



Change is Afoot Along the Fair Paths



By Saskia Dresler, Path Planning Committee

What's Happening with Path Planning?

You haven't heard from the Path Planning Group for a while, so here is a recap and update. Last year we hosted several meetings where participants initiated ideas about long-range plans for enhancements to the Craft Lot and other large spaces at the Fair. We appreciate all the ideas that were generated and the interest in the process. Those discussions are on hold until the completion of the Vision Quest and Strategic Planning processes going on through the end of the year.

There are a few areas that will receive some significant enhancements before this year's Fair. Kid's Loop will be enlarged and improved, we're figuring out a space for the pony rides, some camping will move to the newly acquired Swanson's property now called Marshall's Landing, and a meeting to generate ideas for a redesigned Dragon Plaza and Welcome Mat in 2006 will occur.

Kid Loop Enhancement

Based on our meetings, public input and review of time and budget, Path Planning, the Budget Committee and the management team have determined that the plan outlined below is the what we will do for the 2005 fair. (See the attached sketches.)

To solve the dual puzzle of making a worthy Kids Loop/Mellow space area and to activate the area to increase traffic flow to support booth activity,

we will extend last year's Kids area into the Craft Lot a little further. We will also push the toilets farther down the service path to make room for more Kids area. The public access will stop at the toilets near the back of the Dragon tail. Then we will cover the whole area with a simple pole, cable and cloth "big top." This will be tall enough to allow the use of the service lane for service, emergency and booth vehicles while creating a tall, shaded area for multi-kid use underneath.

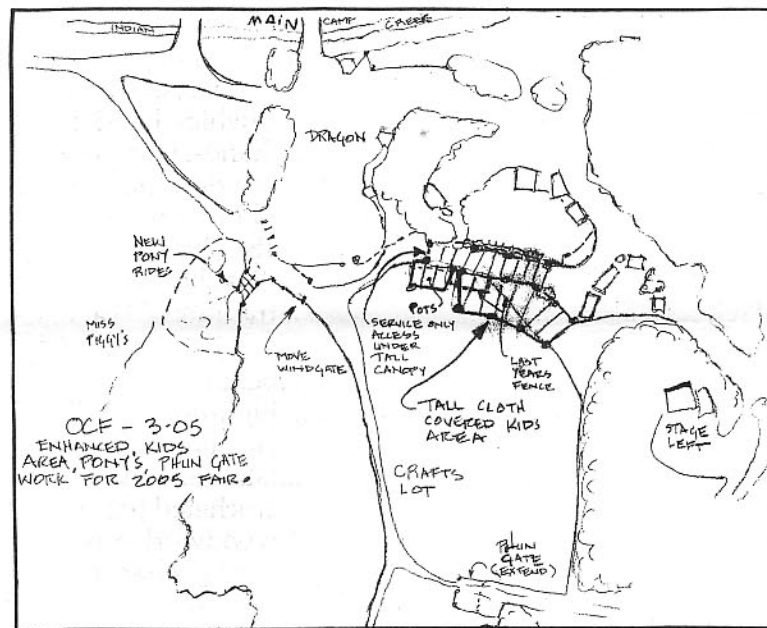
This should be a large and exciting piece of color that is at a scale we have never done before! The layout and space use under the "big top" are not resolved yet. We are getting input from child care, neighbors and affected crews to sort out these details.

We held a meeting on April 17 to take a closer look at design ideas for this area. Representatives from Child Care, neighborhood booths, and various other crews participated in the meeting. The group walked the site and discussed details of the design ideas for Kids Loop, as well as suggesting new ideas for the play area. As the design becomes more formalized, Construction will continue to communicate with Child Care and the neighborhood booths.

What's Up

with Crafts Lot camping?

Due to the Swanson's acquisition, this year we can move some staff camping from the Crafts Lot to create more room for crafters to offset the infringements we have been making.



1. This year all Kitchen Crews, including hospitality and Quartermaster will be asked to move to Swanson's.

2. We will be asking Dog Pound and crew to move to a new location that we would like their help in determining. We are faced with the difficult task of relocating the Pony Rides. Site Manager Steve Wisnovsky and General Manager Leslie Scott have reviewed the options considered by Path Planning groups over the past two years (none ideal) and determined that from both an operations and land-use point of view, this is the most viable space available for the Pony Rides. This placement will also impact the operation of the existing gate into Crafts Lot (Wind Gate) in 2005, and affect the redesign of the Dragon Plaza and welcome mat in 2006.

3. Other staff camping groups in Craft Lot (Decon, Construction, and others) have the option to move to a new camping location. Decon has agreed to move, for which we are very grateful; other crews interested in mov-

ing should contact the camping coordinator at Marshall's landing, or the OCF Site Manager for more details.

What's Next for Path Planning?

We would like to host a meeting to discuss the redesign of the Dragon Plaza and Welcome Mat (Pole Star) area for a possible project in 2006. The Dragon itself is near its structural end and the chance to do some fun things to create a fresh entry into the Fair is possible.

There will be a Path Planning meeting focusing on gathering information for next year's Dragon Plaza redesign on Sunday, May 22, 1 p.m. at The Hub (Swanson's). This is open to all interested parties. We especially need input from members who currently use the Dragon to determine what functions we need to accommodate.

Please contact Saskia Dresler (saskia@cityrepair.org) if you would like to receive updates about the Path Planning meetings. Thanks All!!