

**Minutes of Wednesday, December 18th, 2024
El Paso County Fair Board Meeting**

- Board Members:** Kate Johnson, Michael Publicker, Michael Miller, Jeff Lapsansky, Amanda Hensen, Grant Harris, Ed Dills, Mel Trafton
- Associate Members:** Felicia Publicker
- Staff:** Theresa Odello, Andschana Aljets, Amy Jo Fields, Skye Bogle, Jennifer Loewen, Emily Green
- Guests:** Patty Woodward, Dee Trafton, Angela Miller, Silvia Bogle, Adam Kwas, Kelvin Dean
- Excused Absence:** Adam Baker, Dana Nordstrom, Wade Canaday, Leasha LaBruzzi. Matt Zeiger, Jimmy Cochran, Amanda Sorrell, Jonathan Vrabec

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Kate Johnson at 6:31p.m. We welcomed everyone and introduced ourselves.

Agenda Items & Meeting Minutes

Michael Publicker made a motion to approve the October 2024 Meeting Minutes and the November Meeting Agenda, 2nd by Mel Trafton, the motion carried with approval.

Public Comments

- N/A

Board and Staff Comments

- Skye Bogle presented the new TV setup which will allow the Fair Advisory Board meetings to be effectively streamed online and will also let Guests see the entire packet as the Board discusses each Agenda item.

Action Items:

4.A. Theresa Odello presented the new Fair Advisory Board Committee descriptions. Each staff liaison in partnership with their committee updated their committee description and the Board was asked to review them for the January meeting which is when they will be endorsed.

4.B. Theresa Odello presented the Fairgrounds Corporation Fund Balance for endorsement. Staff recommended that the retained money be increased from \$5,000 - \$7,000 to \$10,000 to cover potential higher cost to run the Beer Garden. The other staff recommendation was to use \$70,000 for to support the 2025 Fair an Events Center programs and facility improvements. Grant Harris made a motion to approve the Fairgrounds Corporation Fund Balance, 2nd by Michael Publicker, the motion carried with approval.

4.C. Andschana Aljets presented the 2025 Meeting Schedule, which will continue to be on the third Wednesday of the Month except for the July meeting which will be the second Wednesday of the month since the third Wednesday occurs during Fair week. Amanda Hensen made a motion to endorse the 2025 Meeting Schedule, 2nd by Michael Miller, the motion carried with approval.

4.D. Theresa Odello presented information on the 2025 Board appointments. There was no written up report for this Agenda Item, but Theresa Odello shared all the information verbally. The Board appointments will be made by the County Commissioners, without Staff recommendations this year. There will also be new Fair Board members appointed, and hopefully they will be appointed in time for the January meeting. Any Board members whose term is expiring will need to apply to remain on the Fair Advisory Board.

Committee Reports

5.A. – 5.E. Staff members and Kate Johnson reported on their committees and their 2025 Committee Action Plans, and other various tasks to prepare for the 2025 County Fair. Kate Johnson reminded everyone about the Fair Queen Clinic on January 4th, 2025, and asked for people to come and volunteer for the event.

Miscellaneous Reports

6.A. Patty Woodard presented the Annual Jr. Livestock Report. She reported that their total revenue for 2024 was \$494,910.47 and their total expenses were \$486,110.70. Highlights were that there were less Stier but more Goat and Swine projects during the 2024 Fair. The Committee also invested in a new swine scale for the Fairgrounds and for our Livestock partners.

6.B. Skye Bogle shared the Facility Use/Non-Fair programming report. All volunteers who helped with the 2024 Country Holiday Fair were thanked for their help and contributions. The Eastern Plains Community Pantry event was highlighted, and people were encouraged to bring in toys for the toy drive. The Fair Queen Clinic was also highlighted.

6.C. 4H/CSU Ext. report was represented by Emily Green and Jennifer Loewen. She presented the 4-H/CSU Extension Programming updates through to Spring of next year. Two new events were highlighted, one is the 'New Family Dessert Party' on February 26th and the AG Fest on March 6th and 7th which will be hosted on the Fairgrounds. Emily Green also shared the project sign up number so far and there are over 400 applicants, which is up from last year.

Next Meeting: Fair Advisory Board meeting, January 15th, 6:30pm – Swink Hall
Kate Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm.