

Oregon Country Fair Path Planning Committee March 19, 2017. Minutes

Present: Committee members, staff, and Board members: Paxton Hoag, Jon Pincus, Susanna Defazio, Dennis Todd (scribe pro tem), Tom Churchill, Colleen Bauman, Sylvia Fireman, Justin Honea, Dean Middleton, Amy Hand, Crystalyn Autuchovich, Shane Harvey, Sue Theolass, Ann Rogers (absent: Kirk Shultz [excused], Spirit Leatherwood, David Tipton [excused])
Guests: Doug Stejskal (Vegmanecs), Kehn "Mambo" Gibson, Otis Gray, Bear Pitts, Robert "Mouseman" McCarthy, Heather Kent, Shelley Hanson, CJ Rogers, Kristie Krinock (Survey Crew), Brady (booth L34), Doug Roberts

Announcements

The Spring Fling will be on May 6, 6:00 PM, at Whirled Pies, 8th and Charnelton in Eugene.
Justin: Lots of commitments, needs to take sabbatical as committee co-chair until after this year's Fair. Booth Registration needs a new co-coordinator, requires considerable commitment. Reported that management and Board members are working on developing a scribe tribe.
Colleen said she is willing to chair solo for the time being.
Jon: The WOW Hall election is April 12 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes were approved 6 yea, 3 abstentions.

Comments

Otis (Sylvia's son) has been attending the committee meetings, has decided he wants to become a Board-approved member. Is especially interested in path open space, pre-post traffic in the loops. Motion to move approval vote on Otis's candidacy from New to Old Business made and seconded, approved 9 to 0.

Mambo floated the site five times this year, saw problems of fences, constructions, and floatable trash revealed by floods. High flow rates undercut fences, booth fronts, other features. Mambo and Paxton want to create a map of water flow during floods and identify problem spots.

Dennis: The LUMP committee supports this project and will help facilitate.

Justin: The Food Booth crew checks out booths after the Fair to make sure everything is put away properly.

Brady: Traffic at the end of Star Lane, where his booth is located, has dropped. What can be done? More signage, different name?

Justin: There has been dialog about better signage in this area.

Shane: Jay Hogan is making new signs, could make one for this area.

Justin: Signs and banners crew will push this forward.

Paxton: Entrances that are lightly used must be made more attractive and magic.

Susanna: An archway is better than signs, which are easy to miss. It could be a big banner.

Paxton: Saw in Mexico multiple overheads made of paper cutouts all the way down the street.

Agenda review. Approved 9 – 0.

Staff reports.

Shane: There were several floods this year, three fairly large. The log jam is moving downstream. It's illegal to remove wood from the river. Has acquired several videos of flood currents. Strawberry Lane took some hits. Expect 5 to 7 years before it is not usable as a path. A tree uprooted near the MOST booth and fell almost across the river. East 13 had quite a bit of surface erosion. We need to add soil this year. No bale dams were installed this year, which showed the need to reorganize the bale dams. There wasn't much tree loss this winter, but lots of flood damage. Work parties will start as soon as the weather permits. There will be limited building this year because of negotiations with the new staff at Lane County Land Management Division. The Dance Pavilion is part of the negotiation. No news on the SUP.

Crystalyn: Busy getting ready for the Fair. A new food booth will take the place of a retiring booth. Staffing is increased at Little Wing (Whitebird's annex in Xavanadu).

Sue (BoD): Food booth replacement, capital projects were approved.

XAG: Justin said that new coordinators and crews were BoD approved for Xavanadu; XAG is backing off. The passport program is expanding this year, will include prizes, such as 2018 OCF passes, Zumwalt camping passes. A capital project was approved for infrastructure at the Dance Pavilion.

Ann: The passport program brought people all the way from StewardShip to Arch Park.

Mouseman: How do fairgoers learn of the passport program? Info should be in the Peach Pit, at neighborhood campgrounds.

Crystalyn: It was in the Peach Pit last year. We may mail info along with tickets.

Bear: Map crew is setting up a GPS phone test, with location cradles in several areas as a treasure hunt, with data to be downloaded to a laptop computer on site.

Subcommittee reports. None.

Work plan update. April: Fiftieth anniversary guest speakers. Get topics for next season. Library path walkabout. May: Dust report, potluck, confirm work plan.

Old business.

Mouseman: Still Living Room needs a new, larger location. Ideally, a contemplative spot, with wall space for time line panels and memorabilia, not right at the front of the Fair. Relocate to Spirit Tower?

Jon: Spirit Tower venue has a following, mainly young people. Don't cancel the program.

Paxton: Spirit Tower is not a good venue for the current programming because of its location.

The current users might not follow the rules about sound volume limits. Main Camp might be a better space for Still Living Room, but vacating Main Camp may not happen for years.

Tom likes the idea of combining the Library and the SLR, maybe near the Sauna, at the carving area. Otis: The carving area is a smoking zone.

Amy suggested Wally's Way, which would put the elders near Child Care, for a multi-generation area.

Susanna: The front of the Fair is not a good place for SLR and Library, which are respite areas that would be bypassed on the way in and out.

Paxton: A huge tree fell across the fence at SLR. The area will need repair this year, and we could expand the SLR space by moving the fence.

Justin: We need a history archive, which management is working on. The SLR could include opportunities to archive crafts and hold workshops led by elder crafters.

Colleen: Workshops might be better close to the front, which points toward Wally's Way.

Mambo: We could show the work behind the craft jurying and management.

Ann: Workshops at Arch Park are popular and often packed.

Colleen: We need to set up a subcommittee to plan the future of SLR. Volunteering: Jon, Paxton, Dean, Sylvia, Mouseman (convener), Bear.

Memoria.

Justin: Memoria has been a topic of conversation about location, expandability, a reflective place. One idea is a metal tree sculpture with metal leaves commemorating members who have passed away.

Paxton: Still Living Room does this commemoration now.

Dean: Is metal too hard for OCF aesthetics? Maybe ceramics? Permanently installed? Concerned about the extra work for Decon and Ambience to take down and put up every year.

Amy: Should be accessible to public and Fair family to leave tributes.

Jon: Metal sculptures are part of our traditions.

Susanna: Is this in the purview of ambience? If there is to be a sculpture or installation, we should call out for proposals.

Colleen: Should we bring this up with the 50th Anniversary Committee? Installation should provide shade and shelter. Our job is to find a location.

Crystalyn: Include Sallie in the discussion; she is an advocate for memorial in Xavanadu.

Susanna: Main Stage might be a good location.

Justin: The Labyrinth is a good place for reflection, has a quality of a spiritual journey.

Tom: People will leave things in memory. Who will clean it up? What will happen to the things left?

Discussion of the design of the memorial tree sculpture followed.

Survey Crew. Crystalyn met with Kristie Krinock, of the Survey Crew, and gave her last year's survey results. We could e-mail a survey to ticket buyers.

Kristie: The Survey Crew does surveys before, during, and after OCF. Two professionals are on the crew.

Justin: We want to do an internal survey on the front of the Fair experience. How can we improve things from the Line in the Sand to the entrance?

Kristie: On-line surveys are tough to do. Paper is better for an on-site survey. The shorter the better. Multiple choice or fill-in-the-blank, not essay questions, which are tough to quantify and evaluate.

Colleen: We could do one-on-one interviews with crew coordinators. Could we survey entire crews?

Kristie was thinking of single-person interviews.

Heather: There is an audience for external surveys at neighbors' campgrounds. Hosts could distribute and collect questionnaires.

Kristie: Not sure about insurance coverage for off-site volunteers.

Dean: The Neighborhood Response Team could be helpful in contacting neighborhood campgrounds.

Amy: Coordinators could send questionnaires to crew members.

Justin has made a list of front-of-Fair centered crews to focus on.
Kristie told her crew to be prepared to work whenever OCF needs them (Wednesday pre-Fair through Monday).

Committee membership.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend that the Board appoint Otis Gray as a new PPC member. Approved unanimously.

Justin: We need to examine our membership and recruit new members according to the committee's needs.

Accolades for Otis and his continuing participation.

Colleen: We should do a call-out in the Fall for new members who can fill some needs in the committee, especially youngers.

The BoD members on the committee will announce to the BoD the committee's support for Otis when he is considered for membership.

Colleen will analyze the membership, touch base with absent members, and see what new members we need. She will also convene the carving area subcommittee.

Crystalyn will contact Sallie about Memoria.

Justin will talk to Kristie about the survey.

Dean will work on finding notes from the carving area subcommittee meetings.

Ann will look for her notes on the carving area.

Next meeting. April 23, at the Hub Yurt. Meet at the Yurt at 10:00 for a walkabout to Sesame Street and Library. Guests at the meeting: 50th Anniversary committee.

Everyone: E-mail items for 2017-8 work plan.

Subcommittee conveners should get in touch with subcommittee members and figure out what and when to report.

Bear: Who wants to work with Cartography to edit maps? Contact him.

Colleen will send to Mouseman the Still Living Room subcommittee members' names and contact information.

Colleen: Read the agenda and develop ideas before each committee meeting.

Representatives from Daredevil Palace will be coming from Seattle. Shane will let them know of the 10:00 AM walkabout.