Joint Benton County Fair Board/Fair Foundation Meeting

Monday, June 21, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Guerber Hall, Benton County Event Center & Fairgrounds (GoToMeeting option available)

Fair Board Members Present: Rick Freeman, Craig Hendrickson, Carl Chambers, Darrell Oakes, Mark Baumgartner, Heather Stevens (virtually) and Trudy Overlin, Chair
Foundation Members Present: Robyn Rice, Kay Dee Cole, Nellie Oehler, Bruce Ashenbrenner, Dave Schudel, Al Hutchinson, Ryan Cheeke (by phone for vote) and Eric Thompson, Chair
Liaisons Present: Chloe Hendrickson, 4H
Staff Present: Jesse Ott, Deputy Director; Lynne McKee, Director and Nancy Swain, recorder

1. Call Meeting to Order Overlin called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM
2. Overlin asked for any changes of the agenda; none were requested.
3. Consent Agenda - Overlin asked for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as submitted. Baumgartner moved, Chambers seconded the motion to accept the Consent Agenda as submitted; the motion passed unanimously.
4. Citizens Comments – No Citizen Comments were made.
5. Discussion Topics
    a. Introduction of New Fair Board Members – Overlin welcomed new board members Craig Hendrickson & Rick Freeman and asked them to say a few words about themselves as a way of introducing themselves to the Board. Both shared they are involved with 4-H and will bring their professional expertise to help ongoing efforts to improve the Event Center and Fairgrounds.
    b. Department Director's Report - McKee began her report by introducing Deputy Director Jesse Ott, noting he his strong parks background has enabled her already to delegate much to him. McKee shared, she and Ott are working to complete the staffing roster and merge policies and procedures from the two departments. McKee reported the good news that Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) revenues are rebounding post-Covid-19 and that the Fairgrounds is ending its fiscal year in the black as she predicted. Explaining the TLT, McKee shared the history of how she obtained the funding noting the Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association (ORLA) did not object though they are not huge 'fans' of the taxes. As everyone who toured the Auditorium kitchen, saw the kitchen is complete except for the installation of the cameras. McKee shared she met with Carolyn Ashton to plan the 4-H Fair at the fairgrounds this year. McKee reported the Fairgrounds will support 4-H by providing infrastructure. McKee reported the Oregon Fairs Association lobby to remove the cap on Lottery funds is not likely to pass but that we will most likely receive a one-time payment of ~$35,000 in addition to the regular annual funding of ~$53,000. McKee reported the Exotic Animal Ordinance committee is working on the recommendation to take to the Board of Commissioners (BOC). Answering Baumgartner's question of who is on the committee, McKee replied representatives from Chintimini Wildlife, Heartland Humane Society, an OSU biologist, a representative from OR Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Brad from Brad's Reptiles Benton County's animal control officer and Carolyn Ashton from 4-H.
    c. Fair Foundation Meeting - Foundation Chair, Eric Thompson opened the Foundation's meeting with notice of the required 501 c3 1999 filing and then called on Treasurer Rice for her report. Rice noted the Foundation has $20,152.48 earmarked out of $190,520.16 leaving $170,367.68 available. Schudel suggested placing funds in a higher yield account than the current placement at Citizens Bank. Rice will look into other options. Rice pointed out the funds were kept as liquid as possible so that the Foundation could easily support Fairgrounds projects. Taking a vote that included Ryan Cheeke by telephone, the Foundation approved the motion posed by Ashenbrenner and seconded by Oehler for spending up to $7,000 to support the Fairgrounds re-

roofing of the Floral Courtyard. Thompson floated the idea the Foundation could offer to pay for the Lions Club to set up their food booth at the 4-H Fair and offer the food for free to the campers. Hendrickson shared plans for food vendors have already been made. Thompson adjourned the Foundation and handed the meeting back to Chair Overlin.

2. Fair Board Committee Reports
    a. Executive Committee - Overlin stated the Committee did not meet.
    b. Business Development Committee - Overlin reported the Committee met and discussed the hole in the Community Mike and Judy Corwin will leave once they move to Eagle Crest. Corwin had been on the Fair Board and Business Committee for many years; both Mike and Judy played key roles in the community.
    c. Facilities Committee -Baumgartner welcomed Freeman to the Committee stating his expertise will be called upon. The Committee has not met since their annual walk through last month. Baumgartner commented on the vast improvement the new roll-up doors have made in the Solar Building.
    d. Fair Committee - McKee stated the Committee will meet on June 29. McKee shared she may have a new theme created for 2022 to celebrate getting back to having Fair after a two year hiatus and use the mothballed 2019/2020 in 2023.
    e. Rodeo Committee - Oakes reported the Committee has not met but did move panels for 4-H Pre-Horse Fair.
    f. Governance Committee - with Thompson leaving the Board, Overlin announced if the Committee is to continue, someone will need to volunteer. Thompson is willing to help with the transition.
3. Other Reports and Announcements
    a. 4-H Liaison - Chloe Hendrickson reported everyone is very excited about the in-person 4-H Fair and reviewed the schedule of events
    b. Other

Adjournment – 7:00 p.m.
Next Meeting: July 19, 2021

The Fair Board may call an executive session when necessary pursuant to ORS 192.660. The Board is not required to provide advance notice of an executive session. However, every effort will be made to give notice of an executive session. If an executive session is the only item on the agenda for the Board meeting, notice shall be given as for all public meetings (ORS 192.640(2)) and the notice shall state the specific reason for the executive session as required by ORS 192.660.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to the Fairgrounds Office (541)766-6521

** Indicates that support materials were distributed prior to meeting*