



Crook County Fair Board Minutes
Fair Board Meeting 5:30 pm- April 15, 2019
1280 S. Main St., Prineville, OR 97754
Telephone 541-447-6575

The regular meeting of the Crook County Fair Board was called to order on April 15, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman, Gail Merritt

MEMBERS ATTENDING

- Gail Merritt, Chair
- Mike McCabe
- Dale Cummins
- Linda Smith
- James Savage
- Stanley Flynn

STAFF ATTENDING

- Casey Daly, Manager
- Micaela Halvorson, Office Assistant

GUESTS

- Jason Snider, Crooked River Roundup
- Marv Sumner, Crooked River Roundup

MINUTES

- Dale C. motioned to approve the minutes from March 18, 2019, Stanley seconded the motion. Motion passed, Dale C. abstained, minutes approved.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Crooked River Roundup – Discussing how things are going to work without Josh in the mix this year. The fairgrounds will be interviewing 5 candidates and the county has approved hiring 2 full-time facility coordinators. We are hoping for a first or second week in May start date. The crow's nest, bucking chutes, and the pari-mutuel building are scheduled to be painted by Blaine Noland Construction. The entire fairgrounds are slated to get crack sealed and seal coated by mid-June. When it dries up a little more, some of the sorting and holding pens will need to be scraped out. ABC Fencing will be installing a couple more entrances/gates in the fence by the restrooms to open up the midway for rodeo more. Jason asked about labeling the grandstand entrances on the west side to help get people to the box seats easier. Karol is going to do some painting on the box seat numbers, Jason asked if there was any kind of budget for paint if she puts together a group to do the work. Helena came a couple weeks ago and sprayed the outdoor arena to try and break down the clods in the soil. Casey is going to run the subsoiler and start working the ground. We currently only have one water canon but planning on building 2 more.
- Fairgrounds Fee Increase Discussion – The new CFO for the county has advised the managers and commissioners that the entire county might be on a budget freeze for 3 years. They suggested that departments look at other sources of revenue. Judge Crawford would like the fair board to revisit the building naming rights for a fee. He would like to see something along the lines of "Grizzly

Mountain Pavilion presented by: XYZ Company”. This concept has been tried in the past and the fairgrounds ended up losing one of its sponsors over the deal. Another idea to increase revenue would be to increase the facility use fees. We did an increase 2 years ago of 8%. Casey did an analysis of some of the other fairgrounds around the state and we are right in the middle of the fee structure. James wanted to know if the funds will go to the general fund or if it will stay with the fairgrounds. The proposed budget for 2019-2020 does have an increase from the General Fund from \$100,000 to \$200,000 to fund the additional employee. There are concerns about raising the fees and losing business. Dale wants to make sure that the fairgrounds never get into a position where we have to raise the prices by 8% again. He would like to see a cost of living increase yearly of around 1% so the impact of raising the fees is not as significant as the last increase. It is difficult to compare to Deschutes County or Jefferson County because each facility is different. Dale would like to put an increase off for one more year and then to start discussing in July to have a start date of January. Mike suggested that we put a certain percentage of all the facility fees in an account for major repairs and maintenance or replacement of the structure. Regarding the concerns over the lockdown on spending, including if additional revenue is earned will the fairgrounds be able to keep it above expenditures and the fact that several of the expenditure line items decreased significantly, Casey will set up a meeting with Jerry Brummer to go over the concerns.

- 4-H Breeding Animal Loadout at Fair – Historically, after the sale, a lot of the breeding stock was taken home due to the possibility of the breeding animals mistakenly being loaded on the market truck. Last year, it became a safety issue, people were breaking down their pens on Saturday night, animals were being loaded up and people were just leaving fair. This is a financial endeavor for the fairgrounds, so last year on Saturday night when the attendance was minimal it was concerning. In addition, there were stock trailers coming up the front entrance and in the back driveway because people were loading their breeding animals. Parents were tearing down decorations, and patrons visiting the fair were asking where all the animals were. When we started the meetings for fair prep this year, we stated that no animals would be allowed to leave on Saturday night. Casey had a meeting with Dan McNary from FFA, and the leaders for 4-H and Open Class. There is still the concern about breeding animals being loaded up with the market animals. An idea to eliminate that potential hazard would be to mark the breeding animals with a specific color. Gail’s concern is that we have already shortened fair and this seems like it is being shortened again. The group has stated that logistically it is not doable because they have to load out the market animals. Their proposal is to allow the swine breeding animals to leave between 9:00-10:00 and any other species would be allowed to leave between 10:00 and 11:00 on Saturday night. The superintendents will have a specific ticket to give out to the person loading out with a specific time to load. They would man the gates, exhibitors would be allowed to come in, and load their animals through the back gates (nothing from the front gates). The market trucks now load the animals between 3:00-4:00 in the morning on Sunday. The Sales Committee is on site during this. On Sunday, fair is closed but we have buyers’ breakfast and awards ceremony, no one is supposed to tear down until after these events including decorations and pens. The board agreed to allow breeding animals to leave after 11 o’clock on Saturday night of fair. It must be done in an organized and safe manner. The superintendents will be policing the loadout process, they will make sure it is safe and not too many vehicles are lined up, barriers will not be moved until 11, no decorations or pens will be taken down until after awards/buyers’ breakfast on Sunday.

BOARD REPORTS

- Gail Merritt: Attended Spring Conference. Not sure how valuable it was, but they ate dinner with the 4-H kids which was a lot of fun. Gail has contacted the schools regarding the boards and all of them are on board, they did ask for them sooner than later.
- Dale Cummins: Nothing to report.
- Linda Smith: Nothing to report.
- Mike McCabe: Nothing to report.

- James Savage: Nothing to report.
- Stanley Flynn: Nothing to report.
- Linda Cross: Absent.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial reports were presented to the board.

STAFF REPORT

Nothing to report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

There is a bill and a lottery request in front of the legislature right now, one of the bills, HR2613 is sponsored by Greg Smith of Heppner and is requesting the state authorize monies to be used for capital improvement assessments of all the fairgrounds in Oregon. If this passes, they would follow up with another bill to try and fund it. The other part is that we get lottery dollars that are specific to fair. The same group and the Association of Oregon Counties have requested an increase in those funds from \$53,000 to \$165,000. That money will go specifically for fair and not the general fund. We had a fair planning meeting on March 19th. We asked for input, judges, and changes to the premium book. The fair board donated \$228.60 to the Chamber of Commerce by waiving the 20% alcohol fee. We donated a few carnival bracelets to Powell Butte Community Charter School for a fundraiser as well as the 4-H Benefit Auction. We have placed a Community Partnership ad in the Roundup that will run for 4 weeks. Larry Smith's name has been added to the LED sign at the entrance. Casey sent Brenda, Larry's sister, a picture of it and she was ecstatic about it. We have had no more contact with Jeff Miller with Fairway Suites. There are several other entities that do this including OTO, International Residence, Vista Investments, and HDS. Dale would like the county to contact the Realtor of Record, Mike Warren, to contact some of these companies and see what he can stir up. Gail is working on fair shirts. The landscaping is being done in the gazebo area. Dennis has the vinyl fencing finished around his residence and it looks really nice. Demonstration garden is being built by Tom Hinkle and Rich Barr, all of the materials have been ordered. During Spring Conference, they met with Dennis Linthicum and Mike McLane and discussed the lottery dollars and HR2613.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting Date: May 20, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Micaela Halvorson, Office Assistant

Gail Merritt, Chairman

February 25, 2020