

Benton County Fair Board Meeting
Mondy November 17th, 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 Hendere, Rick Freeman, Mark Stephens.

Liaison Present: ~

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

Guests: **Star McMullen, Erin McMullen**

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

1. Review of Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes

- An additional agenda item was added under “**Other**” to discuss changing Fair Board meeting dates for **January and February 2026** due to holidays.
- **Motion:** Approve agenda and previous meeting minutes with amendment.
 - **Motion by:** Aurora
 - **Second by:** Zel
 - **Outcome:** Motion passed unanimously; **no opposition.**

2. Citizen Comments

Presenters: Star McMullen & Erin McMullen (Mid Valley Fiddle Contest Representatives)

- Request to **move the fiddle contest back to Saturday**, noting a scheduling conflict with the **4-H Awards Ceremony**.
- **Potential solution:** Relocate the 4-H Awards Ceremony to the **Floral Courtyard**.
- **Next steps:** Additional discussion with Carolyn required; a final decision expected **by January**.

Key Point: Fiddle Contest scheduling and relocation of 4-H Awards require further evaluation.

3. Director / Fairgrounds Manager Report

Jesse’s Report

- **Fair Foundation Meeting:**
 - No funding requests at this session.
 - Discussion to obtain **design and engineering quotes** for a **permanent stage**.
- **TLT Funding:**
 - Proposal to use **TLT funds** for design estimates related to the permanent stage.

- **Solar Bathroom:**
 - Continuing to gather quotes.
 - Noted improvements in **Solar Building rentals**.
- **Rate Schedule Updates:**
 - **RV Camping:** No changes.
 - **RV Storage:** Proposed **5% increase**.
 - **Hull-Oakes Long Table:** Proposed rental price decrease.
 - Recommendation to offer **block rental time options** for facilities.
 - **Board motion:** Proceed to the **BOC** with the proposed rate schedule.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Planning a **Winter Market / Craft Fair / Tree Lighting Event** for next year.

Jennifer's Report

- **Professional Development:**
 - Completed **Fair College**, working to host a Fair College session locally next year.
- **2026 Fair Theme:**
 - **"Stars, Stripes, and Summer Nights."**
 - Community **logo design contest** will be held.
- **Dogtown Festival:**
 - Meeting scheduled with Michael Allen on **Friday, November 14, 2025**.
 - Mr. Allen shared additional details about event vision.
 - Jennifer to begin **contract preparation**.
- **Committee Updates:**
 - **Business Development:** Met (discussed Dogtown event).
 - **Facilities Committee:** Has not yet met.
 - **Fair Committee:** Has not yet met.
 - **Rodeo Committee:** Meeting this Thursday.

4. Other Reports

- The **Rodeo Queen** and the **2026 Rodeo Queen** participated in the **Albany Veterans Day Parade**.
- **2026 marks the 25th anniversary** of the Rodeo Queen program.
 - Proposal to promote a **Silver Jubilee**, involve past queens throughout the year, and highlight them during the fair.
- **Fair Board Meeting Dates:**
 - **January 26, 2026**
 - **February 23, 2026**

Adjournment: 20:08 pm

Next Meeting: December 15th, 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.