

Josephine County Fair Board Meeting

**January 16, 2024**

Josephine County Fairgrounds Pavilion Building

1451 Fairgrounds Rd., Grants Pass, Or. 97527

**Present:** Board Chair Arthur O'Hare, Vice Chair Jon Aslakson, Jennifer McGowan, Dean Saxon, Lonnie Johnson, Julie Lockman, and Tamra Martin Fairgrounds Director

These are meeting minutes only. Only text enclosed in quotation marks ("") reports speaker's exact words.

**1. Call to order**

Pursuant to notice through the media and in conformance with the Public Meeting Law, Arthur O'Hare called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**2. Agenda**

*Lonnie Johnson made a motion to approve the Agenda for January 16, 2024, and Jennifer McGowan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**3. Minutes**

*Lonnie made a motion to approve the minutes from November 14th, 2023, and Dean Saxon 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**4. General Public Input:** 3 Min each- 15 guests in attendance

**Tamara Murphy**- Her children were in 4H but goats had health problems that the 4H didn't help her with. The open goat division welcomed them and knew what to do. There were only 4 goats when she joined a goat club many years ago. The goat clubs are flourishing.

**Yvonne Roberts** - Hugo. Open Division Goat Superintendent. She received an email stating there isn't room for open animals. She disagrees and says there is plenty of room. She feels there is no reason to kick the goats out. She says they open their clubs to 4H kids and feels all animals should be open to the public during Fair week. She gave ideas of where beef can be set up and stated again there are no issues with space.

**Cindee Andres**- Merlin - showed photos of kids showing goats in the open barn. She argued that their division is open to youth and showed photos of kids showing goats in the open division bar. She stated there was an incident a few years ago with 4H kids running through the barn and were asked to not come back and that was the only issue with kids being asked to leave. She thinks we are not making a good choice to eliminate the open class goat shows.

**Stacy Griffin**- she participated with 4H for 10 years with various species. She believes showing as many animals as possible brings in more of the public to fair. Taking the project away will take away will only hurt youth. They feel segregated.

**Tasha Katzenbauch**- showed photo in 2016 of her showing in the open barn. She wouldn't be where she is if she had not been able to show in the open class barn. Suggested bringing beef out of the barn which would give us more space.

**Katie Krissiner**- was in 4H for 9 years. Has shown all sorts of animals including in open class. She has her own taxidermy shop now because of the connections they have made in open-class barns.

**5. Old Business: none to report**

**6. Reports**

**a. Auction Committee- Jen McGowan-** met last week registration is closed for all groups. 244 animals are registered and that doesn't include back up or breeding stock. Adding a Junior open classes division. Up about 60 animals in sheep, swing, goat from last year.

**b. Facilities- Dean Saxon-** nothing to report

**c. Friends of the Fairgrounds (FOF) Report-** They met... no report

**d. Capital Improvement Committee-** No one is working on this committee right now. No report. We will bring up items as we have funding or grants available.

**e. Director's Report:**

**a. Grounds and Financial Update-** a couple of projects currently underway.

1. Arena understructure under the bleachers and walkways with closed the arena until estimated March 1.

2. The Floral, Pavilion & Arts & Crafts Bldg restrooms are being renovated with touchless features and new partitions all are expected to be done by the end of the month.

**b.** Two projects out to bid from the Business Oregon Grant... Host House exterior and the flooring in Pavilion.

**c.** With the construction in the arena, it has highlighted the need for additional light switches on the west end of the arena. There is currently no access to the light switches but year-round this addition would be welcome to encourage lights to be turned off with easier access.

**d.** Friends of the Fairgrounds Grant requests: Tamra would like to request from Friends of the Fairgrounds up to \$10,000 for the switch, arena footing refill dirt and repairs to the Reader Board. The Reader Board was damaged during a storm over the weekend. Asked for board approval to request funds from Friends of the Fairgrounds. *Lonnie moves to approve Tamra to ask FOF for these two projects. Dean 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**e. Fair Aug 7-11, 2024:**

1. Fair Workshop- February- Will be held 1 hour before Fair Board meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup>

**f.** 572 reservations, events and activities were held on the Fairgrounds 2023 which is an increase over 2022.

**7. Business-**

**A. Fair Board Introductions**

Tamra introduced 4 applicants interested in filling the vacancy on the Board.

**Karl Haeckler**- He is interested in joining the Fair Board because he was raised at the Fair showing animals, farming, and rodeo. He has his bachelor's in business administration and PhD in behavioral health. He has worked for County, City, and State governments. Currently he works with veterans for the Grants Pass Vet Center. He brings to the Fair Board knowledge of livestock, systems, events, and day-to-day operations.

**Jag McClintock**- was raised in Oregon. She is a homesteader. She would like to create awareness in the community of the importance of the Fairgrounds. She has personality and she loves the idea of reaching out to the community. She has volunteered during Fair, attended board meetings and her goal for the fair is... Expansion. She appreciates all the little things that the Board does to care for the grounds. She would like to make the public more aware of all the things that the Fair Board does.

**Kari Basset**- She has been considering joining the Fair Board for 3 years. She volunteers for a lot of things in the community for youth and feels this is a good addition to what she already does and loves. She volunteers for many clubs and being involved in all of these helps give her insight to how organizations run. She grew up coming to the Fair. She loves what the Board is doing for the Fair, seeing all the events that the community is using the Fairgrounds for. She would like to see that Fair back to what it was many years ago.

**Todd Greer**- Been involved with Fairs for 30 years as a volunteer, a vendor, working with animals, etc. As a long time vendor, he knows how hard it is to be a vendor with a Fair Board. He has ideas to make things easier and more affordable. His specific goals for the Fairgrounds are around capital improvements. He sees a lot of capital improvements projects where he feels that he can help.

*Board discussed all candidates and recommended to the County Board of Commissioners Karl first and Kari second. Tamra will communicate with the Board of Commissioners and move the appointment onto the next steps.*

**8. Other Business-**

**A. Additional Discussion-** none to report

**9. Next Fair Board Meeting: February 20, 2024**

*Motion was made to adjourn at 7:03 by Jennifer McGowan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Julie Lockman. Motion passed unanimously.*