



OREGON COUNTRY FAIR

EVALUATION MEETING

AUGUST 23, 2009

The meeting to evaluate the 2009 Fair was attended by an active group with a wide range of interests. In accordance with an Open Space format, where participants discuss particular topics of concern, five small group sessions were held throughout the day. These topics included humanure, a new community center, reverence for the land, sound amplification, Agents of Reality, camping and Stage Molimo.

Here are the notes from each group as submitted by the note takers. If you have further questions, please contact the office to leave a message for the facilitator or note taker.

Enjoy! And remember to check the Fair Family News and Guidelines calendars for the date of the 2010 meeting so you can attend.

OCF Evaluation 2009 Agents of Reality

Notetaker: Jain Elliot

Attending: Jain Elliot, Bill Ganser, Lois Inman, Kelsey, Carrie, Amber

Long ago a mediation specialist would do some weekend workshops to make “agents of reality” to resolve conflicts during Fair.

Martha Evans and Anita Engiles are willing to come down and do workshops but are nervous about money.

Elders are willing to become these agents of reality.

Joseph Newton is interested.

Amber deals with mediation in her line of work so interested in these workshops.

Jain is proposing getting some funding for these workshops, with people with passes attending. Not necessarily allocating new passes.

Beneficial to many aspects of Fair, including Security, etc.

Mediation woman Anita suggests a range of \$20 to \$40 for meetings.

Suggestion: Who gets to come:

Important areas like campground coordinators

Anita is certified, Martha is talented at mediation.

First step – e-mail Marcus

Next step – build a board meeting packet

This board packet needs to be put together by Anita.

Maybe Marcus can help with developing Board packet.

PROBLEMS

Camping between Abby Road and Main Stage, there was a conflict with someone taking space from everyone and it came down to one-one.

Agents of reality were on the side of un-compromisers.

Marcus comes to meeting, what should we do?

We hear there is a larger process. There is no grievance administrator. First that needs to happen then we can deal with mediation.

There are no grievances filed during Fair.

Part of the problem was people bringing in interpersonal problems that weren't related to Fair.

We should continue to talk about it. Does the Fair want to get involved in people's personal problems?

More extensive form of crisis intervention program – but goes much deeper.

Will the mediators be informed in all Fair operations?

Issues to be negotiated:

Pre-existing policy

This could be used as a ruse to prevent interpersonal relationship problems in the official process.

People's expectations, these new agents of reality could fix everything.

Bill thinks there needs to be more information of operations involved.

Problems with confidentiality. Does the Fair want to get involved with people's pasts?

This is for problems during the Fair.

We need to do what we can during the Fair, not get very deep.

Working on immediate problems.

Operations and personal problems need to be separate.

Legal problems get involved – slander, etc.

BUMS are doing this job – train BUMS.

Trying to do too much.

BUMS can suggest resources.

Marcus is just bringing up issues that need to be figured out before moving forward.

Re-introduce when the larger policy is re-evaluated.

Read Guidelines online.

OCF Evaluation 2009 Camping

Notetaker: Sue

Attending: Sue, Steve, Bill, Lucy, Sue, Laurin, Paxton, On Kar, Todd, Bob, Randy, Hilary, Bonnie

Paxton: Hosts are responsible to their campers and camp. We need a person to liaison among camps and on to Fair.

Steve: Idea of camping crew has been kicked around. It may come into being in 2010. Camp host network, a budget, info share, recruit!!

Todd: What about (Far Side) Bill?

Steve: He's a coordinator at Far Side.

Discussion among all participants:

Far Side opens 9 am Wednesday. There are exceptions. Pre-post, etc. What is population there? Wednesday was the heaviest wristband day ever. Far Side filled up earlier than ever. 100 fewer vehicle stickers. Population is aging. More Elder R.V's. Some camps have just gotten bigger. Steve arranged for extra parking with City of Veneta years ago and it has wildly expanded. We may not have the space for cars there in 5 – 10 years.

East side of ball field is not very populated. It is a long trek. Can we put in our own road and bridge on our property for access? Bridge over water that can be navigated and archeology sites make this a big deal. Permits, etc., and huge costs. (\$400-500,000). A temporary bridge is far more probable. No vehicles in that area (around Chela Mela area.)

Push Land Use Management and Planning to I.D. more doable camping areas. Requires shuttle, water.

Looking for R. V. camping areas. Needs cohesive parking, etc.

Move Barter Fair to Outta Site lot. The West end? There is room way the hell out there.

The Far Side is far way / isolated from most facilities, has little security.

Focus will shift to Far side being a camping area.

Vehicle in/out has added to population growth.

RV campers should be charged according to size!

We need to self-limit.

There was a small flash fire @ Ecotopia. Difficult access.

White Bird got stuck in and Sunday the gate was blocked.

Mud made driving out hard. Should have let folks leave.

Vendor services? We tried a coffee spot and got blowback from inside vendors.

How “attractive” do we want Far Side to be? Keep it simple.

Keep cars in one area. Safer.

More support for size based vehicle fee.

Alter-abled camping. Access and power (for carts, chairs, etc.)

Communications twixt entertainment, Security, Alter-Able camp – how much room does entertainment off-load need? If info was available earlier, it would help.

Need is clear for dedicated camp crew to liaison with different groups/needs/priorities/best use/why and how

Bill has been overwhelmed at Far Side.

There are three official camps at Far Side.

Don't have same ability to direct growth.

Real security comes from knowing your neighbors. More communication – not yet another crew.

Educate camp hosts from things like flora/fauna (birds' nests, etc.), archaeology.

Use info boards? Info/contact sheets to camp hosts. Gotta nest? Who do you call?

There may be 300 hosts! We've got about 300 registered camps.

We want to protect Fair.

We want to take care of our crew, camp and then get to know neighbors.

Must include booths. Respect, understanding, communication.

Fair does breakdown into neighborhoods readily.

Lost campers – result of folks selling wristbands. No place for them.

Require that whoever receives the group's wristband is responsible for the camping of said “wristband.”

Establish one-year-only campground for the lost souls.

NOTETAKER'S NOTE: Wow – thoughtful, thought filled, calm voices, little interruption, much agreement. Things could actually get better – even more enjoyable.

OCF Evaluation 2009 Community Center

Notetaker:

Convener:

Attending: Lois Morford, Marcus, Randy Nowell, Amber Peoples, Steve Wisnovsky, Ong Kar, Indigo Ronlov, Charlie Ruff, Hilary Anthony

Idea of center been brewing. At this point Board created committee to develop a building for neighbors to use for free or/and for rent to organizations AND use for family. Current: talk to people to get wish list.

Insulation/soundproof (example of dreams)

Will have a stage

Perhaps basketball hoops

We have an account and contributions gaining interest – about \$5 – 6K.

Location: TBA

Previous term – The Lodge

Prepare a schedule

Committee in three groups:

- Revenue generation
- Broad community input
- Internal family input

Need to gather past input

Norma expressed interest in talking about this in a summit.

Idea: gather lists and how to put together what is feasible, then get architects involved.

Spring Fling and Annual Meeting? Right now we rent a place in town and would like to have these events in the community center.

Charlie: New hearth for the OCF (Is this a correct assumption?). Indigo agrees.

Marcus: Committee hasn't decided how to get the input yet.

Has to benefit our community first.

Tier system for revenue generation.

Fee based on type of vehicle used to arrive here. Way to emphasize the educational aspect of alternative energy.

Ong Kar: A frames on McKenzie River, next to McKenzie Bridge – great field trip idea to spark inspiration.

Marcus: Timeline for first round of feedback is December 1 and will have second round of feedback

Lois: Kitchen for Culture Jam. Steve uses the word campus to describe a collection of spaces. This center is adding a large space.

Steve: Alice's acquired in 2001 – hosted retreats for various groups. "We're getting there. It's a whole lot of pieces of puzzles."

Hilary: Tentative timeframe because not passed by entire committee or Board. Nailed down decision points in the committee. Makes me feel overwhelmed.

Emphasis on how long to turn Chela Mela into its current formation and since took the time – it was smooth.

Need time to raise money within the OCF.

Charrette – term for meetings/gatherings

Seems like a large space is the next obvious step but a lot has to be decided such as staff and pricing.

Art grants available and useful, but need a lot of the \$ in addition already. Good that it's in a rural area.

?? school cafeteria with a wall that is moveable to open up to outdoors when good weather.

Wall in the kitchen – ok with health codes? Need to research.

Outreach – mention it Fair Family News.

Tell coordinator to gather input from the crews.

Tie in to memorials.

Announce at board meetings: 3 people have donated.

Not a culture of giving \$. We give other resources, like time.

Name on brick in the wall for a certain amount of \$ donated.

Is naming elements for \$ appropriate to our culture?

Ask Generva Ralph of Bach Festival – how did she do it?

Consensus to shoot for a charette in November.

Call key figures.

Key = ID what core operations crew this space will serve and get them to the charette.

Have a fundraiser at the same time as the charette.

Neighborhood section of committee is doing PR first before asking for \$

Talk to caterers about who they serve because in their best interest (they'll get more gigs). Probably better than asking other venues (which is competition).

OCF Evaluation 2009

Humanure

Notetaker: Paxton Hoag

The second part of this second session breakout group discussed Humanure, composting our own waste. There is a small group of faire family that is starting Humanure projects. Jenkins, the author of "The Humanure Handbook" sent the Fair 14 copies of his book, some of which may be available at the office.

The goal is to limit our use of the blue water toilets and replace some of them with a Humanure toilet. Paxton thinks this would be good for in the middle of the faire where booths could share the toilet. It would also give exposure, as they would be demonstration projects, in the start-up phase.

We spend a lot of money to haul off and dispose of our poo, and it is a commodity full of valuable nutrients. And we throw it away, in fact pay \$\$ to have it hauled off. Humanure is an idea to compost and reclaim those nutrients.

A Humanure toilet is designed around a 5-gallon bucket with a seat on it. You pee or poop in it and immediately cover the pee or poo with a cover of fresh sawdust or peat moss. This keeps the odor down and provides carbon for the future composting part of the operation.

The buckets then get emptied into a specially constructed hot compost pile. Once the high heat composting action (important to breakdown bad bacteria) is finished the compost then sits for a year before it can be used as compost.

This technology is used in 60 countries around the world. Jenkins himself has been using it for 30 years. The healthiest culture in the world, the Hunzas, compost everything, including their own and their animals poo.

The carbon to nitrogen ratio is one of the important parts of composting, 30 to 1 is close to ideal. Adding Poo to our carbon rich paper plates will add a large source of nitrogen that will make the compost heap work better.

The idea is to start a couple of demonstration projects and establish a start up compost pile. Andy is building his own Humanure toilet on his farm.

Then as we develop the technology the idea is to expand it into the Fair. Mambo's goal is to do the entire fair for the 50th anniversary.

There was quite a bit of discussion and interest in how Humanure works.

OCF Evaluation 2009

Reverence for the Land and Growth of Displaced Teens and Elders

Notetaker: Sue

Attending: Lois Inman, Jon Pincus, Chris Browne, Joseph Newton, Glenn Johnson, Todd Patopea, Laurin Huse, Deane Morrow, Bonnie Clarke, Bob Clarke, Sue Theolass

Concern we are shutting out our 19-year olds. Shutting off our future.

Meanwhile, many elders want to continue working.

We need to treat our teens and elders better.

There were major issues with "elder helper" passes this year.

External Security doesn't have the room to take in all the displaced teens.

Can we have an incentive for elders to go for Elders Pass? This would open space for teens.

Twelve elder helpers were denied their paid passes. Three elders were also denied passes late, but the three found other ways.

Many elders are concerned about losing campsite, paying for pass, being denied a pass and/or helper pass.

Each camper costs the Fair money.

All of this is tied to growth.

Issues – Budget/management/elder are being addressed this year.

Elders are working on a better process.

Can elders train youngsters/teens to be ready to transition?

Fair can afford to pay for elders pass. Then more teens can come in with their energy, ideas, etc.

Elders should be rewarded for their years of service.

The Fair should not become an event only for those with disposable income.

There are real economic ramifications involved right now.

Do more fundraisers – a concert or two.

A lot of elders don't want to retire.

More talk of affordability.

More access for S.O.'s.

Elders are not going to step aside or step down.

The motion said elders could buy or earn their pass.

Elder passes bring in \$20,000.

Some elders can afford to pay more and will to help those who cannot.

Food vouchers have not gone up in value much and sauna, food etc. have gone up a lot!

Paying for passes give us leverage.

Nature will take care of a cap on elders as we've sadly seen this week.

When you constrict the elders you also constrict the teens.

Don't put us all in economic terms.

We have more people "back stage" than audience.

No way can the public admissions cover more of us back stage.

We are a cash-strapped non-profit.

If we don't put our resources towards the public we are not abiding by our non-profit function.

We are talking about the building a community center for all of us!

OCF is a family; OCF is also a business.

Resource recovery – pass costs don't cover the cost of a camper on the land.

For many our volunteering is a labor of love.

The biggest negative around elders seems to be cost of pass and of resource use.

We still need to get jobs for teens.

Can we take intermediate steps as we work all of this out?

We need to know what makes our "business" tick.

Our product is showing the world how to work together, taking care of our young, old and everyone in between.

Put into our cultural mindset "hire the teens."

Pointed out the other convener was not here. That's one reason the focus was on elders and teens.

501(c) 3 is not supposed to be about its membership.

The ability to be non-discriminatory in regard to personal economics (affordability).

Nurture Fair etiquette.

Teens and elders can work together.

Reverence for the land – it extends to the critters.

Need to do more – much more – education for family.

There's been no communicated structure to deal with, mostly, bird-related issues.

That's chasing – there is an article about this. It is being circulated via board and maybe FFN from Klamath Bird Observatory.

People want to do the right thing. Start of a wildlife team.

We still need wildlife habitat.

Growth is a problem.

How can we deal with this? Start a new Fair. Schedule for same time.

Habitat is key.

Education is key.

Notetaker's note: The elder/teen discussion tended to be emotionally charged. Still respectful. Economics played into the charge. Folks want to feel they are welcome to the reunion for as long as they can manage. Some need more help to attend and would like a more Fair-centered method to achieve this. The care people took in expressing their views was wonderful.

Wednesday – Sunday After hours sound amplification (SA)

Suzanna – Her point of view and position on the issue are summarized in the board meeting notes if people want to check that out as well. Suzanne is experiencing late night noise that feels very dominating. Misses the value of silence. She remembers amazing acoustic musicians and wonders if sound amplification at fair was a conscious decision, and if not, should it be reconsidered. She wanted us to brainstorm ways to all get our needs met on this.

Joseph – ambivalent, rock and roll guy yet same time walking from sound space to space
Make room for both through geography and engineering how sound travels

Karen – it's growing - parties prefer to post now, starting Tuesday there's a party somewhere - prefer relentless. Cut off time (the new SA limits) best sleep got at fair children happier, crafts happier party got bigger

Charlie – Issue of how we affect the neighborhood, impact a quiet part of world constantly for 8 weeks. May need a different solution than the permit concept. It's a question of how to get along and respect each other

Dean – who is a neighborhood response team liaison. People expect noise during fair and know it is often neighborhood camps making the sound but the range is much longer now
I sleep like rock, but do miss drum tower, mostly cut off at the right time

Hilary – Construction party welcoming others and 4th were only parties in the past now is different – event is during the day, prefer we are here to work during daytime really happy if we set a time and have management set a time for neighbors and trust them to say this is the time. Maybe there is place with least disruption to neighbors. We lost power Sunday in Chela and still stayed on schedule and only show missed was S (?) and performers were psyched esp theatrical could be heard and acoustic (like 10 years ago) can be heard so much sound competition now they so welcomed it smaller possibility for our traditional core entertainers

Jon P – Long ago opponent of amplified sound. But we changed the culture 30 years ago not going back there. we can recapture it for large portions but introduced it and has been major factor in our financial well-being and attracted people in that culture into family – wishing for things to go back to this place is not going to happen - just came from a group telling me this is our culture, we invited them in and we need to figure out how to accommodate – kitchen gets up early are also late night folks (referring to the prefer people who need to work). Suggests Geography and scheduling can be done to alleviate problems. Discussion needs to include some silent nights and some amplified loud folks are willing to work with fair for balance

(Point of order – get more concise to get more info)

Dean who is on the board – remembered when asked to turn radios down much nicer, no amplified would make motion if people come to consensus. This year better the giant tent satisfied loud young and old rock and rollers.

Joe – look at sound people to point better, set limits by meters, geography – amplified sound takes it a lot more than intend to (difference between 1 player and decibels) community get together jamming is really nice

Peggy: Family survey is very good, find out how most people feel; set up to be homemade, hand – gathered crafts, who made decision to change that – who invited them (intertwinement coordinators booked the talent, board sanctioned) . Wonders if legal limits may be violated

Tami – She is a late night partier, the issue is not so black and white, we can figure out ways to all get needs met, nobody wants to piss off neighbors and be disrespectful doesn't have to be every night all night long need a board decision

Cathy – Going to board with survey is good process, abbey road camp, cross noise MS and café Lafayette nowhere to hear wind in trees, remember troubadour strolling singing was very real; would love to have tango had beautiful acoustic and could walk away or towards it

Jen lin – It's a neighborhood issue besides survey maybe need to create morning and preferred quiet areas; designate loud areas

Hilary – Our density is incredibly high, difficult to live this closely and not step on toes

Chris – we are saying the same things. Operations did come up with a plan this fair the board did pass but we don't have an accurate evaluation of what worked and didn't – board at time made comment that this was the starting point and need to do this – make adjustment and try to get to root – some cases worked and didn't – need to let the process get more info

Joseph – Intro to event was rock concert, part of our heritage. Great player came to recycling after hours and played acoustic. Permit should come with accountability if your music not in with it then probation or suspension

Karen – Suggestion that stages that go all day during the fair should have a break in-between. 0
Going heavy again. It's relentless

Indigo – Board decision not meant to be end all; its info gathering, working on it, continuing conversation. Remember when 19 years ago no radio. We're here now and this is what we have to deal with OCF very different. We can't move campers so easily because we have a density problem. I have been trying to challenge the musicians to get creative. Its about decibels marching band can't go thru 8 at 2 am without pissing off – Someone opinion piece in Eugene weekly decided not to go to fair this year because not quiet. This is a community of volunteers coming together to live together

Lois – Idea survey. We are not on the same page, election coming up, ballot measure?

OCF Evaluation 2009

Reverence for the Land and Growth of Displaced Teens and Elders

Notetaker: Hilary

Convener: Hilary

Attending: Paxton Hoag, Hilary Anthony, Rebecca Gandy

Talk of difficulties, challenges and success of Stage Molimo.

Fire dancing is an important pull for youth in family.

Lots of good feedback from attendees Sunday.

Sweep was easy on Friday.

Show on Sunday too early.

Not compete with vendors. Don't add food booths out there.

Sound corridor was successful with its orientation.

Chance fair after hours to help with amplified complains in 8.

