

**Benton County Fair Board Meeting
Monday January 26, 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, Zel Brook

Rylee Henderer, Rick Freeman, Mark Stephens,

Liaison Present: ~

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

Guests: Lou 4-H Liaison,

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

1. Review of Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes (January 26, 2025)

- **Motion:** To approve the agenda and January 26, 2026, meeting minutes, with correction to the meeting date.
 - **Motion by:** Zel
 - **Seconded by:** Rylee
 - **Outcome:** Motion passed unanimously.

2. Citizen Comments

Schrock noted no citizens in attendance and moved into discussion.

3. Director / Fairgrounds Manager Report

Jesse's Report:

Foundation Meeting – January 27, 2026

- **Electrical Access to Pony Barns:** Eric Thompson is obtaining quotes (RJ Smith).
- **LED Lighting Upgrade:** Separate improvement project for the fairgrounds.
- **Extension Building Fans:** Ryan Cheeke, Auction Committee Chair, purchased additional large fans for the new extension building and has accepted full financial responsibility for maintenance and replacement.

- **Facilities Improvements Under Consideration:**
 - Solar building bathroom versus RV port with portable trailer units (request for two units).
 - Additional chairs (Auction Committee request).
 - New stackable/storable picnic tables.
 - Asphalt patching.

- **TLT funds planning:**
 - Discussions underway with Business Oregon regarding a potential bridge loan.
 - Consideration to reserve funds for Brandis Field should it become available.
 - Proposed **New Exhibit Hall Project** (one-year timeline):
 - Start: After the 2026 Fair
 - Completion: Before the 2027 Fair
 - Intended to attract home shows and sportsman shows
- **Information session with the Oregon Community foundation:**
 - **Nike Community Fund Program:**
 - The All-Girls Rodeo may be eligible.
 - Grant range: \$5,000–\$25,000.
 - Application deadline: February 17, 2026.
 - **AgWest Farm Credit:**
 - Deadline is missed for this year.
 - Requires letter of support from an AgWest Farm Credit Union member.
 - Annual grant; next opportunity in 2027.
 - **Oregon State Parks (ORPD):**
 - Funding available in April.
 - Must be designated for rehabilitation of the Fairgrounds Rodeo Arena to improve safety, operations, and public access

Jennifer's Report:

- **Adult Prom:**
 - Fair Board members were offered tickets.
 - Special event lighting.
 - Catering by Forks and Corks.
 - OBS will manage the bar.
 - Formal attire required.
- **Pipe and Drape purchase:**
 - Future event rentals
 - Significant cost savings
- **Dogtown festival:**
 - Contract language is currently under dispute.
 - Event may transition from a partnership to a standard rental agreement.

- **Fair Updates:**
 - Battle of the Bands: Registration opens late February
 - Beard and Mustache contest Registration opens late February
 - Friday line up
 - BOTB winner to open, Queen Nation (Queen cover band)
 - Saturday line up:
 - Jackie Roar to open, Hunter Hayes
 - Press release announcing artists scheduled for May 15, 2026.
 - Train is returning
 - Matt Baker is returning (bringing a trailer)
 - Carly PIO is overseeing the community stage
 - 4-H and Fiddle contest will share the Oak Grove stage
 - RFP's: sound/ lights, security, ticketing, first aid, janitorial (potentially adding PA system)
 - Voucher/ invitation for Non-Profits

- **Committee Updates:**
 - **Business Development Committee:** not met
 - **Facilities Committee:** not met
 - **Fair Committee:** communicated via text only
 - **Rodeo Committee:** met with directors only

4. Other Reports

- **Rodeo Queen 2026 Jessica McLennan introduction**
 - Queen Coronation on February 7th. 2026

- **4-H Report:**
 - Weigh in
 - Help with decoration from adult prom

- **Vote for Chair and Vice Chair of the Fair Board:**
 - Annual election of Chair and Vice Chair is required per bylaws
 - Voting scheduled for the next meeting.
 - A roster of board members will be provided.

Adjournment: 19:10 pm

Next Meeting: February 23rd, 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.