

**Benton County Fair Board Meeting**  
**Monday August 18th, 2025 6:00 pm.**  
**Benton County Event Center & Fairgrounds, Auditorium Building.**  
**110 SW 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, Corvallis OR 97355**

Fair Board Members Present: Kristi Schrock Chair, Aurora Jensen Vice Chair Zel Brook, Craig Hendrickson (via phone), Rylee Henderer, Rick Freeman, Mark Stephens

Liaison Present: ~

NAPE Staff: Jesse Ott, Director; Jennifer Martin Fairgrounds Manager, Kerri Sellers Mandelkow Admin Asst, Mindy Johnson Event and Sponsor specialist

Guests: ~

**Schrock called the meeting to order at 18:01 hrs.**

1. Schrock called for review of Agenda and previous meeting minutes Motion entered to approve by Zel and second by Aurora. All in favor no one opposes.
2. Citizen Comments – Schrock noted no citizens attending and moved into discussion.
3. Director's/ Fairgrounds Manager's Report:

**Director's Report – Jesse Ott**

- Expressed appreciation for the successful Fair, noting Jennifer Martin's exceptional work.
- No falls or major injuries were reported. The maintenance crew, led by Doug, was commended for implementing strong safety measures.
- One incident was noted: a carnival umbrella was blown by wind, accidentally knocking over a young girl. No injury was reported.

**Fairgrounds Manager's Report – Jennifer Martin**

- Extended thanks to the Fair Board for their support and involvement during the Fair.
- Emails regarding the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner are being sent. Jennifer and Mindy are working to secure a sponsor for the dinner.
- Final attendance and vendor data are still being compiled.
  - TCB did not scan all lanyards or vendor/fair board member tickets.
  - Preliminary numbers indicate increases:
    - **+500 attendees** on Wednesday and Thursday
    - **+700 on Friday**
    - **+1,200 on Saturday**
    - **22,000 scanned in total**, estimated **24,000 total** including unscanned entries.
- **4-H Red Gate** entry needs improvement for next year.
- **Additional restrooms** in varied locations are recommended.
- A **purebred sheep** got loose; the owner is requesting compensation.

## Fair Board Member Feedback on the 2025 Fair

- Improved PA speakers needed
- Parking tickets were unusable in some cases
- More whiteboards/programs at information booths
- Increased publicity for the **Floral Courtyard**
- Move-in communication: Bulletin or whiteboard needed
- Arena was very well received
- Dead zones (lack of activity) noted
- TCB failed to consistently scan wristbands
- Parking and ticketing processes were inefficient
- Consider **Texas Longhorn or Racing Pigs** as future attractions
- More signage needed throughout the grounds
- **Battle of the Bands** was very popular
- Unofficial entry noted via **South Parking Lot**
- Request for more commercial vendors in the auditorium
- Desire to enhance the atmosphere in the auditorium
- Current Queen performed well; board is excited about the new Queen
- Rodeo requires a **panel perimeter** for safety
- Suggestion for a **Hospitality Tent** during the rodeo
- Mobile app was well received
- Recommend integrating **QR codes** on tickets and app for easier access
- Suggest hosting **4-H Awards** at the Floral Courtyard stage
- Train ride was popular; suggestion to include a recording during the ride
- VIP area was successful
- The board discussed how soon to begin signing acts for the 2026 Fair
- Suggestion to involve **Oregon Dairy Women** in the commercial kitchen

## Fair Board Retreat

- The **Fair Board Retreat** is scheduled for **October 20, 2025**
- The **regular October board meeting will be cancelled**

## Other Reports

- **Rodeo Committee** will host an **End-of-Year Potluck** on **August 31, 2025**
- **4-H Report:** Over **400 youth** participated in 4-H activities during the Fair

**Adjournment: 19:49**

**Next Meeting: September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

*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.