



Crook County Fair Board Minutes
 Fair Board Meeting: 3:30 pm, February 27th, 2025
 1280 S. Main St., Prineville, OR 97754
 Telephone 541-447-6575

The special meeting of the Crook County Fair Board was called to order on February 27th, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. by Chair Gail Merritt.

ROLL CALL/BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING

- Gail Merritt, Chair
- Mike Kasberger, Vice Chair
- Stanley Flynn
- Casey Kaiser
- Mike McCabe
- Linda Cross
- Larry Blanton

STAFF ATTENDING

Casey Daly, Manager

Haley Crow, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS: Kim Little, Kim Griffin

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- No public comment.
- **Fair Budget for 2025 Fair (Haley):** behind the agenda is a breakdown of the actual revenue and expenses for the 2024 Fair and the estimations for the 2025. In green are actions that Casey and I have already taken or are completed, and in blue are items that need to be decided on today. *Haley runs through the different line items and explains the estimations and changes from 2024 to 2025.*
 - Casey clarifies that the House Bills that would help us with paying for Fair are still in discussion, but if we get the 1% cap removed we would go from receiving 53k to around 300k from Oregon lottery dollars.
 - Casey talks about a mass-mailer donation “Friends of the Fair” letter that was sent out in the past on behalf of the Board. (this is different from regular Fair sponsorship mail-outs). Currently there are 10,277 addresses in the county that could be included in the mailer. Mass mailing costs between 7 and 25 cents per mail piece. Casey estimates a 30% return from past mailers. If the board would like to proceed, Casey can do further cost analysis.
 - Larry Blanton motions to continue with the community contribution letter with a remit envelope and use a social media campaign in combination. Casey Kaiser seconds. Motion carries.

Board Member	“Yes” Vote	“No” Vote	Abstains
Casey Kaiser	X		

Mike Kasberger	X		
Larry Blanton	X		
Mike McCabe	X		
Stanley Flynn	X		
Gail Merritt	X		
Linda Cross	X		

- 4-H/FFA entry fee has gone up to \$15 per exhibitor, per species.
- Vendor fees have stayed the same, but we are charging for electricity access this year.
- The Board would like to do the classic fair games again this year but put those booths in the regular vendor lineup.
- For the raffle tickets, we will see if we can get an item donated from Ace and then will revisit how to manage and increase ticket sales.
- The Board agrees to not do the Herdsmanship award (\$250).
- Younger Youth ribbons and candy prizes will be done this year.
- Strolling and stage acts: line dancing only on Thursday, Court Priday & Shannon Bex on Friday, Countryfied on Saturday. We are looking for an act for Wednesday. Pat & Tammie Wood offered to donate a band for Weds. (Casey will ask them for a list of who they would recommend)
- Western Express Railroad will not be coming to Fair, but we will be running Dinky Train.
- Haley let Extension know that if they want to do Everyday Ag, they can, but the Fair Board would not be taking that on.
- Linda Cross will approach Linda Smith and doing the Veteran’s Breakfast again.
- **Financial Considerations for Open Class Livestock Exhibits at 2025 Fair:** 421 Open Class Livestock exhibits last year, around \$7k of sponsorships related to open class livestock... We are one of the last county fairs to still have open class. If we eliminate open class, we would save money on an additional tent to house the 4-H/FFA but would lose the entry fees and sponsorship dollars. Kim Little and Kim Griffin weigh in on how much Open Class means to them as superintendents and the positive impact that Open Class has on the Fair with extra activities and contests.
 - Larry Blanton points out that the board should be mindful about cutting a program while asking for support from the community.
 - Kim Little asks that before the Fair Board cuts something due to money, they reach out to her to help find the money to pay for something.
 - Mike K motions to do ribbon-only awards for Open Class static exhibits and no cash premiums, and to keep Open Class Livestock with cash premium awards for 2025. To be revisited for 2026 Fair, Larry Blanton seconds, motion carries.

Board Member	“Yes” Vote	“No” Vote	Abstains
Casey Kaiser	X		
Mike Kasberger	X		
Larry Blanton	X		
Mike McCabe	X		
Stanley Flynn	X		
Gail Merritt	X		
Linda Cross	X		

- **Discussion on return of unused grant funds from Bacon Buddies program to Crook County Foundation \$1500:** We have grant funds that were awarded to put on Bacon Buddies at the 2024 Fair but

the event was postponed due to the lack of participants. Funds need to be returned or used for Bacon Buddies (or similar) this year. (Casey D will talk to the Foundation about what the options are since they have a new president).

- **Consideration of Vendor Layout for 2025 County Fair (Haley):** There is a map in the packet with the vendor layout for 2025. Changes: more vendor booths, fewer tent attractions, Peppy’s Water Palooza further to the back of the vendor lines, moved food booths further back, extended vendor lines further back, moved tents that were normally in front of the office to the vendor lines
- **New Sponsorship Opportunities for 2025 County Fair (Haley):** The Boards agrees that we will not be doing a VIP tent & dinner for a headlining sponsor. Main Stage Tent sponsorships will now be banner only, (no packages with social media shout-outs, etc.), free activities can all be sponsored, adding banner spots on the livestock barns, no premium book adds due to a lack of time. No Volunteer Team sponsor, not Carey Foster Hall, no Gold Cart with Driving Time, no Platinum Sponsor.
- **Haley presents a handout for board members to sign up for different roles at Fair.** The board will put their name down for these roles and bring them to the next Fair Board meeting.
- Mike K motions to adjourn the meeting, Linda Cross seconds; the motion carries.

Board Member	“Yes” Vote	“No” Vote	Abstains
Casey Kaiser (not present)	-	-	-
Mike Kasberger	X		
Larry Blanton	X		
Mike McCabe	X		
Stanley Flynn	X		
Gail Merritt	X		
Linda Cross	X		

ACTION ITEM(S):

- The Board voted to move forward with the mass mailing to the community. Casey will further explore options.
- The Board voted to do a ribbon-only fair for Static Exhibits (no cash premiums) and allow Open Class Livestock with their usual premium award amounts (to be revisited in 2026).

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Haley Crow

4/10/2025