

Josephine County Fair Board Meeting

February 24, 2026

Josephine County Fairgrounds, Floral Building

1451 Fairgrounds Rd., Grants Pass, Or. 97527

Present: Board Chair: Dean Saxon, Vice Chair: Karl Haeckler, Julie Lockman, Jennifer McGowan, Authur O’Hare, Kim Gasperson, Arthur O’Hare, (vacant) and Tamra Martin Fairgrounds manager

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, Dean Saxon called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Agenda

Jennifer McGowan made a motion to approve the Agenda for February 24, 2026, with date changed to the corrected date and Karl Haeckler 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Minutes *Kim Gasperson made a motion to approve the minutes from January 27, 2026, and Jennifer McGowan 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

4. General Public Input: Guest in attendance: Kaci Williams, Sierra Falk, Deb Berg, Trent Tocher, Frank Boothby

- Frank Boothby - OSU representative. Provided update on 4H. Approximately 70 kids enrolled in a variety of projects. 25 of those are Clover Buds (5-8 years of age) with 30 adult volunteers and a total of 4 clubs including a dog club and a shooting sports club.
- Kaci Williams- her kids are in 4H and is requesting monthly open scales. They are willing to volunteer monthly for open scales for all livestock. She feels an educational component is missing because there has been a lack of monthly weigh-ins.
- Deb Berg- Farm Bureau member. They volunteered to purchase an additional computer key to the scale so they can have county open scales.

Reports

- a. Auction Committee -Jen McGowan-** had meeting and discussed moving forward with auction. Roughly 230 kids which is up from last year. That includes all educational programs.
- b. Facilities Committee- Dean Saxon –** held meeting, discussions around improvements needing to be done before fair.

c. **Friends of the Fairgrounds Report- Dean Saxon-** did not attend.

d. **Director's Report**

1. **Grounds Report-** Painted interior of the Floral Building. Meeting scheduled with company to take look at floor of the Commercial Building to see what improvements/repairs can be made. In addition, looking to repaint exterior and later interior, hoping to have all done before Fair.

2. **Upcoming Events:**

A. **Fair 2026-** We have a good lead for Thursday night concert Headliner. Ground acts are secured. Once contracts are signed, we can move forward with marketing.

5. **Business**

a. **Horse Racing update-** SOHR was to make a presentation tonight, but they had to reschedule. Tamra shared that they are wanting to start a capital improvement campaign for the grandstands.

b. **2026 Fair Board/ Fairgrounds Goals-** moved to March meeting. Board members asked to email the answers to questions at the bottom of the SWOT analysis and include 1 short term goal and 1 long term goal.

6. **Other Business**

A. **Election Memo Review-** put out by Legal. All board members asked to sign the memo.

B. **Additional Discussion-** Jennifer brought up a scenario and was looking for clarity on the Fairgrounds procedure regarding unwanted people showing up at events. The short answer is that if anyone has asked someone to leave the area that is rented and they refuse, they can contact the police and Director to request a trespass. Some events that may be considered controversial and may have protestors, and as public property, those protestors have rights. Instructions are provided to those promoters, and the Director will work with them and local law enforcement if issues arise. Currently, the Director is the only one authorized to trespass people.

7. **Next Fair Board Meeting: March 17th, 2026 @ 6:00 pm**

Motion was made to adjourn at 6:33 p.m. by Karl Haeckler and 2nd by Kim Gasperson. Motion passed unanimously.