

**Minutes of Wednesday, September 17th, 2025  
El Paso County Fair Board Meeting**

<b>Board Members:</b>	Michael Publicker, Michael Miller, Jeff Lapsansky, Ed Dills, Felicia Publicker, Wade Canaday
<b>Associate Members:</b>	Teresa Lamonthe
<b>Staff:</b>	Andschana Aljets, Adam Baker, Dana Nordstrom, Skye Bogle, Jonathan Vabrec
<b>Guests:</b>	Patty Woodward, Stacy Cantu, Riley Bush, John Hill
<b>Excused Absences:</b>	Theresa Odello, AmyJo Fields, Jennifer Loewen, Emily Green, Grant Harris, Kate Johnson, Amanda Hensen, Matt Zeiger, Angela Greene, Mel Trafton

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Michael Publicker a 6:32p.m. We welcomed everyone and introduced ourselves.

**Agenda Items & Meeting Minutes**

An amendment was made to the September meeting Agenda for agenda item 4.B. 2026 Major Entertainment from an endorsement to information only for this meeting, and endorsements would be moved to October.

An amendment was made to the August Meeting Minutes, for corrections to the attendance list. With those changes, Felicia Publicker made a motion to approve the August 2025 Meeting Minutes and September 2025 Meeting Agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wade Canaday.

**Public Comments**

- Riley Bush, a new 4-H parent, came to the board to suggest the addition of a Beef ranch-raised division for the 4-H program. This would be a division of beef that was purchased from local beef farmers within the County only. Jonathan Vabrec advised him to go to the 4-H Livestock Premium Book & Sale Committee Meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, since this is where these discussions start before going to the Fair Advisory Board.

**Board and Staff Comments**

- None

**Action Items:**

**4.A.** Andschana Aljets presented the 2026 County Fair Theme agenda item for endorsement with the choices being 'United We Celebrate' & 'One Nation. One State. One Fair' and there were examples of possible graphics to go with each theme. Fair Advisory Board members discussed the various graphics and talked about elements

that they liked and eventually voted on the 2026 Fair Theme with a consensus of graphic ideas for the theme. Felicia Publicker made a motion to endorse 'United We Celebrate' as the theme for the 2026 El Paso County Fair, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Lapsansky.

**4.B.** Andschana Aljets presented information on the proposed Major Entertainment for the 2026 Fair, 'Pork Chop Revue', 'Tumbleweed Crossing', and an agricultural game show either produced by the Fair team or put on by the 'Wheel of Agriculture' entertainers. All options were positively received and agreed that they fit the 2026 Fair Theme. Follow up questions were posed for 'Pork Chop Revue' to get more information on their actual show and ask if they also do interactive portions during their show. More information will be gathered and then presented for endorsement at the October meeting.

**4.C.** Andschana Aljets presented the 2026 Ticketed Events for the 2026 Fair for endorsement. Key changes are that the opening weekend would focus more on the Ag events, since we overlap with Pikes Peak or Bust in 2026 and we want to ensure that there is enough stock and enough contestants for those events. Besides ticketed events, there are also two free grandstand events that were listed for endorsement, and it was noted that there might be an additional ticketed event for Thursday, which will be added later, once there is more information available. Felicia Publicker made the motion to endorse the 2026 Major Events, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael Miller.

**4.D.** Skye Bogle presented the 2026 Facility Use Fee Schedule for endorsement. There were no changes made for the 2026 Fees, since the fairgrounds staff have implemented a facility rental process, they want to test the process and make sure it works properly before implementing any additional changes. Facility fees will be discussed again before 2027 to assess our fees. Michael Miller made a motion to endorse the 2026 Facility Use Fee Schedule, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Lapsansky.

### **Committee Reports**

**5.A.** No committee reports were due, and they will resume at the October meeting.

**5.B.** Skye Bogle presented the Post Fair Review Notes which is a compiled list from all the post-fair review and debrief meetings from Fair Advisory Board, Fairgrounds Corporation, El Paso County Staff and 4-H/CSU Extension staff. These are the recommendations and opportunities to improve future fairs, and the committees should meet before the October Fair Advisory Board Meeting to compile a proposed 2026 Action Items list which should be sent to Andschana so she can send it to County Leadership for approval before presenting them at the October meeting.

### **Miscellaneous Reports**

**6.A.** Skye Bogle shared the Facility Use/Non-Fair programming report, highlighting the Fall Demo Derby on September 27<sup>th</sup>, and Andschana Aljets also brought up the October 19<sup>th</sup> Fall Fest which is being produced in partnership with 4-H/CSU Extension staff. They called for volunteer help for both events.

**6.B.** Jonathan Vabrec presented the 4-H/CSU Extension report and highlighted the end of year wrap up meetings happening with staff and 4-H Clubs, and the Open Houses and 'Get to Know Extension' events where people can find out more about 4-H and their programs. The report listed all their end year events which include several meetings and shows to prepare for the 2026 Fair.

**6.B.** Andschana Aljets reminded the Fair Advisory Board members that application for the Fair Advisory Board are due by September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and that all board members who need to reapply and would like to continue their work on the board, should get their application in.

Next Meeting: Fair Advisory Board meeting, October 15th, 6:30pm – Swink Hall  
Michael Publicker adjourned the meeting at 7:26pm.