



Crook County Fair Board Minutes
 Fair Board Meeting: 5:30 pm, October 20th, 2025
 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 October 20th, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Gail Merritt.

ROLL CALL/BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING

- Gail Merritt, Chair
- Mike Kasberger, Vice Chair
- Larry Blanton
- Casey Kaiser
- Linda Cross
- Jennifer Cummins

STAFF ATTENDING

Casey Daly, Manager

Haley Crow, Administrative Assistant Sr.

GUESTS: Angela Ostrander, Commissioner Susan Hermreck, Tracy Tuesday from KTVZ

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Kasberger motions to approve the minutes from September 15th, 2025 regular Fair Board meeting, Cross seconds the motion, the motion carries.

Board Member	“Yes” Vote	“No” Vote	Abstains
Mike Kasberger	X		
Casey Kaiser	X		
Gail Merritt	X		
Larry Blanton	X		
Jennifer Cummins	X		
Linda Cross	X		

- **Public Comment: none**
- **CRR Contract Info Gathering Committee:** After discussion, the committee for the fact finding of the Crooked River Round up contract was determined to remain the same as last time. Kasberger motion to approve the same committee to be assigned, Cross seconds the motion, motion carries. Fair board voted on Kasier and Blanton to continue the committee, with Kasberger as the alternate.

Board Member	“Yes” Vote	“No” Vote	Abstains
Mike Kasberger	X		
Casey Kaiser	X		
Gail Merritt	X		

Larry Blanton	X		
Jennifer Cummins	X		
Linda Cross	X		

- **2026 Fair Theme:** Daly stated the themes for the 2026 Fair Theme and asked for a decision of which theme will be represented for 2026 Fair. Kasberger motions to make the theme for 2026 Fair, “Blue Ribbon Days”. Cross seconds the motion, motion carries.

Board Member	“Yes” Vote	“No” Vote	Abstains
Mike Kasberger	X		
Casey Kaiser	X		
Gail Merritt	X		
Larry Blanton	X		
Jennifer Cummins	X		
Linda Cross	X		

- **Fair board applicant interview process:** As stated three suggestions were composed by the county attorney about the process of interviewing new applicants for the Fair Board. The current board discussed the three options, as listed in the document presented at the meeting:
 1. Create and adopt a written policy, pursuant to BOC Order 2022-52, which outlines how vacancies on County boards, committees, commissions are filled. The policy could allow the board president to select 3 board members to separately interview applicants (outside a public meeting), who then report back to the entire board during a regularly scheduled public meeting. The board would discuss and decide which applicant(s) it would recommend to the BOC for appointment. The three board members who interviewed may take notes that include opinion and commentary, but they cannot discuss the applicants with one another outside a public meeting.
 2. Create and adopt a written policy, pursuant to BOC Order 2022-52, where the board president selects 3 board members to collectively interview applicants (outside a public meeting), who then report back to the entire board during a regularly scheduled public meeting. The difference between this method and the first—besides interviewing applicants together—is the interviewing board member may only gather facts (no opinion or commentary with any note taking). The interviewing board members likewise may not discuss the applicants outside a public meeting.
 3. Create and adopt a written policy, pursuant to BOC Order 2022-52, where the board president selects three board members to interview and collectively make a recommendation to a County official, who, in turn, makes his/her own recommendation to the BOC. By making a recommendation to a County official, the selected board members are not considered an advisory body (to a public body) and, thus, not subject to public meeting laws. The downside to this option is the County official is not and cannot be bound by the members’ recommendation. As a result, the volunteer board somewhat loses its voice and role in filling vacant board positions.

Here are a few other rules of which to be mindful.

Executive session is not available to fill a vacancy on any public committee, commission, or other advisory group.

Any notes, forms, or score sheets used by the volunteer board or subsequently by the BOC as a basis for recommendation or decision is subject to public records requests.

If a board selects three members to interview and collectively make a recommendation to the full board, then the 3-member panel is considered an advisory body that must comply with public meeting laws.

After discussion Blanton motions the adoption of policy, 1. Create and adopt a written policy, pursuant to BOC Order 2022-52, which outlines how vacancies on County boards, committees, commissions are filled. The policy could allow the board president to select 3 board members to separately interview applicants (outside a public meeting), who then report back to the entire board during a regularly scheduled public meeting. The board would discuss and decide which applicant(s) it would recommend to the BOC for appointment. The three board members who interviewed may take notes that include opinion and commentary, but they cannot discuss the applicants with one another outside a public meeting. Kasberger seconds the motion, motion carries.

Board Member	“Yes” Vote	“No” Vote	Abstains
Mike Kasberger	X		
Casey Kaiser	X		
Gail Merritt	X		
Larry Blanton	X		
Jennifer Cummins	X		
Linda Cross	X		

REPORTS:

- **Board Member Reports:**
 - **Linda Cross:** none
 - **Jennifer Cummins:** none
 - **Casey Kaiser:** none
 - **Larry Blanton:** none
 - **Mike Kasberger:** none
 - **Gail Merritt:** none
- **Administrative Assistant Report (Haley Crow):** nothing other than preparing some training materials for Parker to take over this position.
- **Financial Report (Daly):** In the board members’ binders, stated that rentals are up from the previous year.
- **Manager’s Report (Daly):** Daly attended the Oregon Fairs conference and shared that we did not win anything this time around. There was a legislature update saying that Governor Kotek issued a 5% cut across the board that would be affecting us at some level. Daly had a meeting with Commissioner Crawford about the Kennedy family who donated the land in the 1980’s for additional parking. The Kennedy family would like the land back to the fairgrounds and the Parks and Rec have relinquished back to the fairgrounds. The fairgrounds will clean up the land for when it is needed for parking. Daly stated that the Facebook community grant has been opened and spoke about the Carey Foster Hall and updating some of the tech in the hall, could be submitted to use the grant. Daly asked for a motion on this topic. Kasberger and Daly surveyed the option to create a new driveway on the grounds to help alleviate some of the traffic.

Kasberger motions the approval of submitting for the Facebook grant to be used for the Carey Foster Hall. Blanton seconds the motion, motion carries.

Board Member	“Yes” Vote	“No” Vote	Abstains
Mike Kasberger	X		
Casey Kaiser	X		
Gail Merritt	X		
Larry Blanton	X		
Jennifer Cummins	X		
Linda Cross	X		

- Kasberger motions to adjourn the meeting, Casey seconds; the motion carries.

Board Member	“Yes” Vote	“No” Vote	Abstains
Mike Kasberger	X		
Casey Kaiser	X		
Gail Merritt	X		
Jennifer Cummins	X		
Larry Blanton	X		
Linda Cross	X		

ACTION ITEM(S):

- The Board voted to approve September 20th, 2025 Fair Board Meeting minutes.
- The Board voted to approve the CRR info gathering committee
- The Board voted to approve the 2026 Fair Theme of Blue Ribbon Days
- The Board voted to approve the selection of the process of interviewing Fair Board applicants
- The Board voted to approve applying for the Facebook Grant and using it to update some of the tech in the Carey Foster Hall.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:18pm.

Next regular meeting: Monday, November 17th at 5:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Parker Gales

11/10/2025