

## **COLUMBIA COUNTY FAIR BOARD**

Work Session September 8, 2025

6:30 p.m. Fair Office

---

Present: Peggy Howell, Branden Staehely, Mary Ann Guess, Jennifer Plahn and Henry Heimuller. Ryan Hausner and Butch Guess called in,.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Peggy called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm

### **APPROVE AGENDA**

Henry moved to approve agenda, Jennifer 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Heather Epperly presented what her plans are for this Christmas event."Snapshot of Christmas Past". She wants to add the floral building. She will have lights going down the road rather than in the grass which was wet and messy. This will make it easier for people in wheelchairs and strollers. She will need the Toy and Joy lighting to come down. She buying new stuff this year, looking for sponsors, looking for motion displays. She plans to set up earlier. She closes her office on Friday. She wanted to know when the Pavilion will be available. The weekend before her event is the bazaar. She will need the same items as last year. She will provide a list to give to office. We will need to move the fan out of the floral building. Henry moved to allow Heather to use the Pavilion Wed – Sun for set up and tear down, Ryan 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

NPRA pageant – Jessica Sayward is moving this venue and looking for a new place to hold this event over three days. Alice is willing to co-host the event with her during the Fair. She is still working on the vet check, horse stalls, horse trailer parking over night or for the three days. She estimates 6 to 19 contestants. Would need to discuss with Woody on the horse stalls. She would have the cutoff time be in May. The board isn't in favor of the self stalling . will need to coordinate with Kevin. Alice would prefer to have all the rodeo court parking be on the rodeo side. Henry would like to see the contract she had with Jefferson. Kevin suggested having a pint person. Jennifer would like to see her schedule, we might be able to have the fashion show here. Jessica will provide more information to the board. and will send to the fair office.

There was discussion regarding the City of St. Helens Right of Entry letter. The fair board has a lot of questions. Henry moved to approve the drilling, Branden 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion denied unanimously.

Discussed rental fees. Mary Ann had a question if all half days were removed and it was confirmed yes. We do not rent half days. Will remove from Terms and Conditions. We do not rent out the 4-H kitchen as well. They would have to rent the whole building. Peggy mentioned Heather and several people called other places who rent areas They said majority of them range from \$500 – \$600. If we would lower the fee, Erica would be able to hold her jumping show. More discussion on this as we need the total of all the costs associated with renting the arena. i.e. equipment, labor, cleaning restrooms, etc.

Eva and Evelyn presented their project the Pomona Grange is doing. They want to concrete the museum floor. They're working on getting bids, grants. This will help them be ADA compliance. This is a very big project and will take several months. Henry mentioned once they have everything, the fair board will present it to Commissioners. They had 1299 people come through the museum during the fair. the size would be 72 x 48 ft. The concrete would need to be thick enough to hold the heavy equipment. They want to continue holding demos.

Rodeo seating in the main grandstands. We will discussed more later.  
Stage will be discussed at another time.

Discussion on giving commission to acquire sponsors. Will have more discussion on this.

Henry mentioned CT Brownlow will be at the next work session to discuss the race track contract which is up at the end of this October.

Henry was discussing with Butch to allow Darrin to use the Fair Board credit card up to \$500.00. Henry motion to approve Darrin to use card up to \$500.00, Mary Ann 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm