

**Minutes of Wednesday, April 16th, 2025
El Paso County Fair Board Meeting**

- Board Members:** Kate Johnson, Michael Publicker, Michael Miller, Jeff Lapsansky, Amanda Hensen, Grant Harris, Ed Dills, Felicia Publicker, Wade Canaday
- Associate Members:** Matt Zeiger, Mel Trafton, Teresa Lamonthe, Angela Green
- Staff:** Theresa Odello, Andschana Aljets, Adam Baker, Dana Nordstrom, Amy Jo Fields, Skye Bogle, Jennifer Loewen, Emily Green, Jonathan Vabrec
- Guests:** Patty Woodward, Sheila Canaday, Dee Trafton, Carolyn Hall

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Kate Johnson at 6:30p.m. We welcomed our new Fair Advisory Board Associate members and let them introduce themselves. Then everyone else introduced themselves.

Agenda Items & Meeting Minutes

Michael Publicker made a motion to approve the February 2025 Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Grant Harris, the motion carried with approval.

Public Comments

- Ed Dills asked Patty Woodward to share more information about the Jr. Livestock Committee Golf Scramble Fundraiser. She provided more information and shared that there is a lot of support and participation from P4-HO & 4-H/CSU Extension.

Board and Staff Comments

- None

Action Items:

4.A. Theresa Odello provided information about the new Board Appointments. She shared that Felicia Publicker and Wade Canaday have been appointed to voting members, Matt Zeiger and Mel Trafton are reappointed associate members, and Angela Green and Teresa Lamonthe are new associate members.

4.B. Andschana Aljets led the Officer Elections for the 2025 Fair Advisory Board. After nominations, the Fair Advisory voting members voted for the new officer team. The results were Michael Publicker as Chair, Jeff Lapsansky as Vice-Chair and Grant Harris as Secretary. Ed Dills made a motion to approve the 2025 Officer Election, 2nd by Michael Miller, the motion carried with approval.

Committee Reports

5.A. Facilities & Grounds – Adam Baker provided updates on the Grounds committee report and their action items. Currently, they are waiting on an updated quote for the County’s network team to improve the overall Wi-Fi on the Fairgrounds. They purchased new gray water tanks, which they hope will be a better fit for Fair Vendors. The collapsible security gate in the Grandstands will have temporary solution this year, and they will continue to explore a better and permanent solution. New storage options are still being explored. The new flagpoles should hopefully be installed before Fair.

5.B. Programming Committee – Andschana presented the updates from the Programming Committee, including the new Queen Fair schedule, the homesteading schedule and the USO has officially come on board to help with opening day Saturday programming and the USO party on Monday, July 14th which is the 1930’s & 1940s era.

5.C. Vendor Committee – Skye Bogle presented updates from the Vendor Committee. They are above our Vendor Revenue goal by \$6,400.00, with more vendor space still being available. They have found an option for the re-usable Vendor passes and discussed deposit options for those. The outdoor vendor row layout has been finalized, to maximize space, and let vendors be visible from the walkway. More data is being collected for the price increase for non-merchandise vendors for 2026 Fair.

5.D. Dana Nordstrom presented updates from the Sponsorship Committee, including that they have reached 128% of their revenue goal. They have also worked on a new agreement for in-kind sponsors this year and those have been distributed.

5.E. Marketing & Queen – Amy Jo presented updates on the Marketing Committee, which include having secured three billboards on the west side of Colorado Springs, which is new this year. They have also finalized the Radio contracts for 2025. Kate Johnson presented the Queen report which included the Queen Horsemanship clinic, and the upcoming events Queen Gretta will be apart of such as the Girl Scouts Open House and the Walk for Autism event. Gretta has also managed to raise over \$3,000 for the Queen Program so far.

5.F. Kate Johnson presented updates from the Executive committee, including creating a Volunteer Awards/Recognition program. There will be an event on October 3rd to recognize all our volunteers, which will be Bingo themes.

Miscellaneous Reports

6.A. Skye Bogle shared the Facility Use/Non-Fair programming report, highlighting Monster Truck event from the weekend prior, which was very successful, but due to weather the first race of the season was cancelled. Now the first race of the season will be held on May 3rd. She also highlighted the Boots in the Park: Skate into Spring Fair

Fundraiser on April 26th. She also shared that on May 6th there is a First Aid/CPR/AED class at a reduced price for Fair Board Members if they would like to participate.

6.B. 4H/CSU Ext. report was represented by Emily Green and Jennifer Loewen. Action items are in progress and the AG Fest was a huge success and they are already planning for next year. They saw an 800% increase in knowledge for the 200 5th graders that participated. They are getting ready for the 2025 El Paso County Fair and maximizing their schedules. Jonathan Vabrec shared that Cam's Ag Academy and Science on the Fly will be unable to join us for this year's Fair.

6.C. Theresa Odello shared that the 2025 Fair Gate Attendant applications will be posted on May 6th and that there will be a hiring event in Swink Hall on May 27th where they hope to fill all Gate Attendant positions.

Skye Bogle let the Fair Advisory Board members know if they would like to camp at the Fairgrounds during the El Paso County Fair, to please let her know this evening.

Next Meeting: Fair Advisory Board meeting, February 19th, 6:30pm – Swink Hall
Kate Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:29pm.