

**OREGON COUNTRY FAIR
EVALUATION MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2011**



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Of all the meetings, the Evaluation Meeting is my favorite. Each year, I meet new people interested in becoming more involved with the Fair. The Evaluation Meeting is one of the stepping stones. Some of the common themes from this year's Ah Hah Moments include communication, long range planning, and personal responsibility. Communication: passing on the Fair's heritage, applying the Vision Action Goals, brainstorming directly with Board members, and how best to inform us all about operational changes. Long-range planning: OCF 365, population, ten-year plan for the humanure project, to name a few. Personal responsibility: Personal responsibility: the Fair started with a group of individuals doing what had to be done. Today is no different. We cannot sit back and wait for Big Fairy to wave a magic wand, nor blame Big Fairy if we are not engaged in the process. We know that magic requires a lot of preparation to look effortless.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the 2011 Evaluation Meeting held at Alice's fire pit on August. Together, we created the session topics and spent a lovely summer day respectfully discussing these issues with other fairies committed to improving the Fair. As you read through the notes you will see common threads recurring in different topics. Pulling one thread warps the whole fabric; they are all interconnected as are we.

Cordially,
Jen-Lin
Evaluation Meeting facilitator

Session Topics:

Garden and Humanure	Roles and Responsibilities
New OCF Events – Revitalizing the Fair	Values and Goals
Physical Logistics	

Participants: Keith Hershberger (Community Village); Bob Clarke (Elder/Mapper); Lois Morford (Elder); Cathy Coulson-Keegan (Booth 386); Bill Wright (Booth 386); Jon Pincus (Board, Elder); Charlie Ruff (Operations Manager); Zebediah Krieger (Quartermaster); Marcus Shepard (Quartermaster); Tony Clementi (Asst. Manager); norma sax (Administrative Assistant); Paxton Hoag (Board, Vision Action Committee); Kristie Krinock (Survey Team, VAC); Kat Kirkpatrick (Grievance Administrator); Steve Wisnovsky (Site Manager); Hilary Anthony (Treasurer, Chela Mela); Sue Theolass (Community Village, Crafter); Spirit Leatherwood (External Security); Isabella Barnes (Construction); Carolyn Gsell (Community Village); Peter Cornelison; Jennifer Jordan (Internal Security); Amy Parrish (Internal Security); Jon Silvermoon (Board, Dog Control); Lee Walsh; Bonnie Watson; Loretta Huston; Kaleb Cartwright; Joe Magner; Jen-Lin Hodgden (Community Village; Feedback Coordinator); Craig Patterson (Event Carts); Andy Strickland (Caretaker); Jain Elliott (Elder)

Garden and Humanure

Convenor: Paxton

Notetaker: Loretta

Joe Newhall, Construction coordinator is contact for women's urinals

Submit capital projects

Rebuild

- Cleaner, better airflow 6" vents

- Channel exhaust above the crowd

Replace more systems to human manure. Jenkins Process, Humanure book

Build small (experimental), and then expand.

State laws to work within Lane County Building Code

Andy's humanure system is working – pilot project

- In a barrel on wheels

- Waste mixed/layered with hardwood, sawdust for 6-8 months

Community Gardens

Lois – Her vision is a Community garden producing during fair, Culture Jam

- Contribute to food banks instead of money

- Build garden here at Alice's for community sharing

- Brainstorming how to expand the Fair land for sustainable projects

New OCF Events – Revitalizing the Fair

Convenor: Keith

Scribe: Jen-Lin and Craig

Community Center – year around event

Dances

Movie event'

Not just rely on 3-day event

Public events

10-day economic engine for (?) community

Logistics rules sanitation and food change beyond 3 days

Workshops – breaks in intensity

Negative issues stem from overpopulation

Specific focus days

Fair is not being good stewards of land given current population

Shared booth space – who controls

Extended Fair won't be the same thing.

Walk talk believe if we weren't overpopulated

Need separate event elsewhere

Expand to Thursday – Monday would be first step

How keep fresh/vibrant for day hippies

Barter Fair items –

Run concurrent to event

Impacts next to crafters – jewelers and clothes kills artisan sales

Barter Fair does not include many artisans

Crafters Guidelines – Maker is seller

Vs import – don't know who maker is

Sweat labor or Fair Trade?

Who benefits?

Reset Barter Fair to make only – no imports

Leave time for people to transition – two-day shutdown

Pre/post Fair = educational/environment workshops, speakers in designated areas

Sustainable vs. profitable?

Decrease(?) current population on site during any time

Daily population must decrease – where is the sweet spot?

New event/keeping it fresh

Physical Logistics

Convenor and Facilitator: Paxton

Notetaker: Loretta

- 1) Further collaborative process for physical planning
Important to address

Culture of collaboration

How do we change our culture of non-collaboration

- 1) Radio communication
 - 2) Developing website for feedback
 - 3) Coordinator training process
- 2) Move kitchen out of wetland (Paxton)
 - 1) Not much we can do
 - 2) If we move kitchen, we need to move quartermaster
 - 3) Sump system not adequate
Has toxic chemicals dumped in wetlands = 4' water
 - 4) Decide value of kitchen gathering area as part moving
 - 5) Equipment to move food
- 3) Electric powered shuttles (Paxton)
 - a) (?) transfer
 - b) rent more electric gators
 - c) develop more back road access for moving supplies
 - d) hub motors. Bench seating recharge with solar stations
 - e) convert fair vehicles to electric
- 4) Tobacco smoke areas
 - a) more open spaces
 - b) design air flow
 - c) tobacco chimneys
 - d) more smoking areas off the path
- 5) Altered Abled Access
 - a) closer parking for altered abled
 - b) inconsistent traffic parking rules
- 6) Safety and First Aid (Zeb)
 - a) (Need) medical at wood world/phones access
 - b) second bucket at Zen Barn/emergency phone access
 - c) Post-Fair (week after) needs medical support
 - d) Trauma kit vs. first aid kit
- 7) Barter Fair family and altered abled access

Roles and Responsibilities session:

Scribe: Amy Parrish

This was more of a Q&A on OCF leadership structure.

We discussed the Crew Exchange Program.

(Youth involvement was an important theme that carried over from the values and goals session.)

We discussed formalizing and communicating the idea of a mentorship program.

We need more feedback from the youth - maybe a survey is a good starting point.

Can we use the OCF database to survey?

We discussed the term "teen" - may not be a physical age - it might be the tenure at the Fair.

Values and Goals session

Scribe: Amy Parrish

Reviewed the current OCF goals as stated by the Visioning Committee.

Discussed values vs. goals, the VC goals appear to be value statements. There is a need to create actionable goals from the value statements.

A sounding board for the goals/ value statements is needed - are they aspirational enough? Do they encompass all parts of the OCF mission?

Report and track progress of reaching goals by monitoring and communicating the progress of initiatives (talking phase, action phase, goal complete?)

Youth involvement is important

- They created their own value statements:

1. Expand our creativity
2. Learn from people different from ourselves
3. Explore inner life
4. Discover ways to take action on what we care about in the world and in our local community
5. Have Fun

Ah-Hah Notes

Each year we conclude the meeting by stating our personal ah-hahs from the day's sharing. The random order of the comments highlights the point that we are all individuals appreciating a unique, poignant experience of the day. And yet, common themes exist. Sounds like Fair!

- Use Site beyond 3-day event – education 365
- Great participation
- Gratitude for service – effectiveness & momentum of brainstorming with Board members directly
- Humanure – not one joke made all day – we had a serious discussion
- Delighted to see new participants with new good ideas. Glad to be onsite.
- Devotion to humanure -- 10 year plan with Andy's implementation
- Expanding vision and process – how do we involve youth?
- Need better personal time management
- How do we relate to population growth without being overwhelmed by it. No one wants to talk to about it. Rather how to accommodate it.
- Communication overlaps everything.
- As much as we do to engage youth, we should empower them to enter adulthood at the Fair.
- This is a good forum to address some issues as current social topics. .
- Open Space exists!
- My ideas re: safety – have been heard. We can change the world through communication and knowledge.
- The public is unable to leave the world behind as we are. How do we encourage them to be present?
- Re: internal population – high rise condos. Build up!
- 40 years ago the Elders were in their 20's. Current youth = continuity. The Fair will continue.
- It begins with me – personal responsibility.
- We had enough time to complete today's agenda.
- This is not an end of post-Fair, rather beginning the agenda for 2012.
- I learned how much I have to learn about what has happened and is happening.
- We are a diverse family with different viewpoints and yet we create magic every year.
- New to process – expected greater family and Board turnout. Enjoyable.
- Re: growth – after 42 years, it requires a lot of effort and all of us to work at it.
- Re: goals – Culture Jam goals are similar to the Vision Action goals. Very passionate and creative.
- We have a lot to learn from it.
- Reinforcement of past ideas – organism.
- Diversity
- Reminded that the core of what we do is captured in the vision statement -
-“create events...”

- How far will we wander from our roots? The ones that fit organization take root and grow.
- New faces come forward in leadership roles.
- After four decades – evolution – we are still very much the same.
- Involve ethic re: communication
- Pioneering organism into mainstream
- This is the first time no one mocked management/ staff/ Big Fair. More personal responsibility.
- We are us and thankful to staff.
- Receive different answers to the same question depending upon who you ask. All are valid.