

Crook County Fair Board Minutes Fair Board Meeting 5:30 pm, November 18th, 2024 1280 S. Main St., Prineville, OR 97754 Telephone 541-447-6575

The regular meeting of the Crook County Fair Board was called to order on November 18th, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Gail Merritt.

ROLL CALL/BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING

- Gail Merritt, Chair
- Mike Kasberger, Vice Chair
- Casey Kaiser
- Linda Cross
- Stanley Flynn

STAFF ATTENDING

Haley Crow, Administrative Assistant

Casey Daly, Manager

GUESTS: Eric Blaine, Crook County Legal Counsel / Angela Ostrander / Justin Alderman, Prineville Review

MINUTES: Mike Kasberger motions to approve the minutes for October 21st, 2024, Casey Kaiser seconds the motion, Linda Cross and Stanley Flynn abstain; the motion is tabled until there is a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S):

- Justin Alderman from the Prineville Review points out that the agenda lists his grievance as a "complaint" when it is in fact a grievance; The difference being a complaint in the public meetings process is filed with the OGEC and a grievance is not before the OGEC.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

• Vacant Fair Board Seat Recommendation to County Commissioners and Findings in Response to the October 18th, 2024, Public Meeting Law Complaint Filed by Justin Alderman (Eric Blaine): At the meeting on November 4th, the Fair Board considered a number of issues regarding what I'm going to call a "complaint" against the Fair Board filed by Mr. Alderman regarding public meeting laws. We prepared a response that was issued on November 8th. One of the things the Board considered is whether to rescind the decision made at the October 17th meeting) to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners as to who to appoint to fill the vacancy on the Fair Board) or not rescind that decision; in which case, under the law, the Fair Board would need to deliberate and show findings regarding good cause for why they should not rescind that decision. What I recall from early November, after receiving the complaint, the Fair Board has not transmitted its recommendation to the Commissioners. Part of the concern I remember the

Fair Board having is the applicants were told the interviews were going to be held in an Executive Session, and if that had been changed to a public meeting the applicants might not have had time to prepare a potentially different type of presentation in front of the Fair Board, and that if there were any errors committed, they weren't committed by the applicants, so the Fair Board was concerned that it wasn't fair to them to retroactively change the nature of the meeting. I am here to discuss with the Board different options: to rescind the prior decision, to discuss what good cause there might be to not rescind... The Fair Board could delegate to someone to memorialize those findings in a document and that would be adopted as the findings of the Fair Board. I suggest that there be a discussion, that way a document can be prepared. Since some of you weren't at the meeting in early November, are there other issues of concern as to why it might make sense to not rescind the decision?

- o Mike Kasberger: If we have to start over, let's start over.
- O Stanley: What is the easiest for us?
 - Eric: There are two factors to consider: doing right by the two applicants and doing right by the public. It's not ideal for any volunteer board to have a vacancy. The Board of Commissioners has already said that they would appreciate the Fair Board start over, even before they received the official recommendation from the Fair Board. I am not advocating this, just saying the easiest option might be to rescind.
 - Stanley: Applicants took their time to meet with us, so we would have to ask them to come back and maybe they wouldn't after seeing the problems there have been, but it seems like that's the easiest.
 - Gail: My only concern is that we didn't go into this intentionally doing anything wrong -- we were following what we had been advised.
 - Eric: I think Oregon State Legislature has created a system that has many traps for the unwary. Many public bodies try in good faith to comply with the statutes and still make mistakes. I don't believe you had malicious intent, but nevertheless here we are.
 - **Stanley:** We only want what is best for the Fairgrounds and have made our decisions because we believe they are best for the Fairgrounds.
 - **Mike K:** We thought we were doing what was right for the Fairgrounds, but now here we are another month down the road and are no different today than we were two meetings ago. We aren't getting anywhere let's rescind it and move forward.
 - Mike Kasberger motions to rescind the decision, Stanely seconds the motion...
 - **Haley:** Has the County Administration already opened the vacancy to the public? Does time restart today with the Fair Board's vote or do we lose all that time?
 - o **Eric**: I don't know if there have been any new applicants, or if time will start over but we could find that out.
 - **Haley:** Can the Board reach out to the two previous applicants and see if they want to reapply?
 - o **Eric**: Yes, maybe Casey can reach out to them.
 - **Mike:** Who posts the vacancy in the newspaper?
 - o **Eric**: I don't believe this is true for every board, but for the Fair Board I believe it's County Administration office.
 - O **Mike**: So, similar to last month, why are they choosing to move ahead without communicating with the Fair Board?
 - Casey Daly: All volunteer board vacancies are advertised simultaneously.
 - Casey Kaiser: We don't actually fill the Board seat; the County Commissioners do.
 - **Mike**: It seems like if we are taking the time to be a Board, we should be informed of the decisions that are being made regarding the Fair Board.

- Haley: Is there an MOU with the County?
 - o **Eric**: yes, and there is an order that was adopted in 2022 or 2023 that outlines the process for appointing board members: The Fair Board makes a recommendation to the County Commissioners, and they technically don't have to follow that but 99/100 they do.
- There has been a motion and a second to rescind the decision made by the Crook County Fair Board on October 17th, 2024 that made a recommendation to fill the vacancy on the Fair Board; no further discussion; Linda Cross abstains; motion carries.
 - Stanley motions to delegate the responsibility to the Crook County Legal Counsel to prepare a document to memorialize the rescission of the October 17, 2024 decision, Casey Kaiser seconds, motion carries unanimously.
- Work Session 10/31/2024 Discussion 2025 Budget (Casey Daly): At our work session we talked about some ideas to reduce the cost of Fair. We want to revisit that topic and see if the Board has any new ideas or feedback. Commissioner Hermreck will be meeting with the Finance Department in January, and we will have a better idea by then; but we are at an impasse when it comes to planning for Fair. Any feedback about Fair would help us. Judges are an immediate concern.
 - O Stanley: Can we start planning as usual, and then if something happens, we can pull back?
 - O Casey Kaiser: I would be in support of forging ahead as if we were having a full Fair this year, and then keep a couple of those big-ticket items in our back pocket that have a drop-dead date that is later, that we can drop if needed.
 - o **Casey Daly:** Some big-ticket items would be concerts, open class livestock, some of the entertainment like the Western Express Railroad for example.
 - o **Mike K:** I think we go through the list and move ahead with the things that we can't do fair without and cut the things we can and add them in later if we are able to.
- Hoedown Planning Update (Haley): I found an auctioneer who will do our fundraiser for \$500. A lot of the planning has been on pause, but ticket sales are live, and the event is being advertised. The 4-H photography club said they would do our photos again.
 - O Gail expresses concern about having a fundraiser and then scaling the fair way back. Mike K is concerned about finding volunteers to do the event. Haley noted that the last event netted around \$34k. Gail's family can volunteer again. Casey K wonders if there is another way to generate \$34k without the effort? Haley says that there are other ways to generate that revenue, through beefing up the Fair sponsorship packages, reaching out to additional larger sponsors, getting revenue from the Sales Committee, charging to parking, etc... Haley reminds the Board that the bulk of the work was done last year now we have a really good idea of how the event runs and a good bulk of the supplies. Angela notes that 4-H and FFA groups would be great for helping with set-up and tear-down since they are the beneficiaries of the fair. Gail recommends mentioning the Friends of the Fair program at the Hoedown. Casey Kaiser recommends a GoFundMe type of platform.
 - o The next Hoedown Committee meeting will be tomorrow at 12:00 noon.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

• Casey K: none

• Mike K: none

Linda Cross: noneStanley Flynn: none

• Gail: none

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT – Haley

• I have shared printable handouts about the Executive Session public meeting laws. You can go to their website and attend their free trainings.

- We have 5 seats left at the Hospice Auction. Tickets are sold out right now. Doors open at 4:30, the event runs until 9.
- I will be at the IAFE convention in Phoenix on the 1st-5th of December but I will still be available by email or text if you need anything from me.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Casey

As of 5:00pm, there were no financial reports for October ready from the Treasurer's Office.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Casey

- Eagle Roofing came out and they found another leaking spot in the roof, so they are going to reseal and reflash and see if that solves the problem.
- o The new gravel parking area has been rolled and leveled.
- O Picnic tables have arrived. We will assemble them soon.
- We have been stockpiling dirt on the south property that is coming from the Combs Flatt construction.
- o We order 40 livestock pens and 50 poultry/rabbit pens for the 2025 Fair.
- The model railroad club building does not have an operable HVAC system, so we got a quote for a new mini split and the Club agreed to do the ceiling insulation.
- o New pickup was ordered.
- o I will be attending the WFA convention in Reno, NV in January.
- o 9 non-revenue-generating events: Health Department youth resource fair, Veteran's services resource fair, 4-H club meetings, Parks & Rec basketball practices in Grizzly Mountain Pavilion.

ACTION ITEM(S):

- a. October minutes were tabled; with two board members abstaining from the vote, there were not enough voting members present.
- b. The board voted to rescind the decision made by the Crook County Fair Board on October 17th, 2024, that made a recommendation to fill the vacancy on the Fair Board; Linda Cross abstained.
- c. Board voted to delegate responsibility to the Crook County Legal Counsel to prepare a document to memorialize the rescission of the October 17, 2024, decision.
- d. Mike K motioned to adjourn the meeting, Stanley seconds, the meeting is adjourned.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting Date: December 16, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Haley Crow 11/27/2024