for this area.

Dean reviewed the recommendations of the December subcommittee roundup.

Dennis: Bear Pitts is our point man for the neighborhood.

Shane: We identified stakeholders, but staff doesn't have time to set up the meeting.

Crystalyn: Maybe we could meet with Library stakeholders at the walkabout before the April PPC meeting.

Colleen: The invitation should come from the PPC, not the Upper River Loop subcommittee.

Will do email invitation to stakeholders.

Sue will write and submit a notice for the Fair Family News and will include the invitation in the BoD report.

Homework.

Colleen will contact the 50th Anniversary folks to schedule a guest speaker, send the Front of Fair survey to the PPC, reactivate the Story Pole carving area repair subcommittee, contact Ambience re: busker policy, email to Library stakeholders, send Crystalyn a link to Oregon State law re committee meeting minutes, and invite Elders to the March meeting re Still Living Room. Dean will help Colleen.

Jon will help Paxton with the sound corridor analysis.

Paxton will sketch sound corridors on the Communications map.

Dennis will update the Sesame Street path segment study.

Crystalyn will get in touch with the Survey Crew and invite them to the March meeting or another meeting.

Shane will reach out to Ambience, can get the busker policy information.

Sue will take the proposed food line control photos to the Food Committee, begin a workshop on smoking, and write up a notice for FFN re April PPC walkabout.

Evaluation.

Alice's is a good place to meet, but meeting at the town office in January and February has been good.

Future meetings.

March 19 at Alice's, April 23 at the Hub Yurt (10:00 walkabout at the Library), and May 21.

Adjourned.