

Benton County Fair Board Meeting

Mondy December 15th, 2025, 6:00 pm

Benton County Event Center & Fairgrounds,

Auditorium Building 110 SW 53rd Street, Corvallis OR 97355

Fair Board Members Present: Kristi Schrock Chair, Aurora Jensen Vice Chair, Zel Brook

Rylee Henderer, Rick Freeman, Mark Stephens, Craig Henderickson

Liaison Present: ~

NAPE Staff: **Jesse Ott NAPE Director, Jennifer Martin Fairgrounds Manager**

Kerri Sellers Admin Asst.

Guests: **Lou 4-H Liaison, Carolyn Ashton 4-H**

Schrock called the meeting to order at 18:00 hrs.

1. Review of Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes (December 15, 2025)

- **Motion:** Approve agenda and previous meeting minutes with amendment.
 - **Motion by:** Zel
 - **Seconded by:** Rylee
 - **Outcome:** Motion passed unanimously; no opposition.

2. Citizen Comments

Schrock noted no citizens in attendance and moved into discussion.

3. Director / Fairgrounds Manager Report

Jesse's Report

- **Extension Building:**
 - Construction is not yet complete.
 - Trusses are scheduled to be installed next week.
 - Decision between asphalt patching versus a new asphalt surface will depend on project timeline.
 - Power requirements for the new building require coordination between the auction, 4-H, and fairgrounds.

- **Solar Bathroom Options:**
 - **Stick-built bathroom:**
 - Estimated \$150,000 for utilities only.
 - Estimated \$275,000 for the structure.
 - **Portable unit:**
 - A used unit is available in Junction City.
- **Indoor Arena Plywood Replacement:**
 - Discussion was held regarding paint color.
 - The Fair Board voted to use off-white (eggshell).
- **Arena Sponsorships:**
 - Sponsorships will be sold for banners on the new arena walls.

Jennifer's Report

- **Fair Saturday Artist:**
 - Jodee Massena is no longer available.
 - The Fair Committee is actively working to secure an alternative artist.
 - Fair theme poster contest opened on December 15, 2025.
 - **Contest winner will receive:**
 - Season passes
 - Season parking passes
 - Food vouchers
 - Ride bracelets
 - VIP passes
 - Meet-and-greet opportunities with fair celebrities
- **Adult Prom:**
 - Initiative proposed by Jennifer and the Business Committee.
 - Scheduled for February 13, 2026.
 - **Location:** Auditorium
 - **Theme:** Decades
 - **Age requirement:** 21 and over
 - **Ticket sales begin:** January 1, 2026
 - \$20 for single tickets
 - \$35 for couples
 - PIO will provide photography and photo options.
 - A DJ will be hired (Kirk Wood suggested).
 - Lou from 4-H offered to assist with decorations and may recruit additional volunteers.
- **Dogtown Festival:**
 - Event remains in the planning stage.
 - Insurance requirements have been sent; awaiting response.
 - Tentatively planned for the weekend of March 22, pending confirmation.
- **Committee Updates:**
 - **Business Development Committee:** Met; discussed Adult Prom.
 - **Facilities Committee:** Has not yet met.
 - **Fair Committee:** Communicated via messaging; discussed Saturday artist options.
 - **Rodeo Committee:** Met; discussed planning for next year.

4. Other Reports

- Rodeo Queen 2026 Coronation scheduled for February 7, 2026.

- Morgan, Rodeo Queen 2025, and Jessica, Rodeo Queen 2026, will attend the Philomath Christmas Parade.
- Progress continues toward the 25th Silver Queen Jubilee.
- **4-H Report:**
 - Introduction of the new 4-H Liaison, Lou.
 - Cookies were provided.
- **Fairgrounds Signage:**
 - Discussion included:
 - Relocation of the Dowless sign
 - Guerber Hall sign sizing
 - Possible recognition of the Dapp family via sign or plaque
 - Auction Committee discussed potential funding for signage.
 - Emphasis placed on maintaining consistent sign design.
 - Possible involvement of the Public Works Department for sign design.

Adjournment: 19:55 pm

Next Meeting: January 26th, 2026

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.