

Josephine County Fair Board Meeting

February 20, 2024

Josephine County Fairgrounds Floral Building

1451 Fairgrounds Rd., Grants Pass, Or. 97527

Present: Arthur O'Hare, Chair; Jon Aslakson, Vice-Chair; Lonnie Johnson, Julie Lockman, Dean Saxon, Jen 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, Arthur O'Hare called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Agenda

Lonnie Johnson made a motion to approve the Agenda for Feb 20th, 2024, and Jen McGowan 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Minutes

Lonnie Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from January 2023, and Jon Aslakson 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. General Public Input: Cindee Andres and Yvonne Roberts. Anne, Sierra and McKenzie

Cindee Andres- submitted a letter to the board regarding space for animals. Auction Committee voted on some auction items that she disagrees with including removing the requirement for a terminal only sale and animal health liability. In her opinion not enough notice is being provided to breeders that the sale type is changing, and breeders will assume that the animal being sold is for a terminal only project. In addition, she disagrees that the family should retain any liability of the animal's health after it's been sold. The child has no control over an animal's care after it's been sold and should be out of their hands once the animal is sold.

Yvonne Roberts- sent letters via email and would the open livestock to be able to come and not to limit anyone to spaces or time frames. She believes we can fit everyone in without relocating the open goat division. She believes that people come and want to see the open animals and dairy animals, not just the auction animals.

Regarding the Auction Committee- Jen spoke about the Auction committee's vote regarding animal carcasses- if the animal is not edible by the processor due to care received pre-auction, the child and family will be contacted and has option to replace the animal or not follow through with the sale. This is a rare occasion but there are health situations that are not noticeable until processing. The auction committee did vote to allow a non-kill option for buyers. They can purchase an animal to keep it...it should be the buyers right to keep or slaughter. Due to the liability concerns that were raised, Tamra will submit the manual for legal review on the no-kill auction issue.

Regarding the open livestock/ goat barn- Arthur suggested that this issue get resolved to parties could move forward with planning. Jen and Tamra had previously put forth 3 options to the Open Goat Division Superintendent to consider; 1) show goats during fair by moving them into the sheep and livestock barn, 2) use the livestock barn sheep/goat set up prior to Fair, or 3) use the livestock barn sheep/goat set up after Fair. The Goat Superintendent does not believe that any of those options will work and declines to participate in the 2024 Fair. The Fair Board wants to be flexible, but the Fair is changing, the layout is changing, and we need to adapt to these changes...everyone does. Will consider options again for the 2025 Fair.

Jen McGowan made a motion to keep the open goat division active and again give that division options for showing with the previous options provided. Lonnie Johnson 2nd. The Motion passed unanimously.

5. Old Business: none to report

6. Reports

- a. Auction Committee- Jen- nothing to report
- b. Facilities- Dean- nothing to report
- c. Friends of the Fairgrounds (FOF) Report- Jon Aslakson attending his first meeting. Nothing to report. Tamra added that they are looking to expand their volunteer base. They have rebranded their logo and are now on social media. They will be doing a media campaign on what they do for the fairgrounds to keep the public informed.
- d. Capital Improvement Committee- nothing to report
- e. Director's Report:
 - a. **Grounds and Financial Update-** ARPA projects wrapping up with the restroom upgrade in the Arts & Crafts, Floral & Pavilion, all upgraded with touchless options. The arena is still under construction with the walkways replaced and the footings under the bleachers redone. Light switch was added at the West end of the arena, grant through Friends of Fair. This is Budget preparation week. There have been some increases and additional expenses coming down from the county.
 - b. **Legislative Update-** The State created a fund for Fairs in the amount of approx. \$85k each if the Fair could show a revenue loss during COVID. We have applied and are expected to receive funding in April.

7. Business-

- A. Fair Workshop Follow up-** The Board would like to hold the Fair workshop in November moving forward to have more time to implement new ideas. Discussion on removing the light pole and the planter in front of the Pavilion. The light pole proposal would be putting in 2 light poles at around \$20,000. That would put those poles in compliance and remove

overhead wires as those would be moved underground. FOF might produce matching funds if we can get a grant for half.

- B. Back to the 50's- Tamra** met with the Rogue Valley Cruisers group and they loved having the event here. This year they want to add stage music and more cars. Tamra suggested we get behind the Rogue Valley Cruisers event and offer a Fairgrounds sponsored event. Board agreed.

8. Other Business-

- 9. Additional Discussion- Arthur-** Has been considering goals for the Fair, Fair Board, the master plan, etc. and would like the Board to discuss and establish 2024 Goals. Tamra will send out an abbreviated version of results from a goal workshop to review them at the next meeting in March. Arthur would also like to consider the Master Plan and what steps could be taken in 2024 for forward progress.

10. Next Fair Board Meeting: March 19th, 2024

Motion was made to adjourn at 6:47 by Lonnie Johnson and 2nd by Dean Saxon. Motion passed unanimously.