

Josephine County Fair Board Meeting

January 27, 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 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

Julie made a motion to approve the Agenda for Jan 27, 2026, and Jennifer 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Minutes

Karl made a motion to approve the minutes from November 18th, 2025, and Jennifer 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously

4. General Public Input: Guest in attendance: Sierra Falk, Deb Berg, Trent Tocher, Bob Shaller and Frank Boothby

Deb Berg - Farm Bureau representative. Sharing info for a sheep sheerer and would like to partner with the Fair for a sheering competition. She heard from an FFA advisor that they lost 5 pig kids due to low auction sales prices.

Frank Boothby- OSU/4H Wanted to introduce himself to the Fair Board as he will be working with several of the Board members.

5. Reports:

- a. **Auction Committee Report -Jen McGowan-**. Public registration is closed for the 2026 Fair auction is closed. We have a total of 226 livestock animals for auction.
- b. **Facilities Committee- Dean Saxon-** have found a contractor for the awnings for the Dance Center and as soon as weather permits, will get the project started.
- c. **Friends of the Fairgrounds Report- Dean Saxon-** working on more games and adding special events. This will result in more funding for the Fairgrounds.
- d. **Director's Report**
 1. **Grounds Report- 2025-** 1091 total reservations for activities and events for 2025. 915 total reservations for events without the soccer fields. We had reports from users that the covered arena had some uneven ground and was in need of new footing. Tamra

contacted Bob Nelson, former Fair Board member, for advice and he helped organize the delivery for new dirt to be added. Tamra may ask the Friends of Fairgrounds for funds but does have a grant request out for the arena. We need to work on the ventilation as well as the inner arena walls. The paint job on bleachers is holding up beautifully but does have a few areas that need touch up.

2. WFA Convention Report- Tamra, Sierra Falk and McKenzie

Crume attended in Reno. Tamra was able to secure some grounds acts as they saw some new fresh entertainment ideas. Tamra attended a workshop “Dare to Be Different” that was analyzing fairs using AI for suggestion on how to improve. Tamra said that the process was extremely valuable and suggested that the Board hold a workshop to do our own SWOT analysis.

3. Fair 2026 Update

2026 Fair theme - handed out flyers and graphics for fair theme, entering fair and sponsorship information. Tamra presented a new idea for Sponsors. Focusing on year-round benefits for the sponsor that treats them more like a Fairgrounds partner.

A. April 7th- Headlining Announcements- teasers will be coming beforehand. No entertainment for Thursday night yet, Tamra suggested looking for alternative ideas.

B. Fair 2026 Workshop- Feb 17, 2026, 5 p.m.

6. Business:

- a. **Time Capsule Update** -idea is moving forward for collection at the Fair.
- b. **2026 Fair Board/Fairgrounds Goals-** Julie suggested board take the Draft Goals sheet home to review and bring ideas back to the Workshop night in February.

7. Other Business

- a. **Fair Board Vacancy Update-** Until things settle in the County’s Board of Commissioners office, we will pause filling this vacancy.
- b. **Additional Discussion-** Arthur discussed the SWOT analysis again and stressed the importance. Suggested that this be done at the February workshop. Board agreed, workshop scheduled

8. Next Fair Board Meeting: February 17, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

Motion was made to adjourn at 6:39pm by Jennifer McGowan and 2nd by Karl Haekler. The Motion passed unanimously.