

**Benton County Fair Board Meeting**  
**Monday February 23rd, 2026 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,**

**Liaison Present:** ~

**NAPE Staff:** **Jesse Ott NAPE Director, Jennifer Martin Fairgrounds Manager**  
**Kerri Sellers Mandelkow Admin Asst.**

**Guests:** **Jessie McLennen Queen**

**Schrock called the meeting to order at 18:02 hrs.**

**1. Review of Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes (February 23, 2026)**

- **Motion:** To approve the agenda and February 23rd, 2026, meeting minutes
  - Schrock wanted to amend the agenda, adding topic item of: Brett Logsdon
  - **Motion by:** Zel Brook but also wants to have identification of who is speaking or commenting reflected in the meeting minutes as well.
  - **Seconded by:** Aurora Jensen
  - **Outcome:** Motion passed unanimously. With noting the agenda amendment

**2. Citizen Comments**

Schrock noted no citizens in attendance and moved into discussion.

**3. Director / Fairgrounds Manager Report**

**Jesse's Report:**

**Wash Rack Basin Repair Project**

- The **Auction Committee (Tracy May and Darrell Oakes)** is working with Maintenance Staff Member **Alex Blaylock** to address repairs to the **wash rack basin**.
- The basin has shifted out of alignment, preventing proper drainage and creating **trip hazards**.
- Repairs will include **asphalt work scheduled for summer**
- Fairgrounds using **operational funds**, Additional support from the **Auction Committee**
- **Zel Brook** requested an **estimated total cost** for the project.

**Well System Update**

- **Eric Thompson's well pump failed**, and the fairgrounds have been in communication with the same company Eric has been working with.
- The fairgrounds will **install a pressure tank** to help **reduce stress on the well lines**.

### Event Permit Decision

- Following a **request from the Benton County Sheriff's Office** and other **safety concerns**, the fairgrounds have decided to **no longer permit future events involving Brett Logsdon** at the Benton County Fairgrounds.

### Jennifer's Report:

#### Adult Prom Event

- The **Adult Prom** event was **highly successful**.
- **250 tickets available** — **only 8 remained unsold**.
- **190 attendees** were present.
- Participants provided **positive feedback** and expressed interest in **holding the event again next year**.
- **Ticket sales alone allowed the event to break even**.
- Final revenue numbers are **pending bar sales results from OBS**.

#### Event Feedback & Improvements

- Consider a **different layout** to improve **bar line flow**.
- Some feedback noted the **DJ could have interacted more with the crowd**.
- Suggestion to add a **designated smoking tent off the fairground's campus**.
- Potential **sponsorship opportunities** for future events.
- Additional **"Wet Floor" signs** need to be ordered for future events.

#### Future Event Ideas

- Proposed **Mother's Day Brunch** event including a **flower planter activity**.

#### Non-Profit Booth Vouchers

- **Three (3) non-profit vouchers** were distributed to **each Fair Board member**.
- These allow **one non-profit organization per voucher to participate in the fair free of charge**
- Organizations may:
  - Staff a booth during the fair, **or**
  - Provide a **static exhibit** if staffing is not possible.
- Board members should **notify Jennifer of the non-profit they invite**.
- **Zel Brook** plans to invite the **Rotary Club** and asked if **two organizations could share a booth space**.

#### Fair Theme Poster Contest

- **Jennifer** presented submitted poster designs for the **Fair Theme Poster Contest**.
- Board members were asked to **vote for their top five selections**.
- **Kristi Schrock** suggested that **fair dates be added to poster submissions**.
- The **top submissions will be sent to the public for voting**.
- **Jennifer** will contact **Carly (PIO)** to request that **artists add fair dates to their designs**.
- Committee Updates:
  - **Business Development Committee:** not met
  - **Facilities Committee** not met
  - **Fair Committee:** not met
  - **Rodeo Committee** met and had discussion about the Spring Stampede May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, recapped the Queen's coronation for Jessica

#### Other Reports:

- **Jessica McLennan** shared that she greatly **enjoyed the coronation ceremony**.
  - Being involved in the event has been a **lifelong aspiration**.
  - As a child, she attended **Nicole Schrock's coronation**, which inspired her.
  - It was **an honor to have Nicole Schrock participate in her own coronation ceremony**
- **Kristi Schrock** reported that this year's **Queen's Coronation had the highest attendance on record**, approximately **\$22,000 raised through donations and sponsorships** to support the Queen during her reign.
- **Lou (4-H Liaison)** had **no updates at this time**.
- **Jesse** reported attempting to confirm with **Carolyn Ashston** regarding the design and layout of the 4-H Information Booth for the fair.

- **Rylee Henderer** offered to salvage materials from her home renovation company to assist with the booth construction. Possible donated materials include:
  - Windows
  - Doors
  - Roofing materials
- **Zel Brook** asked whether metal roofing was needed for the **Covered Bridge structure during the fair**, noting
- A roofing company recently evaluated the bridge and determined that the roof only requires cleaning, not replacement at this time.

**Voting for Chair and Vice Chair:**

- **Chair: Kristi Schrock (incumbent)** voted to remain Chair for another term
- **Vice Chair: Rylee Henderer** was elected the new Vice Chair.

Adjournment: 18:58 pm

Next Meeting: **March 16th, 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.