

OUR FAIR CAROUSEL, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2009

Present: Peter Boehm, Barbara Deneen, Bob Herskovitz, Bob Marabella, Mike Merrick, Nancy Peterson, Muriel Poehler, Jim Weichert, John Willy

The meeting came to order at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes of the meeting of October 2, 2008, were approved as mailed.

Nominating committee. The committee presented a slate of board members consisting of the existing board minus Helen Warren, who declined another term. The report also proposed the same officers and executive committee members. The committee's report was approved. (A copy of the report will be filed with the minutes and a new board list will be sent to board members.)

Finance report. Jim Weichert distributed copies of the audit report and commented on the report. The summary is that our financial information is presented fairly and in keeping with generally accepted accounting principles. The statement shows that as of September 30, 2008, the end of the fiscal year, OFC had assets of \$1.9 million. This includes approximately \$215,000 in cash plus inventory, the carousel, pledged gifts, and a portion of the building, which is being amortized over 30 years. The statement of activities shows that ride revenue was up by \$3,000 while sales were down by about \$4,000. Contributions were up by about \$10,000. Total revenues exceeded expenses, and overall our net assets rose by just over \$9,000.

Weichert also distributed a new statement from the auditor that describes the process used and any problems uncovered in the course of an audit. The auditor had expressed some concern to Boehm about our cash controls. If we were a larger organization, we might have added layers of controls, Boehm said. As it is, we do have a separation of duties, with separate cash drawers for the cash register and for the morning and afternoon ticket sellers. Tammi maintains receipts for each drawer; Boehm prepares the weekly report and bank deposit. Weichert said the audit itself is not required because of our size but it is a good investment.

Boehm pointed out that we had, at year's end, \$138,000 in cash and a \$25,000 CD. He has purchased a second CD. The cash and CDs would be enough to cover a year's operations, he noted.

Weichert said he would be filing our tax returns soon. As in the past, he asked the board to pre-approve Boehm's and Weichert's signing of the filing, which was moved, seconded, and approved.

Debriefing. On behalf of Clyde Boysen, Boehm reported that the post-season volunteer debriefing once again identified many more positives than negatives. There was some

interest in additional communication, including such items as how we are doing financially.

Personnel. Boehm reported that Boysen had conducted Tammi's year-end performance review and recommended a 3 percent increase in her salary. In a conversation with Boehm, she said she would like the organization to increase the amount we provide for her to buy health coverage. We had been covering 10 months of the year and she asked for the full 12 months. This would constitute an overall 4 percent increase in compensation. After discussion, the board voted to give her the increase she had requested. The board also voted to raise Mark Carlson's pay by an additional 50 cents per hour.

Budget. Boehm presented a budget that is essentially the same as the previous year, with the addition of \$500 in the salary line and about \$500 in board travel. He noted that two items had gone over estimate in the previous year's budget: board travel because Art Curtze now stays at a hotel instead of at the Boehm-Peterson home, and the sound study, which the board approved (and which, had it been taken from the equipment line, would have been within that line's budget estimates).

Ride income is projected to be about the same as last year; Boehm believes that the economy is more likely to affect gift sales than ride tickets. A project to fix the interior fence is included in the "new initiatives" line in the new budget; work will be done to prevent children from catching their knees between the bars.

Volunteer committee. Bob Marabella reported that the hooded sweatshirts have been very well received by volunteers. The committee will get together to prepare for the April volunteer event.

Gift shop. Boehm said that during the audit, a problem with the end-of-season inventory was discovered. Dollar amounts had been calculated using 2007 instead of 2008 quantities; this problem was easily fixed. He also said that some of the quantities on hand did not match the records when the auditor spot-checked various items. Some changes in procedures will be made for next year's inventory.

Sound survey. Mike Merrick reported on the sound assessment approved by the board last summer. A firm did the work, including computer simulations using all of the relevant information. They reported to us in September that there is nothing we can do to reduce noise levels that would be cost-effective. Even the most expensive alterations, at something like \$15,000, would reduce the sound by only 4 decibels, making no appreciable difference in, for example, a volunteer's ability to carry on a conversation with a visitor.

Restoration. Bob Herskovitz had talked about redoing the broken leg joint on the pinto with new carving. However, since the latest break had done no additional damage—the glue simply gave way—he decided to redo the repair in the same way, using a relatively weak glue. If the leg breaks too often, he said, there might be cause to use a different

method. In addition, part of a hoof on another horse broke along an old glue line and he said he was planning to re-glue it.

President's report. Boehm reported that he had asked Mike Hahm to arrange a one-day training in emergency procedures for Tammi Beckley, Mark Carlson, all shift supervisors and three or four lead volunteers. The park has standard training for their employees and Hahm agreed that our staff should be trained in the park's procedures for handling and reporting emergencies of all types.

Boehm said he had looked into purchasing ornamental sheet metal to cover sections of the interior fence to prevent knees from getting stuck between the gaps. He was unable to get estimates for 10-foot sections or for the actual work of fabricating and installing the sections. It was suggested that we might use clear plastic; Boehm said he would look into the possibilities. Bob Herskovitz suggested contacting Crown Plastics in Plymouth. John Willy said he would get a photo of a type of chain link material that might work.

The board approved the proposed schedule for the 2009 operating season.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The next meeting will be April 23, 2009, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy A. Peterson, board secretary