

Josephine County Fair Board Meeting

September 17, 2024

Josephine County Fairgrounds Floral Building

1451 Fairgrounds Rd., Grants Pass, Or. 97527

Present: Vice Chair Jon Aslakson, Dean Saxon, Julie Lockman, Jennifer McGowan, Karl Haeckler and Tamra Martin Fairgrounds Director

These are meeting minutes only. Only text enclosed in quotation marks (“) reports speaker’s exact words.

1. Call to order

Pursuant to notice through the media and in conformance with the Public Meeting Law, Jon called the meeting to order at 6: 00 pm.

2. Agenda

Jennifer made a motion to approve the Agenda for Sept 17th, 2024, and Karl .2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Minutes

Dean made a motion to approve the minutes from July 16th, 2024, and Jennifer 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. General Public Input: Guest in attendance. (lots of guests)

Linda Bradley-gave fair update-talked about the booth in the middle of the commercial building which showcased the master plan for community members to see. Karl from the board helped at that booth and talking to people about the plan. Many community members would like to help, participate, etc. Linda encouraged the board to have more board support is representing and promoting the plan.

Deb Berg- requested showmanship and judging be on separate days. Also had a concern that the fair dates might change. The concern moving forward is competing with other fairs and animals, processing, etc.

Averill Harp- City of Josephine County Good News Club. She asked for explanation as to why they were not allowed to be at fair this year at the Kidz Alley.

Mark Isom- parents were the Baileys who built the grandstands. Interested in a memorial on the grandstands to his parents. Grandfather owned the land that the grandstands are on so lots of family history.

Reports

- a. **Auction Committee -Jen McGowan-** met and discussed fair, what worked what didn’t, the future and registration going out in October for next year. Auction total was \$861,803. Same amount of lot numbers from last year and up about \$20,000 from last year. New Record!

- b. **Facilities Committee- Dean Saxon-** nothing to report. No meeting held. Next meeting Oct 10th.
- c. **Friends of the Fairgrounds Report- Jon Aslakson-** nothing to report. Linda Bradley in attendance encouraged more board members to join as liaisons.
- d. **Director's Report**
 - 1. **Grounds Report-** horseracing is back on for Fall meet. Temporary area set up off Pansy Lane for horses. Launching busy season for events.
 - 2. **Upcoming Events:**
 - 1. **Oregon Fairs Convention Oct 17-19, Deschutes County**
 - i. **Silent Auction Item-** board members all to pitch in \$20 for an item Tamra will purchase.
 - 3. **Agriculture Education Townhall- Sept 19, 6:00 p.m.-** Fair Board should be present. This is to review the livestock and agricultural piece of the fair.
 - 4. **Trunk or Treat, Saturday Oct 26- 9am- 1pm-** our 4th annual event. There are opportunities for sponsors to donate candy. Jen is looking into putting together another petting zoo like in 2022. Youth and Ag kids put this together.
 - 5. **Last Minute Gift Sale, Dec 21- 9am- 2pm-** open up for Vendor spaces inside the Floral Building and the Pavilion. Sights and Sounds are donating the drapes to create more defined booth space. This is a good fundraiser for the fairgrounds.
- 5. **Business**
 - a. **2024 Fair Recap-** Tamra said the smoothest running fair she's been a part of. The public said it was a great fair with a well-attended opening day. Midway and free activities were the draw and highlights this year. Sawyer Brown had the highest attendance for our concert series but still was about 50% of where we needed it to be. Reviewed Fair 2024 budget and projections and don't expect a profit to carry to 2025 Fair. Karl brought up missing the motor sports ad rodeo events. We will review and look at numbers. The new track makes it difficult for us to do some of those type events.
 - b. **2025 Fair Workshop October 15, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.-** meeting set
- 6. **Other Business**
 - a. **Additional Discussion**
- 7. **Next Fair Board Meeting: October 15, 2024 @6:00 p.m.**

Motion was made to adjourn at 7:51 by Jennifer and 2nd by Dean. Motion passed unanimously.