

**Minutes of Wednesday, November 19th, 2025
El Paso County Fair Board Meeting**

- Board Members:** Michael Publicker, Jeff Lapsansky, Grant Harris, Wade Canaday, Ed Dills, Kate Johnson, Felicia Publicker
- Associate Members:** Teresa Lamothe
- Staff:** Commissioner Carrie Geitner, Sunny Bryant, Todd Marts, Theresa Odello, Andschana Aljets, Dana Nordstrom, Skye Bogle, Emily Green
- Guests:** Sheila Canaday, Stacy Cantu, John Hill, Patty Woodard, William Green
- Excused Absences:** AmyJo Fields, Michael Miller

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Michael Publicker a 6:30p.m. We welcomed everyone and introduced ourselves.

Agenda Items & Meeting Minutes

Grant Harris made a motion to approve the October 2025 Meeting Minutes and November 2025 Meeting Agenda, 2nd by Felicia Publicker.

Public Comments

- None

Board and Staff Comments

- None

Action Items:

4.A. Theresa Odello presented information on the Fair Advisory Board Committee appointments and shared each committee's members. The question of whether the committee members were appointed by voting was posed, and Theresa Odello explained that since the committees are dynamic and Fair Advisory Board members can switch or join committees during the year as well, that we allow them to choose their committees. Another question asked was whether any of the Fair Advisory Board members have not been able to join the committee they wanted, and this has not been an issue. Each Fair Advisory Board member has been able to join the committee(s) of their choosing. This concluded the discussion.

4.B. Skye Bogle presented the 2026 Vendor Handbook for endorsement. Key changes were discussed such as updated dates and times, vendor badge return deadline, and other vendor procedures. This is to enhance vendor and staff experience and clarify miscellaneous topics for everyone. Kate Johnson made a motion to endorse the 2026 Vendor Handbook, 2nd by Jeff Lapsansky and the motion carried with no opposition.

4.C. Andschana Aljets presented the 2026 Gate Fee Schedule for endorsement. She outlined the changes proposed which were raising Adult ticket to \$9 from \$8 dollars and aligning Senior and Youth pricing which would increase Youth tickets from \$4 to \$6 and Senior tickets remaining the same. Other price increases included some ticketed events that reflect the increase of the Adult ticket. Other ticketed events had proposed price increases due to added event elements and changed dates. Season Passes for Adults and Senior and Youth were also increased to reflect the new proposed daily admission prices. One other change proposed was to clarify language for Heroes Day. The floor was made available for discussion, and several questions were raised. Main questions asked were why price increases would be proposed when the Fair exceeds their revenue goals and what the purpose of added revenue would be, i.e. what those funds would be used for. The proposed increases are made to offset some of the online credit card and processing fees since more people are pre-purchasing tickets online. Another reason is to improve the Fair and fairgrounds for future years and to add the money to the fund balance in case there is a year the Fair does not meet goals or there is another pandemic that would force staff to cancel the Fair for a year. Another question asked was when the last time price increases were discussed and approved. The last general price increase happened about six (6) years ago and only individual ticket changes have been made over the years. Comments were also made from Fair Board members that vendors and fair guests appreciate the affordability of the Fair and know that staff work hard to keep costs down. A suggestion was made to adjust the Child and Youth age ranges to offset the price increase for families, since the Youth pricing is the highest increase proposed. It was decided that more data for the revenue and its use should be provided and that the suggestion for adjusting age ranges should be taken into consideration. A decision was reached not to endorse this agenda item at this meeting to allow for more discussion. Grant Harris made a motion to table the endorsement of the 2026 Gate Fee Schedule for the December meeting, 2nd by Felicia Publicker, and the motion carried with no opposition.

4.D. Andschana Aljets presented the 2026 Proposed Fair Budget for endorsement. The only proposed change was to take \$3000.00 from the Fair Entertainment line item and move it to the Operating Supplies line item to provide more funds for cleaning supplies to support the Non-Fair Programming happening year-round at the Fairgrounds. Fair staff is hoping to recoup the \$3000.00 from Fair Entertainment from fundraisers or from the Fairgrounds Corporation. No additional changes to the budget were made. Kate Johnson made the motion to endorse the 2026 Proposed Fair Budget, 2nd by Jeff Lapsansky, the motion carried with no objection.

Committee Reports

5.A. - 5.F. Staff members and Kate Johnson reported on their committees and their progress on their 2026 action items. All committees have been meeting and started working on their action items. The executive committee asked Commissioner Carrie Geitner to make some suggestions for the Commissioner Contest during Fair, and she suggested steer roping, or something rural to showcase the western lifestyle.

Miscellaneous Reports

6.A. Skye Bogle shared the Facility Use/Non-Fair programming report, highlighting the Country Holiday Fair happening on Saturday, December 13th and that we will be supporting the Eastern Plains Community Pantry (EPCP) Toy Drive by collecting toys during the event. The EPCP giveaway event will be happening at the Fairgrounds on December 19th and 20th. She also shared the various rentals and programs that have been happening on the Fairgrounds. She also shared the awards the El Paso County Fair received from the Rocky Mountain Association of Fairs that she attended the previous week. A full report of the Rocky Mountain Association of Fairs conference will be shared during the December Fair Advisory Board Meeting.

6.B. Emily Green presented the 4-H/CSU Extension report, highlighting their current programming updates. She reported that the past events, like the Project Exploration Night on November 18th, were very well attended and included over 21 new families being welcomed to the 4-H program. She also highlighted the Junior Leader Meeting on January 22nd, which gives 4-H youth ages 14 and up the opportunity to be in position of leadership for their projects. Emily Green shared a contest idea from the new Horse/Miniature Horse Superintendent and asked for a Fair Advisory Board member to participate in the contest for Fair.

6.C. Grant Harris suggested that everyone brings a toy for the EPCP toy drive to the December Fair Advisory Board Meeting to help support our community. John Hill from the Ranchland News shared that at the last EPCP meeting, they said the highest priority item is toys for teens.

Next Meeting: Fair Advisory Board meeting, December 17th, 6:30pm – Swink Hall
Michael Publicker adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.