



Crook County Fair Board Minutes
Fair Board Meeting 5:30 pm, November 20, 2023
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 20th, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Gail Merritt.

ROLL CALL/BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING

- Gail Merritt, Chair
- Mike Kasberger, Vice Chair
- Stanley Flynn
- Susie Hermreck
- Linda Smith
- Linda Cross
- Mike McCabe

STAFF ATTENDING

- Casey Daly, Manager
- Haley Crow, Office Assistant

GUESTS: n/a

MINUTES

Susie motions to approve the minutes from October 16th, 2023; Mike M seconds the motion. Motion carries; minutes are approved.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Crooked River Roundup: (Susie) the Roundup was interested in participating in the internship database/program should we start one.

Winter Fundraiser Committee Update: (Haley) We are making a lot of progress, we have 4 major sponsors secured at \$2,500 each, plus a \$750 donation from Ochoco Feed and \$200 donation from Giovanini Trucking. We have ordered the napkins, cutlery, plates, tablecloths, portable restrooms... Court Priday & the Lord Walley band will be performing, and Mark Mobley will be the MC for the evening. Print ads have been booked for Your Round-Up and the Central Oregonian. Tables, individual tickets, and drink tickets are live and for sale through our website. We still need to purchase table decorations and possibly food items. New Basin wants to do our bar and donate an auction item, and we will be meeting with Rick very soon.

Alcohol Fees Committee Update: (Casey) The County attorney Eric Blaine has not yet come up with a feasible working plan for our alcohol policy change. He is still working on it.

Entertainment for Fair: (Casey) Attractions: Mutton Bustin' & Legendary Longhorns, Peppy's Waterpaloosa, JJ Entertainers, Puzzlemania, Wildlife Wendy, and a comedian juggler. We have not booked musical acts yet.

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- (Susie): Doing the classic Fair game booths, when do we need to start reserving booths and looking for partners? (Casey: we could call on our volunteer master carpenters and get rental quotes)
- Linda: Cort Conley wants to do an equestrian/rodeo event in the Outdoor Arena during Fair. Or some ranch events, races, games, etc.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

- **Mike Kasberger:** n/a
- **Stanley:** Could we give the last 2023 Crook County Fair 120th Anniversary buckle to Gary Romine? He has been a big Fair supporter and instrumental in the Grizzly Mtn expansion. (Fair Board agrees; we will set up a date to present it to him).
- **Mike McCabe:** n/a
- **Susie:** n/a
- **Linda Smith:** Chuck Holliday is going to donate a swing for the fundraiser as an auction item.
- **Linda Cross:** 22 fundraiser desserts are spoken for. These are individual bakers, I haven't gone to the bakers in town yet.
- **Gail Merritt:** Christmas in the Pines will open Saturday after the parade.

OFFICE ASSISTANT'S REPORT - Haley

- **Rental Fees Reduction Proposal – Draft:** County has agreed to give us \$10k per year to help offset rentals throughout the year, so I created a proposal that groups can fill out to apply for what money they are requesting and why. The Board would then decide “yes” or “no” or adjust the proposed amounts. The application asks for the goal/mission of the organization, and how the funds saved would be used to directly impact the Crook County community. The proposal is open to individuals and organizations.
 - **Casey:** historically, many groups have gone to the County and asked for events fees to be waived/covered by the County.
 - **Susie:** Could we get money from the City to help cover some of these costs since these events bring people into the city?
 - *Haley will create a list of events and costs that have been covered by the County Court in the past.*

FINANCIAL REPORT - Casey

- October financial reports are under the Reports tab. Nothing noteworthy. Q1 (July/August/September) update to the County Court will be coming up soon.
- The \$2M report is updated as of this morning; \$959,247.49 has been sent so far, leaving about \$1M left. Budget Committee (Mike K, Mike M, and Stanley) will meet soon to discuss how the next chunk of money should be spent.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Casey

- Grizzly Mountain Pavilion has been finalized; we can have 440 people in that building.
- There has been discussion about the Colson property purchase, it seems like they are not willing to budge on their pricing, so we will see what happens with that. Mike Warner is continuing to pursue it.
- I created a proposal for the RV spots in our Master Plan and what it would cost. Estimated: \$1M for 60 spaces done in two phases of 30 (north and south sides). He will be getting back to me.
- In your Reports tab there is an updated Jockey Room plan that accommodates the gas line. It is currently being drawn and hope to have it out to bid after the holidays. We have \$161,000 available to us right now to start this project. The second bond sale is in the spring, which will give us the second wave of money. Marshall Bex estimates a production time of 90-120 days for the stick-built building.

- We met with the Friends of the Crook County Fairgrounds who are proposing the new livestock building. Their major funder has pulled out. Gail and I suggested they find a project manager, and it sounds like they are going to go with Eric Klann who is the city engineer, who seems enthusiastic about the project.
 - One suggestion was to leave the original barn and put up a new one. The reason for using the old barn's footprint was to cut the cost of foundation work, which was estimated to cost several hundred thousand dollars. It was suggested to build a new barn west of Horse Barn 13.
 - *The Fair Board approves of adding a new barn rather than replacing the original.*
- OFA/AOC has decided to divide the \$3M of funding from HB3410 into equal parts among the county and state fairs to recoup lost funding during COVID. We will receive \$83,333.
 - Our OFA legislative rep Greg Smith will be talking about the Oregon Lottery cap removal again, and the possibility of an 80/20 split with the Oregon horse racing association. Only four counties run horse races, and Smith doesn't want to go ahead with the proposal unless the counties are in full agreement.

ACTION ITEM(S)

- a. October minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

No public comments.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting Date: December 18th, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Daly

Gail Merritt, Chair

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