



Crook County Fair Board Minutes
Fair Board Meeting 5:30 pm, November 18th, 2024
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 November 18th, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Gail Merritt.

ROLL CALL/BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING

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

STAFF ATTENDING

Haley Crow, Administrative Assistant

Casey Daly, Manager

GUESTS: Eric Blaine, Crook County Legal Counsel / Angela Ostrander / Justin Alderman, Prineville Review

MINUTES: Mike Kasberger motions to approve the minutes for October 21st, 2024, Casey Kaiser seconds the motion, Linda Cross and Stanley Flynn abstain; the motion is tabled until there is a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S):

- Justin Alderman from the Prineville Review points out that the agenda lists his grievance as a “complaint” when it is in fact a grievance; The difference being a complaint in the public meetings process is filed with the OGEC and a grievance is not before the OGEC.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Vacant Fair Board Seat Recommendation to County Commissioners and Findings in Response to the October 18th, 2024, Public Meeting Law Complaint Filed by Justin Alderman (Eric Blaine):** At the meeting on November 4th, the Fair Board considered a number of issues regarding what I’m going to call a “complaint” against the Fair Board filed by Mr. Alderman regarding public meeting laws. We prepared a response that was issued on November 8th. One of the things the Board considered is whether to rescind the decision made at the October 17th meeting) to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners as to who to appoint to fill the vacancy on the Fair Board) or not rescind that decision; in which case, under the law, the Fair Board would need to deliberate and show findings regarding good cause for why they should not rescind that decision. What I recall from early November, after receiving the complaint, the Fair Board has not transmitted its recommendation to the Commissioners. Part of the concern I remember the

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Fair Board having is the applicants were told the interviews were going to be held in an Executive Session, and if that had been changed to a public meeting the applicants might not have had time to prepare a potentially different type of presentation in front of the Fair Board, and that if there were any errors committed, they weren't committed by the applicants, so the Fair Board was concerned that it wasn't fair to them to retroactively change the nature of the meeting. I am here to discuss with the Board different options: to rescind the prior decision, to discuss what good cause there might be to not rescind... The Fair Board could delegate to someone to memorialize those findings in a document and that would be adopted as the findings of the Fair Board. I suggest that there be a discussion, that way a document can be prepared. Since some of you weren't at the meeting in early November, are there other issues of concern as to why it might make sense to not rescind the decision?

- **Mike Kasberger:** If we have to start over, let's start over.
- **Stanley:** What is the easiest for us?
 - **Eric:** There are two factors to consider: doing right by the two applicants and doing right by the public. It's not ideal for any volunteer board to have a vacancy. The Board of Commissioners has already said that they would appreciate the Fair Board start over, even before they received the official recommendation from the Fair Board. I am not advocating this, just saying the easiest option might be to rescind.
 - **Stanley:** Applicants took their time to meet with us, so we would have to ask them to come back and maybe they wouldn't after seeing the problems there have been, but it seems like that's the easiest.
 - **Gail:** My only concern is that we didn't go into this intentionally doing anything wrong -- we were following what we had been advised.
 - **Eric:** I think Oregon State Legislature has created a system that has many traps for the unwary. Many public bodies try in good faith to comply with the statutes and still make mistakes. I don't believe you had malicious intent, but nevertheless here we are.
 - **Stanley:** We only want what is best for the Fairgrounds and have made our decisions because we believe they are best for the Fairgrounds.
 - **Mike K:** We thought we were doing what was right for the Fairgrounds, but now here we are another month down the road and are no different today than we were two meetings ago. We aren't getting anywhere – let's rescind it and move forward.
 - Mike Kasberger motions to rescind the decision, Stanley seconds the motion...
 - **Haley:** Has the County Administration already opened the vacancy to the public? Does time restart today with the Fair Board's vote or do we lose all that time?
 - **Eric:** I don't know if there have been any new applicants, or if time will start over but we could find that out.
 - **Haley:** Can the Board reach out to the two previous applicants and see if they want to reapply?
 - **Eric:** Yes, maybe Casey can reach out to them.
 - **Mike:** Who posts the vacancy in the newspaper?
 - **Eric:** I don't believe this is true for every board, but for the Fair Board I believe it's County Administration office.
 - **Mike:** So, similar to last month, why are they choosing to move ahead without communicating with the Fair Board?
 - **Casey Daly:** All volunteer board vacancies are advertised simultaneously.
 - **Casey Kaiser:** We don't actually fill the Board seat; the County Commissioners do.
 - **Mike:** It seems like if we are taking the time to be a Board, we should be informed of the decisions that are being made regarding the Fair Board.

- We have 5 seats left at the Hospice Auction. Tickets are sold out right now. Doors open at 4:30, the event runs until 9.
- I will be at the IAFE convention in Phoenix on the 1st-5th of December but I will still be available by email or text if you need anything from me.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Casey

As of 5:00pm, there were no financial reports for October ready from the Treasurer's Office.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Casey

- Eagle Roofing came out and they found another leaking spot in the roof, so they are going to reseal and reflash and see if that solves the problem.
- The new gravel parking area has been rolled and leveled.
- Picnic tables have arrived. We will assemble them soon.
- We have been stockpiling dirt on the south property that is coming from the Combs Flatt construction.
- We order 40 livestock pens and 50 poultry/rabbit pens for the 2025 Fair.
- The model railroad club building does not have an operable HVAC system, so we got a quote for a new mini split and the Club agreed to do the ceiling insulation.
- New pickup was ordered.
- I will be attending the WFA convention in Reno, NV in January.
- 9 non-revenue-generating events: Health Department youth resource fair, Veteran's services resource fair, 4-H club meetings, Parks & Rec basketball practices in Grizzly Mountain Pavilion.

ACTION ITEM(S):

- a. October minutes were tabled; with two board members abstaining from the vote, there were not enough voting members present.
- b. The board voted to rescind the decision made by the Crook County Fair Board on October 17th, 2024, that made a recommendation to fill the vacancy on the Fair Board; Linda Cross abstained.
- c. Board voted to delegate responsibility to the Crook County Legal Counsel to prepare a document to memorialize the rescission of the October 17, 2024, decision.
- d. Mike K motioned to adjourn the meeting, Stanley seconds, the meeting is adjourned.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting Date: December 16, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Haley Crow
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