

Path Planning Update

by Sallie Edmunds, Back-Up Manager

This article is the second in a series to try to keep fair family members involved and informed in the planning of our new path.

Lots of people stopped by to see the Path Planning display on the Youth Stage and later on DeSpain Lane or attended one of the three community meetings that were held on site. They expressed various ideas for the creation of a new full service loop and other ideas for tinkering with our existing path area to make it work better for all of us. People also expressed concern for those who would be displaced by a new path area and those booths needing to relocate to reduce congestion or to make way for the fire breaks.

Some of the ideas that came up during the meeting are noted below. In certain cases general comments, concerns and types of support for specific ideas are noted.

What are some of the ideas under consideration for the new path?

There is considerable interest in moving Main Stage to the Crafts parking lot or Security Camp. This idea has come primarily from staff people. We would appreciate vendor and entertainer input. There is also interest in moving the bigger acts out of the ever eroding Shady Grove stage to a new stage in Security camp. This concept has some support from people from a variety of perspectives.

Clustering food booths in "cul de sax" (dear norma) or "food courts" with common dining areas is an idea that gained considerable support at one of the public meetings. This concept could be applied to our existing path or designed into a new loop. Existing locations that seem workable are along East 13th near Main Stage and in Way Back Way near Arc Park. This has support from some food vendors and infrastructure service providers.

Several ideas have been generated in the Pike Street/Kilgallon Acres area. One idea is to eliminate the Pike Street/Sallie's Alley island to create a plaza and push a new Pike Street loop up toward the fence line and swing back down by Childcare. Another scenario reconfigures the area near Childcare into a Plaza that includes relocated booths and a large vault type toilet to replace the sea of portable toilets. Some people have commented that the area close to the fence line is too smelly (chicken farm) to be suitable for a path but there is general agreement that the area in front of Childcare looks terrible and needs attention/reconfiguration.

Another scenario utilizes the area near the pony rides to create a new loop area. This area is as large as the security camp area and almost as large as the crafts lot. A loop in this location could link in with the back of our new beautiful Gypsy Stage. One concern is that a path in that area might not get enough pedestrian traffic without a new attraction.

There are no plans to consider using the land across the river for the replacement area. Our non-conforming land use classification which allows us to have the OCF on agricultural land only applies to the OCF's original property. Therefore no public use of dahinda's acres or the land across the river would be allowed by Lane County.

These are just a few of the possibilities. A large meeting is scheduled during the OCF picnic (August 17, 1996 at 3 pm at the Energy Park Stage) to discuss these and other alternatives. We will have maps/drawings to illustrate the various design concepts.

What other ideas for activities are people thinking about?

Meeting participants have had lots of good ideas for activities and stages, especially those that reflect both the OCF's mission and commitment to diversity. Suggestions for a dance stage; a space for jam sessions; educational areas such as a Cultural Center, natural history

walks/Eco interpretive area; an OCF current activities display such as watershed planning, wetlands, endowment; a politics area; a new non-profit area; a special display area that would change every year; a demonstration area; a participatory area (juggling and beading workshops; OMSI/Exploratorium type); an interactive theater area; a place to showcase Native American culture; a special staff area; a new children area possibly operated by local schools; open space not dedicated to any particular use.

Which booths need to relocate?

The booths that we would most like to relocate are those that were undercut by the river or have little or no backyard; booths in highly congested areas (such as the Junction, P00 Corner, Abby Rode, Shady Grove and East 13th) and booths in areas where we need fire breaks (East 13th between Community Village and Main Stage, Abby Rode, two locations on East 13th, Main Stage and Shady Lane. We also want to be sure that there are several food booths in whatever new area we choose and since there are no plans to increase the number of vendor booths, we would need to relocate existing food booths.

There have been several requests for clarification of what we mean by fire breaks. Lane County has asked us to establish fire breaks or concrete fire walls in regular intervals throughout the interior of the fair site. The concept of fire breaks seems more fitting in our unique environment than fire walls. Therefore we are going to be asking for groups of booths in certain areas to volunteer to relocate. We will replace those booth areas with pocket parks or seating areas. The formula is that 40 foot fire breaks are required for every 8000 square feet of structure or 60 foot breaks for every 16,000 square feet of structure. This means that there is some flexibility as to exactly which booths must relocate. If you and your neighbors are willing to move, please let us know.

Once we have decided on a general site plan we will begin actively working with vendors on relocation. We recognize that it is difficult for vendors to decide if they want to relocate without knowing what the options are.

How can people have input into the process?

We held 3 large meetings in June and July and have one planned for the OCF picnic in August. Lots of ideas have been generated through these meetings. We had a comments sheet posted in the display area and collected the notes periodically but unfortunately, the comment sheet disappeared on Sunday afternoon. Since the Fair, we have only received five letters of comment from fair family members. If you would like to review the information received to date, please stop by the OCF office and ask to see the "Path Planning" file.

We need your help sorting this out and therefore we have given you more time to comment...until September 1, 1996. Please direct any written comments to the OCF Path Planning Project, P.O. Box 2972, Eugene, Oregon 97402 or by e-mail to ocf@efn.org. You may also contact any of the committee members listed below:

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