

**Minutes of Wednesday, October 16th, 2024
El Paso County Fair Board Meeting**

- Board Members:** Kate Johnson, Michael Publicker, Jeff Lapsansky, Michael Miller, Amanda Hensen, Grant Harris, Ed Dills, Mel Trafton
- Associate Members:** Leasha LaBruzzi, Felicia Publicker, Wade Canaday
- Staff:** Theresa Odello, Andschana Aljets, Adam Baker, Skye Bogle, Dana Nordstrom, Emily Green
- Guests:** Patty Woodward, John Hill, Stacy Cantu, Linnea Frates, Rick Smith, Lisa Smith,Carolynn Hall, Barbara Volkmann, Ardith A. Schade, Dee Trafton, Harry Volkmann, Nick Kink, Mart Stott, Rus Stott
- Excused Absence:** Amy Jo Fields, Matt Zeiger, Jimmy Cochran, Amanda Sorrell, Jonathan Vrabec, Jen Loewen

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Kate Johnson at 6:32p.m. We welcomed everyone and introduced ourselves.

Agenda Items & Meeting Minutes

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

Public Comments

- We had a question about when the Swine Filtration System will be installed. Adam Baker directed him to 4-H since they oversee that project.

Board and Staff Comments

- N/A

Action Items:

4.A. Theresa Odello presented information on the Fair Advisory Board Appointments. Applications to join the Fair Advisory Board will be posted on November 1st. Any eligible Fair Advisory Board Associate members will also be able to apply to be a voting member, since there will be two open positions.

4.B. Skye Bogle presented the 2025 Vendor Handbook for endorsement. Major changes included vendor operating hours and vendor awards. Grant Harris abstained from voting since he is a vendor during Fair. Mike Publicker made a motion to endorse the 2025 Vendor Handbook, seconded by Mel Trafton, the motion carried with approval.

4.C. Andschana Aljets presented the 2025 Facility Use Fee Schedule. There were no changes made for the 2025 Facility Fees. Grant Harris made a motion to endorse the 2025 Facility Use Fee Schedule, seconded by Michael Miller, the motion carried with approval.

4.D. Andschana Aljets presented two options for the 2025 County Fair Theme. First option was 'A Journey through the Ages' and the second option was 'A Spudtacular Journey'. All Fair Advisory Board members voted, and the majority was for the second option. Michael Publicker made a motion to approve the 2025 'A Spudtacular Journey' County Fair Theme, 2nd by Mel Trafton, the motion carried with approval.

4.E. Theresa Odello presented the 2025 Fair Action Plans for endorsement. Grant Harris suggested we let the public give their opinions on the action items and give suggestions. Therea Odello pointed out that the public was included during the 2024 Fair Debrief notes and the action items were formed from the debrief notes. This would also delay the approval of the 2025 Fair Action Plans by another month. It was decided to continue with the endorsement of the 2025 Fair Action Plans. Grant Harris made a motion to approve the 2025 Fair Action Plans, seconded by Michael Publicker, the motion carried with approval.

4.F. Emily Green presented the 2025 4-H/CSU Extension Superintendents for endorsement. Their committee met on September 12th to review superintendent applications and settled on their superintendent suggestions. Kate Johnson abstained from voting since she is part of the 4-H Committee. Amanda Hensen made the motion to approve the 2025 4-H/CSU Extension Superintendents, seconded by Ed Dills, the motion carried with approval.

Committee Reports

5.A. – 5.E. Staff members and Kate Johnson reported on their committees and what they have been doing since they 2024 Fair. All of them have been working on their 2025 Committee Action Items for endorsement for this meeting, and other various tasks to prepare for the 2025 County Fair.

Miscellaneous Reports

6.A. Skye Bogle shared the Facility Use/Non-Fair programming report. All volunteers who helped with the 2024 Fall Demolition Derby were thanked for their help and contributions. The Fall Fest on October 26th was highlighted, and Dana Nordstrom was thanked for helping the Fair & Events Team secure Tallgrass as a sponsor for this event. Fair Board Members and guests in attendance were also asked to volunteer for this event if they are able.

6.B. 4H/CSU Ext. report was represented by Emily Green. She presented the 4-H/CSU Extension Programming updates through the end of the year.

6.C. Rick Smith, the president of the Good Luck Sam's Club presented their annual report. He reported that even with diminished sales from 2023 to 2024, their tip amount was higher this year, than the previous year. All their tips were donated to the Eastern Plains Community Pantry, which totaled to the amount of \$10657.32. He also reported that Good Luck Sam's will not be renewing their MOU for 2025.

Andschana Aljets presented Good Luck Sam's with an award for their 34+ years of service and volunteer work at the El Paso County Fairgrounds.

Next Meeting: Fair Advisory Board meeting, November 20th, 6:30pm – Swink Hall
Kate Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:09pm.