

Oregon Country Fair Path Planning Committee minutes

May 21, 2017 at Alice's fire pit

Members present: Otis Gray, Paxton Hoag, Jon Pincus, Dennis Todd (reluctant scribe), Tom Churchill, Colleen Bauman (chair), Sylvia Fireman, Dean Middleton, David Tipton, Amy Hand, Ann Rogers (BoD), Sue Theolass (BoD)

Guests: Robert McCarthy (aka Mouseman), Heather Kent, Bear Pitts, Christie Banks, Renee Painter, Michael Gibbons (aka Fire Pye), DJ Rogers

Announcements

Colleen: Saturday Market is hiring a general manager, holding board election.

Fire Pye: Fire extinguisher training on June 4.

Mouseman: Heather's brother has a bus for sale.

Minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda items were rearranged to accommodate guests. Approved unanimously.

Dust control subcommittee report

The group identified problematic dust areas inside and outside the path areas. It rained last year, so there wasn't much dust. The Water Crew added new members to control dust. Would need permission to apply dust treatment products, such as polymers. Any control substance would have to be ecofriendly, biodegradable, not slippery when wet, affordable, and compatible with our soil types. Many products are available. This year, volunteers will be assigned to control dust at selected path sites.

Ann: How far in advance of the event do we need to take action? Arc Park, Xavanadu, other meadow areas are watered until the week before the event. Education is needed.

Amy: Does the dust control subcommittee plan to address dust fair-wide?

Christie: The Water Crew would need more members to take care of the dust outside of the path area.

Tom: How many high priority dust sites?

Renee listed numerous hot spots.

Christie: Dust control water barrels are available, encourages use.

Fire Pye: A Gator and water tank should be assigned to water path areas in the early morning or at night.

Paxton: The Site Manager authorizes on-the-ground applications, In general, no plastics or petroleum-based products are allowed by the guidelines.

Colleen: What process brings these ideas forward? Typically, a subcommittee does research, brings results to the committee, and the committee makes a recommendation to the Board. Are there physical means to keep dust down, such as mats? (answer: Yes, but they are trip hazards in the path. OK in booths.)

Jon: Compacting soil might help in areas without grass. Watering the fields would help.

Fire Pye: OCF rents trucks to water paths and fields. They are not always available.

David: In favor of buying a water truck. Application of the lignin-based polymer to roads some years ago was the decision of Site Manager Steve. The Path Planning Committee can make a recommendation to the BoD in support. Reseeding the paths stopped after Steve left, but it should continue. Wants more investigation into possible treatments.

Sylvia: Dust control water barrels need to be filled in a timely way.

Bear: Mats in the willow dragon control dust, keep the soil damp.

Paxton: Steve tried for years to establish turf in hard-hit areas, did core-plugging, reseeding, set hay bale dams to slow flood waters. Shane discontinued these practices. Soil needs to be added this year, which will make for more dust problems.

Mouseman: Even though new grass is trampled, roots remain, which can help reduce dust.

Used bentonite on his paths at his home. We could require that booth holders be responsible for dust control at their booths.

Amy: Wants Recycling Crew to coordinate with dust control sprinkling to avoid driving recycling trucks on wet paths.

Jon: Move to recommend that OCF look into getting a small road water vehicle (e.g., Gator and tank) Motion seconded.

David: Rent or buy? To whom does the recommendation go?

Paxton: Recommends against passing the motion. It's too late to make a difference this year. The Quartermaster is asking for equipment needs—a request could be submitted now.

Colleen: We could make a recommendation to staff.

Christie: The Budget Committee determines the funds, and the Quartermaster orders the equipment.

Jon withdrew his motion.

Paxton: Ask via capital projects requests next year.

Work plan draft

Dean: Add to November and February: outreach to Indigenous Peoples.

Ann: Reach out to I.P. Fair family members first.

Paxton: Indigo's motion at the BoD this month would be appropriate for PPC in November.

Motion to approve work plan was seconded and approved unanimously.

Board of Directors liaison report

Ann: Many alternative points of view were presented in the discussion of the story pole. There will be no pole at OCF this year. There is still work to be done on this issue. The BoD voted to vacate Chickadee Lane. In effect, the lane will become private driveway.

Tom: Vacating would allow us to prevent public access.

Food Committee report

Sue: There will be a minor relocation of the food booth at Gypsy Stage entrance. She will connect them with David to take it over on the ground.

Story pole meeting

Dean called a meeting at the LCC Long House. About a dozen people met, including Native Fair family members. Participants spoke from the heart, revealing the pain and trauma that the pole

tapped into. Don't call it a "story pole," carvers said, because a story pole is associated with a specific process and tradition. There is a process of indigenous activities—it starts with permission from elders or decision makers. We don't have a process, no single indigenous tribe to consult.

Colleen: We are going through a cultural shift.

Ann: There's a type of PTSD involved. She will share literature on intergenerational PTSD.

Women often held the culture together even through tribal termination. Better understanding and communication is needed.

Dean: Some threats were made on Facebook. OCF management got after them.

Ann: OCF is responsible as land owner, will take heat for the actions of the Ritz sauna.

Colleen: Whatever we do begins with outreach and permission for development of a tribal way.

Bear: Participated in a white culture workshop at OSU, realized that we don't know how to ask permission.

Sue: The Ritz has a Memorandum of Understanding with OCF management.

David: We need to see it.

Sue: It's confidential. Talk to management.

Jon: Under laws of 501(c)(3) corporations, this document should be public.

Dean: We will set up another meeting with Indigenous People. Hopes that OCF will recognize the concept of white privilege.

Amy: Was surprised by the absence of Native participation in Ritz artwork. Whites have a responsibility to lead reconciliation.

Urinals

Amy: Gender-neutral terms needed for urinals, e.g., "Standers" and "Squatters."

Dean: The whole concept of binary sexuality has to change. OCF should adapt. A safe place for transgenders is needed. The Sign Crew could make new signs for the urinals.

DJ: Squatters' urinals need public and family feedback for Construction Crew.

Homework review

Colleen: Subcommittee conveners should get in touch with subcommittee members. She is convener for the reclamation area subcommittee.

Ann: Will send information on working with the Native communities.

Dean: We should be working on long-range planning. Where will be our next area to develop for the public?

Next meeting September 17, 2017 (a scribe will be needed)