

Oregon Country Fair Path Planning Committee

Minutes

9-20-2015

Path Planners in attendance; Paxton, Jon, Susanna, Jay, Tom, Colleen, Sylvia, Justin, Dean
Guests; Bear, Sue, Cathy, Bill, Christie, Judy, Diane

Introductions

Announcements

Gabe passed so Amy Hand is at his memorial in Riverside today. A moment of silence...

Board election: Two Board candidates are with us, Justin and Jon

Letters of interest/resume are due by Oct. 16, 5PM at the Fair office for the Assistant Manager position. Details can be found at the oregoncountryfair.net site.

Call-out for the Administrative Assistant position will be posted in the next two weeks. The hiring committee call-out is also open until October 23

Public Comments

Tom reported for Ann Rogers- there is a concern about the Community Village bypass. There is concern about cultural appropriation with the Sauna- Path Planning should demand that a letter be provided from Grand Ronde cultural department regarding the placement of the Story Pole. Ann also has concerns about how the term "potlatch" is being use on the Story Pole website. Also she wanted to report there was an incident of digging without monitoring because of poor communications.

Tom -they are digging around the mushroom, they did not call Archeology about the dig. This is a violation of Fair policy. Tom also commented on the fact that the committee has yet to see a signed copy of an engineering drawing for the installation of the new Story Pole.

Bear-Tom Noddy is concerned about the name of the Daredevil Stage. He would like to have the stage called Du Caniveaux Palace. Tom brought his concerns to Bear because of his involvement in mapping. Hilary- I can speak to this. This has been going on for 20 years or more, Du Caniveaux Palace, they have been asking for this change and not gotten it. In the nineties they built a new stage and placed a sign on the stage backdrop but got push back from the folks that made maps. This business should go to the naming subcommittee once a process has been established.

Jay- At the last meeting of Path Planning I reported this was the last report for the subcommittee. It was not. We botched the naming of the new area. The new area is being called "The New Area" or "TNA" or "Avant Gardens." Jay hoped that the manager would name the area Avant Gardens.

Jon- The name should reflect history and should reflect what is done. It should make sense today and fifty years from now.

Colleen- I think we should address only naming conventions, not discuss names. Our focus as a committee should be the process and get that signed off by the BoD.

Dean- We should be focused on process. One of our work items is redefining our mandate from the BoD. Clearly naming conventions and Path Planning mandate should be our focus this year.

Hilary- I would encourage you to establish and vote on naming conventions. Make that a recommendation to the Bod.

Jay- The Fair is committee driven, a quote from Charlie and we need to make sure our work has meaning.

Jon- I like the variety of ways we create names. It's part of our culture. I hope we are not so rigid that if we name something and it does not fall under the conventions we can except it.

Diane- I would support the name change to Du Caniveaux- I was shocked that the Board had any say-so in that process.

Colleen-I move that we reinstate the naming convention subcommittee for the purpose of developing and recommending a process or processes for naming.

Paxton- second

Passes unanimously

Subcommittee members-Paxton, Jay, Jon, Sue, Tom, Diane, Tom G, Bear, Cathy, Colleen, Justin, Christy, Judy

Water crew would like to begin the water issues subcommittee, and wanted to know who the committee members are.

Minutes-Colleen moved Paxton second

7yea

2 abstain, Tom and Jon

Agenda Approval

Adding meeting dates and time discussion

Add time for debrief

Jon moved, Justin seconded, motion passed

Meeting Dates and time

Jon likes 1PM but could live with noon.

Sylvia would like earlier so we can get home before dark.

Paxton would like the option of Go-to-Meeting and/or noon at the latest.

Justin-We've always had the meeting 13 days after the Board meeting but what about the Sunday before the BOD meeting? NOON- mid-month is a good time.

Paxton-Going earlier in the month would prevent action items from getting into the Board packet.

Sylvia moved for 11AM. Tom seconded. 3 yea 4 against

Justin moved to have meeting at noon. Approved. Noon is the new time.

Colleen moved that we keep the meetings at the default 13 days after the BOD committee unless committee votes for another date.

Seconded, 7 yea 2 abstained

Elections of Officer

Motions to nominate current co Chairs-Colleen and Justin

Passes

Motion to nominate current secretary- Dean

Passes

Motion to request a scribe from the scribe tribe

Passes. Contact Randy, the BOD secretary

Reports

Staff- Tom G. The Assistant Manager position is in the works and IT position, Accounts Receivable and Account Payable positions (ARAP) are the new direction we are going in. The original Administrative Assistant position took on all that work and was too much for one person to do. This new ARAP position would be part time. That's really all I have. I am just getting settled and the big thing is getting the Assistant Manager hired. Justin-Because Shane's not here can we have an update on the culvert project?

It's a huge amount of work and an amazing amount of work. We had a little scare Friday with a minor injury. It's progressing nicely, I encourage you to go take a look.

Tom- culvert project is underway and looking good...Shane got poked in the eye on Friday but it was a minor injury. The life span of the culvert is expected to be 40 years.

New Area Group-Hilary: Since the Fair we've had only one meeting. We are working on a report, passes around the draft, we will finalize this in the next week or so and present it at the Board meeting. The public found the entry through the kids' loop area, and the dance pavilion programming worked really well. Art and ambiance was coordinated by Sallie. We reached out to folks through the web. The piano lounge was fabulous, people had a wonderful experience under the trees. The Work-It Shop was down by the pavilion, had movement workshops and went really well. The Flow Zone was near the old entrance, they were doing large flow arts. The food booths were busy and running out of stuff each day.

Justin-The people ran into The New Area. The craft booths were really successful. Really good job of moving into the booths. Some of the lines were long and on a hot day they will need shade.

Hilary-Camping was out almost to the highway. It was a long way away and needs to be improved. Wind Gate was a weird location because we had to tell the public they did not have the correct credentials to use the gate. Several things need to be improved, the dance pavilion ran out of time and left things undone. Dry storage issues got bigger with The New Area.

Tom- It was really cool. We had something new and next year it will still be new. The pavilion had some red flags from the County which will be addressed over the winter.

Justin- The New Area was received well and I was totally amazed at how much work was done.

Kathy- The art installations are expected to change each year.

Colleen- The area was designed to have maximum flexibility.

Board Liaison Paxton- this may be my last report because I'm not running for the BoD again. I ran for the Board ten years ago because I wanted the Path Planning Committee to really take off. I also ran because of wanting the Fair to expand. I didn't realize it would take ten years to get it to happen. We had 51,000 people attend this year, the largest since we initiated our cap. The Finance Committee wants to expand the population cap and we think we can handle it because of the expansion into The New Area. We need to be thinking about what we do for our sixtieth anniversary. We need to be thinking about our next expansion. We left too much trash, we need to make sure we need to have a sweep after the Fair for trash. I hope we can start long range planning, I'm hoping Tom can create long range planning. Thank you all!

Recording at 1:14:41

Subcommittees

Colleen-We need to work on our committee responsibilities for the Community Village expansion project.

Jay- The aesthetics subcommittee got completely side-lined by the work that was done with the Sound task force. It is our intention to begin to meet again.

Discussion of subcommittee structure...and how our email list is maintained.

Story Pole- Tom: It's supposed to be erected this year. We haven't heard about liability, no engineering stamp, which was asked for a year or two ago.

Diane- I'm on the diversity task force-there are some young people that have concerns about cultural appropriation. This group is concerned about the Story Pole and may come to Path Planning to air their concerns. Tom-George did agree to contact the Siletz and Grand Ronde tribes. Has he done so? We have heard that someone on the sauna crew spoke to a Grand Ronde member. Does that constitute the kind of contact we are talking about? Appropriate tribal contact needs to be defined.

The area where the pole was has a new structure built. This area was supposed to be returned to the original state before the carving began. This feels like a land grab.

Dean- Path Planning had discussed creating a subcommittee to present possible ideas as to how this land can be used once the Story Pole has been set. We should add this to this year's work plan.

Tom- The new structure is a view point for the pole. Not sure how it was built.

Hilary-I think we need to have a process for working with the tribes. Perhaps we need to have a process to bring this to the tribes. Both the diversity task force and Story Pole subcommittee need to work on this.

Jon-None of the tribes in this area have totems as part of their culture.

And the discussion continued... It was suggested several times to have a BoD focus session on appropriate cultural expression. Not our purview.

Village Expansion-Diane: A self-selected subgroup has met three times to do design and drawing. Tim, Mullar, Justin, Keith, Arthur, Diane, Justin, David, and Kirk.

Justin- we have been meeting on an ad-hoc basis. It would be helpful to define who are the current voices for the Village so we can coordinate meeting with the Path Planning subcommittee and Fair operations.

Aesthetics- Susanna: Our committee was absorbed into the sound workshop and is coming back to the aesthetics.

Justin-There was a nighttime group established for this year's Fair. Some forms were developed, there was an allocation at the BoD level for some passes. There was also some evaluation of how stages performed within the permit. There is going to be a post-Fair report on how this new group and process went.

Susanna- I think the sound sub-subcommittee has spun off to become its own thing. So now the Aesthetics subcommittee can get back to its original task.

Dust Abatement- Christy-We looked at it during the Fair, and we realized that we need to deal with this at a level away from putting water on it. More dust barrels are not going to solve this. We were lucky that this was a mild temperature Fair. With the water table down our water crew had to use the Veneta hydrants to get water. It's a big issue.

Justin- I like your passion about this and did follow up during the Fair and did some investigation into the subject and I agree it's not just about the water. It is also about infrastructure and with careful recommendations we can address these issues.

Paxton- Grey water is interested in working with dust abatement to provide usable water for road dust.

Old Biz

Debrief 2015 Fair

Susanna-Redesign of the path near Daredevil Stage did not work- The reroute is too narrow. When the stage audience gets out the traffic is an issue. Dust was really bad. The land grab of the sauna need to be addressed. This land need to go back into the commons. Azure Ocean (old Pad Thai) booth will be growing and we need to address this and get information on it as a committee. Colleen/Justin commented that there is no intention to allow for that cart to expand. Susanna went on to ask the question how the hot dog booth got to be such a large footprint in the new area. Justin commented that they got juried and that's how they turned into a booth. Nirvana Park is a beautiful addition. (the old map booth). Binoculars would be a nice addition. This is a place on the eight that allows us to really see the land and how beautiful it is.

Hilary- Southern bank of toilets (in The New Area) is too close in and smelly and too hidden. The Upper River Loop and library needs to be addressed and this committee should look at redesign. The stage (current name Daredevil) and how it interacts with the path should be addressed. Note that the stage has sound amplification and can handle more folks. As bank erosion occurs and booths are moved out we need to make changes here. The New Area... We got feedback that booth people really liked the sense of openness of the area. Maybe add more perimeter booths that look into the meadow. There were comments that folks liked the west side of The New Area where there were booths facing booths and it was not open. It seems like both seemed to work.

Jay-The sense of flow was caused by the rows of store fronts. Shady Lane needs a bit of spiffing up because we have a food cart and a place for musicians to perform. This could be a really incredible location in our commons. The library area need to be fine tuned. I heard a story about the work crew that was doing the remodel almost took the alligator tree but it was spared. Wally's log disappeared and was chain sawed into the river, this was my favorite place on the land! Big violation of the water and Fair values! Process was not followed. The Dance Pavilion has been planned for years as was the sound. The volume of the pavilion was way too loud and pointed in the wrong direction. And we planned this and agreed we wouldn't do this. We need to monitor this and get real about protecting our public from hearing damage.

Hilary- There was a problem with having a generator in the public area because it was disturbing the BIG BOYS sleep. We couldn't find a quiet one so this was a bad compromise. Also because the county was looking at us we decided not to hang the 50-pound speakers on the pavilion so we had problems with the sound.

Colleen- Dance Pavilion should be open at night to help develop a night scene. Food businesses will have more business at night. Shade structure need to be added for the food booths queue-up in The New Area. The service road did not happen and that was a big part of our planning. Each time we had to access our booth we were told to drive in the public path. The Traffic person was not having a good time.

Paxton-Jewelry booth 31 was in an area that needs to be checked on. They didn't do well and it didn't work for them. Justin-the booth right next to them killed it. Paxton-It was close to the Work-It Shop and we felt that area was underdeveloped. Some of the new food booths did not follow the construction manual. There are new lofts that exceed allowable size. Reiterated the dance pavilion was too loud. Wally's bench was a travesty and needs to be looked into.

Sue- Azure Oceans is a food cart and will stay that size. Food vendors in The New Area were really happy, good job everybody! Cafe Mam had short lines, I was concerned that they were being overlooked. But they were knocking it out...

Jon-I am not happy with the Stewardship and the structural construction. Chinese pipe and compression connections are an issue. Wally's bench was a big problem! I got a complete and detailed description of what went down and I will talk with Tom about what happened. Also there were chemical preservatives used on the new work done in that area.

Bear- Nirvana Park was really well accepted. A lot of people were excited about it. That section from Arch Park is now open to the public. From mushroom park all the way around to Daredevil is now available to the folks who come to the Fair. It's the quite part of the Fair.

Feedback on The New Area. Peter and Stewart and Jim spent hours in The New Area being fascinated. They want to come back. It was The New Area that has them wanting to come back.

East 13th was walkable on Saturday. The path was walkable!

Diane- Sizes of the lofts in The New Area are twice the size allowed under the guidelines. Wally's log should not have happened. It felt like an old growth forest being logged. Smoking areas near the drinking fountains are a problem. Info booths only have smoking areas on the map, not rest areas. That should be reversed. The New Area was wonderful at night. The traffic on the eight was a problem on Monday. It took me three hours to leave the Fair. That's never happened before. The path that goes by the six pack near the Village needs to be prettied up. It's a path and should be treated as such.

Bill- Wonderful things happened at the library, musically and creatively.

Tom- Arch Park did not lose people like we thought. I was skeptical of The New Area partly because the booths are built outside of the trees where everywhere else on the eight they are built under the trees. The Arch crew has named it the land of many holes, several of which were not supervised by Archaeology crew members. Wally's bench was cedar, not fir, and the dirt under it was pre-Fair so we collected some of it.

Susanna-Traffic crew guided us in (on Wednesday) the wrong direction and didn't understand what

was going on. It happened four times. They had new people that did have proper training.

Hilary-Traffic issues

Bear- Traffic issues

Jay- Traffic issues, I'll pick up smoking issues with Tom G.

Jon- Wally's bench needs to be on an agenda item in the future We should include a discussion about cultural resources. Traffic issues... and it's gotten worse since Barter Fair.

Paxton- I think we need to have smoking as a subcommittee. The Upper River Loop should go on our work plan this year.

Colleen- Does the Fair have safe areas for young women? If not, perhaps we should.

New Business

Homework review

The Chairs will come to the committee with a work plan next month.

Susanna- will look into the new structure at the Sauna,

Tom- will talk to George about the time line

Sound crew- will have a report for next month

Meeting Evaluation

Subcommittee process is the way the Fair gets work done. The value of the stakeholders process really made a difference with regards to the outcome of how The New Area got implemented.

Next meeting-October 18, Noon