

OCF EVALUATION MEETING REPORT

AUGUST 24, 2008

The meeting to evaluate the 2008 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, six small group sessions were held throughout the day. These topics included fire safety, evacuation plans, diversity at the Fair, rebuilding the Dragon and counterfeit wristbands.

Here are the notes from each group. 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 2009 meeting so you can attend.

OCF EVALUATION MEETING

SESSION NOTES: COMMUNITY CENTER

Attending: Paxton Hoag (note taker / convener), Katie Cousins, Charlie Ruff, Lois Morford, Hilary Anthony, Auntie Em

Past Lodge Committee sunsetted, reviewed what past committee had done. It became inactive when decided that we needed to buy Swanson Superior, now the HUB.

Driving impetus now is the Upland Kitchen discussion, moving the kitchen to a more permanent location out of the floodplain

Current kitchen is very difficult to set up and use. Continually runs over budget...Not enough skills to run kitchen. Not to mention it is in the floodplain and needs extensive set up and teardown.

Idea came from mid 1990s & VegManECs, needed dry space, showers, kitchen. Don't need elaborate structure...simple open covered space.

Consider open air Adirondack design?

Not all facilities (like showers) need to be in the main building. Maybe use several buildings developed over time. Merge indoor and outdoor facilities?

Build as a Green showcase building, LEED certified.....Look at Green funding & fundraising.

Need to design to fit our needs 20 to 30 years in the future. Plan expansion in it.

Figure out requirements.... requirements drive a cool design. Simple, beautiful and Green.....

Think modular in usability and scalability. Meeting hall to hold 100 people, an outside deck to hold another 100 with movable walls in-between

Keep building codes and permitting process simple.

Need ability to provide meals for ...Fair, culture jam, other events, weddings, retreats, workshops, food preservation.....

Need graywater solution.

Design / Solution needs to be an alternative to the mainstream!

Discussion on LocationsBest location is the HUB - Redo the industrial wasteland.... Easiest to improve the looks and usefulness. Hub area good for truck delivery..

Slab Kitchen (in Alice's Wonderland) needs work but will have to be used till the community Center is built....then re-purposed..

Having a permanent kitchen will help with equipment storage and accountability. Feels good to share equipment but needs a better method of tracking.

Kitchen processes need to be developed concurrently with building the building.

What is the next step.....

Continue upland kitchen meetings, need new Community Center Committee..

Next process steps.....

- 1) Work on a design for permitting.
- 2) Form a Capital Campaign to raise money.
- 3) Decide on scope of project (Cost, Time, Size)
- 4) Find talent for specialist work that needs done.
- 5) Need Project manager.
- 6) Design Charettes – Bring in people that will be working in the building.
- 7) Design for storage for kitchen equipment and Durables.

Need to Vision the HUB area & other buildings, storage, Woodshop, Offices

OCF EVALUATION MEETING

SESSION NOTES: CABAL GATE /DRAGON RE-BUILD

Katie Cousins

Vic

Dave 'Getch' Sierrelupe

Kyle

Spirit leatherwood (Notetaker)

Jay (ambiance)

Bill ???

The timeline on the Dragon re-build was discussed. Jay said that path planning is moving slowly on this due to many considerations and that the estimated time is 3-4 years.

Some things discussed that are essential for the Dragon to serve its function is that it needs to be repositioned and partially rebuilt to have a platform that is isolated for focus during dragon and security communications. Needs to be able to see the tower and across at essential points in the (external) fair - 'birds eye view'

It was also noted that the name of the **big dragon is Phadron** and the name of the **little dragon is Layola**.

We discussed the operations of Cabal Gate and WHY it has become essential that the face of Cabal Gate is shifted. Some in the group weren't fully aware of how many people come through the gate, nor what it looks like, nor the operations.

Cabal gate is the first 'security force' that the public comes in contact with... When one walks upon Cabal Gate one might wonder, "am I at the **Country** Fair or the **County** Fair?" due to it's appearance. Thousands of people come through Cabal gate and are faced with bag checking which seems invasive (although the crew does its best to be cheerful) and after 12 years, what the volunteers of Cabal Gate have noticed is that it is a reflection of EVERYTHING the fair is not about...

-- We use plastic tables for the bags to sit on, white tarps that provide partial shade for about 10% of the people that are at Cabal Gate at any given point whether working or a day-goer... It is not decorated. There is no where to sit for those that have walked through a VERY HOT parking lot (especially alter-abled) and often times have to turn around and go back to their cars or to solutions, etc. Year after year Cabal Gate gets the last of the hay bales of which less than 25% of them are functional... We have to use what we can to create a barrier (which is shaky at best) so people can't just 'get through' and so NONE serve for sitting/resting...

There needs to be some sort of STRUCTURE for this gate... It is time... It serves an important part of the Fair and being a midpoint deserves to provide fair-goers with the absolute essentials - security, shade, place to sit, and ambiance... It should be in line with "Land Use Plannings' idea for fair entrances - JOYFUL

The other aspect that is neglected at Cabal Gate is ambiance... In EVERY other part of the fair, there is SOMETHING to awe the daygoers... We discussed with Jay possibility of providing ambiance at least at the opening of each day and maybe during peak times... This would be arranged ahead of time. Jay willing to raise the level of magic... A stage was also discussed with possible music acts scheduled as people are swept (at least on the 2 nights there isn't a fire

show).. this would draw more of a crowd and offer incentive for those trying to sneak in to go out and enjoy a show on their way home / camping.

It was proposed from 3 of Cabal Gate volunteers (Getch, Spirit, and Kyle) that a structure be put in place. Getch has already had some potential plans drawn up - Kyle is to write up a proposal... Getch estimated that we would need a 20x40ft structure for bag check PLUS a 10x10 structure for the large carts, bikes, etc. (based on how the operation of Cabal Gate is run) and a 40X40ft structure for SHADE that provides a sitting area. Getch will work on a \$ estimate. This can be taken to the budget planning and to Capital project committee...

Spirit to check with Hillary - Budget Committee about the amount of \$ going into 40th anniversary and the prospect of that budget supporting this structure.

It was also shared that the big noisy thing does NOT work at Cabal Gate as during the day we have a greeter and the people passing through the gate need to be able to hear and vice versa and perhaps it should be discussed WHAT goes there before just placing something that cannot be moved if it doesn't work - (key reason why crew interconnectedness is important - what one crew does inevitably effects another crew)

It was mentioned that Kirk Schultz from construction and path planning be contacted as he has been working on a shade structure w/ poles??? Also to see if this is something that Construction crew would build or if approved something those from Cabal Gate could build...

Key points to this proposal will be:

Security

Better Entry for the 40th Anniversary

Vision/reflection for and of the Fair

Ambiance

Hospitality - how to make patrons feel more welcome

Shade and place to sit

The group felt this was a top/**HIGH priority**... Not something that should wait for years to be acted on. Cabal Gate is ready now for a facelift and MANY of the 63 person crew is willing to help...

It was suggested (Katie?) that solar collectors make a good shade structure - and would serve a multiple purpose!

Spirit asked for guidance on what steps to take to implement this plan asap.

group collaborated:

1 Proposal

2 Contact Kirk Schultz (email exchanged) for design, flood plane, codes, archaeology

3 Anna Scott from Energy Park about solar panel, peach power

4 Hillary - what's realistic what's not with \$ and timeline and has this been discussed?

5 Steve - Handyman - Paxton as all their input would be worthwhile...

6 Other crews to consider - Lot Crew, Traffic, Security, Sign Crew - Spirit to volunteer as Cabal Gate Liason.

Consider Logistics - temporary or permanent structure? flood plane??

OCF EVALUATION MEETING

SESSION NOTES: COUNTERFEIT WRISTBANDS AND CREW INTERCONNECTEDNESS

Mambo
Spirit (Notetaker)
Getch
Kyle
Jen Lin
Donya
Crystal
Paxton
Deane
Chris

Counterfeit Passes - 2008 - silver/vendor and teen passes
Two major operations of counterfeit passes:
1. onsite - involved 500 passes; 2. offsite - bigger operation

Mambo - talked of major strain on OCF
1. all entries getting bombarded; 2. Strain on staff and system; 3. Getting in on 'our' space

Fake wristbands were done extremely well this year... Getting better... Obvious leak. In some ways the printing was better than ours. The numbers DIDN'T rub off with deet. Fake wristbands weren't trimmed well compared to OCF bands.

Potential solutions -
Crew or subdivision going undercover to see where to get fake wristbands - potentially going into other campsites surrounding fair.
Getting Wristbands made out of state?

Question arose about whether there is a liability in checking/touching bands -
Answer - No - we can check passes or they can get escorted out. If someone has nothing to hide, they don't mind showing you their pass. There is a note on the wristbands that when wearing a band, one is to follow OCF rules, regulations, and guidelines. This includes pass check.

Deane mentioned we should NOT be aggressive in grabbing arms or tugging... All can be done gently.

Jen Lin concern about shifting bags and arms full of stuff to show pass - solution - Fair family knows the drill so be prepared when entering a security gate.

Paxton proposed a no-contact option - RF I.D.
Two issues: 1. cost of infrastructure, 2. sensibility

There is a silent solution >> making homemade wristbands.

Spirit proposed micro-chip for seriously dedicated Fair Family! haha! :)

Busses need to be prepared for getting checked... Either Fair Family offsite or a double check when they get off the busses.

Major problem noted when realized Cabal Gate was never informed of problem and they check THOUSANDS of wristbands. It was noted that this year Cabal Gate saw LESS fake wristbands than in years past. We could have doubled up on wristband checkers. Could be possible that the operation onsite was in between Cabal Gate and the Dragon. (Reefer? Craft Lot?)

This discovery led us into Crew interconnectedness and obvious problems when there isn't clear communication. All major security areas, gates, and crews should have been clearly notified.

Seems there is a bunch of tribes working well, but not working together, which enables the issues, such as fake wristbands.

Communication breakdown from one crew to another -

Crystal said that when Fair Family brings others in that don't realize the sacredness of the space and what we are doing this can lead to more garbage, disrespect of land, others and space...

-Solution would be coordinators informing crew leaders that it is MANDATORY for all SOP's to attend meetings with crew member, such as humanistic intervention and crew meetings if applicable...

Spirit - suggested crews having a liaison as solution - teen crew has a liaison and it seems to work out great. This person can attend other crews meetings and see if and how it might affect their own crew.

Getch suggest for other crews to have a liaison attend Cabal Gate Camp out in May and making this a meeting time for not only Cabal Gate but for interconnectedness with other crews as well.

Jen Lin suggested tying into a spider council - yes! potential... Looking at how the crews interconnect and who affects who - traffic/lot/ext. sec., for instance.

Crew contact lists - not just for coordinators but a list that crew leaders can also get a hold of for communication... ***Especially important when shifts happen in coordinators and communication is not up to par.

Idea for a message board!

Chris mentioned levels - that there are 39 crews that the fair breaks down to...

Donya said this makes the liaison important.

Liaison should have the ability to attend multiple meetings through the year.

Mambo - we see how to fix it, we have the know, now lets implement!

OCF EVALUATION MEETING

SESSION NOTES: DIVERSITY

CONVENOR: norma sax

NOTETAKERS: Joan

Norma described incidents at this year's Fair that seemed to be racial profiling by Fair volunteers who challenged wristbands with numbers that had come off. Also, a speaker at the Fair who is black was out for a walk at night and was challenged by Security and had his wristband cut off. A female Security member wouldn't let go of his arm.

Joan described a friend on Security who is black who says he gets tired of being out here because heads whip around to look at him. He becomes aware of his "difference."

Do we try to bring in more underrepresented people or do we try to make improvements in our seism, racism – ism, s first so we're ready to welcome underrepresented folks?

Krystal feels we should try to be "better" than general society. That what's till acceptable in the general society might not be good enough for us.

"That's so gay" is pervasive now. Especially among teens, which loses meaning to the speaker, but is still hurtful to the listener.

"It's just a joke," describes the lack of understanding by the speaker. More education must be necessary for understanding.

"Retard" jokes at the Midnight Show were offensive.

Maybe we need a more visually (obviously) diverse population.

Diversity is enriching for its own sake, not necessarily to "educate" anyone.

Norma: We don't want to bring in underrepresented people in order to use them to broaden the rest of us.

Security training should say don't grab or touch people without their permission. Ask to touch their wristband. Numbers can come off wristbands – Deet takes them off. Security workers need to know that.

Junk Yard Dogs welcome people and try to make guests welcome. We should make people feel good when we have to ask them to leave, too.

Excessive aggressiveness of interactions by Fair volunteers accusing people not being part of the Fair family. Maybe because there were so many fake passes this year people just got burned out interacting with people they had to ask to leave. Would more people on Sweep mean each sweeper had fewer interactions that lead to burnout? Is it possible that our younger security people need more training? It's not just Security..."What part of this is my problem, in me?"

How do we learn to see situations from the point of view of someone else that comes into the situation with different experiences? There has to be openness to the reality of people coming from different backgrounds, experiences.

We have to have zero tolerance for sexism, racism, and homophobia. How do we confront/educate those among us who may not have thought about how their words/behavior may be offensive?

We know looking at someone can't identify homosexuality; many mixed race people are not visually identifiable. And why should the masses be able to categorize others on sight?

Could we do something in Community Village? Skits about isms? Normal-Free Zones? Street theater at the sticker booth? (Everyone liked this idea a lot!!!)

Could confrontation training happen at various Air meetings: Crafts, Community Village, Traffic.

Could skits also happen for the Public at the Line the Sand? (Everyone like this.)

Could Ambience crew do inclusion/ no confrontation skits? Costumes, role-playing.

Could we have scholarship programs for young low-income people, to attend the Fair? Low-income young people are also often racial minorities.

Could we work on job promotion within the Fair of gays, racial minorities, and disabled people?

Could we advertise the Fair on Spanish language radio stations?

Could we print some Peach Pits in Spanish and distribute them at the Latino grocery stores?

Gloria Zabala on 6a-10am Neighbors Security Crew is a Spanish professor at UofO; might be able to help with Spanish language Peach Pit.

Let's have signs around the Fair in non-English: restrooms, stages. Not only Spanish, maybe Chinese Greek, Farsi, Klingon.

OCF EVALUATION MEETING

SESSION NOTES: EVACUATION/BOTTLENECKS

Convenor and Notetaker – Susanna/Sylvia

Bill (from Fire Crew) says the only time he can see a need for total evacuation of fair is in case of bomb threat. Fair has spent years developing evacuation plan and protocols. There is a pretty good plan in place that is practiced every year by staff and crew. The biggest weakness is that the plan is not known by fair family. This was followed by a discussion about the difficulty of communicating the evacuation plan.

Cathy suggested the idea of using space behind booths as escape routes

Fire Crew Bill explained how they fantasize worst case scenarios & go through it with child care, security, etc. There are “reunion areas” outside fair.

Susanna suggested megaphones or p.a. systems at each info. booth to make announcement in case of emergency for purpose of crowd control instructions.

Jay spoke of trampling danger and need to deal with bottlenecks.

Cathy and Sylvia said folks might think the river is a place to go in an emergency, but that the river is not a safe evacuation route.

Fire Crew Bill wants a gator-wide path from recycle camp to energy park. He mentioned some other areas that require gator-wide path for safety.

Cathy said crafters need to know where reunion areas ; info should go out before next fair.

Fire Crew Bill said info. from crew maps should be on “family” maps also – evacuation routes, reunion areas, etc.

Bill Riley wants more information shared thru neighborhood discussions rather than flyers (as some people don't read all the handouts)

Fire Crew Bill will follow up to be sure fire crew are connecting with all booths pre-fair. He agrees that reunion areas should be made available to booth folks, but questions if we all need a specific evacuation plan.

We need to clarify what are our expectations of fair family.

Citing the example of different people yelling different instructions at the onset of the fire in back of her booth, Susanna said she wants to know who to listen to in the event of emergency.

Someone explained that the first responder is the “incident coordinator” who will be relieved by whoever comes to take charge.

On the subject of bottlenecks, Cathy suggests coordinating with booths to be ready to remove their obstructions (displays, etc.) to widen the path around bottlenecks in the event of an emergency.

Path Planning folks at this meeting (Jay, Susanna, Sylvia) agreed that evacuation will be big on future path planning agendas.

OCF EVALUATION MEETING

SESSION NOTES: FIRE

CONVENOR: BILL PACK

NOTETAKER: MAMBO (KEHN GIBSON)

- We have to think not just “fire”, but emergency preparedness in general.
- Not a lot of thought or energy was spent on emergencies until it happened!
- First responders are the people the emergency is happening to.
- Hoses at water stations?
- Getting commitments from the folks in the neighborhood to educate themselves and respond.
- Water stations are designated to deliver potable water to food booths. Info booths are under-utilized. Discussions are underway, e.g., designating an “Info Booth Captain” who would connect with booths and camps and disseminate emergency information. Management team must get better at making sure relevant info gets through to coordinators and all the way to line staff. Water system provides about 50 psi, 12 psi is minimum needed to access a tree fire. Kathy of Craft Committee emphasizes strong desire to work closely with Fire and emergency crews. Action plan included in booth packet? An Evacuation Plan in booth packet as well? Two issues identified by Bill: (a) The immediate local response, and (b) crowd control. Bill says job #1 is safety, #2 is fire suppression. What can be in potential booth packet? Knowledge of how to use fire extinguishers. Fire extinguishers are required at all camps. No check of this is in place. Have to educate and then trust our family. Keep the action plan simple to maximize education. Response was appropriate. Challenges were communications between Fair Central and Fire Crew, 911 calls to Lane County. Fire District #1 supplied mis-information, people not considering their own safety. Must create a safety zone around incident. Can camps create checklist showing equipment on hand, training and turn in to Fire Crew? Fuel loading of the site is a “whole other issue.”