

Josephine County Fair Board Meeting

June 18, 2024

Josephine County Square Dance Building

1451 Fairgrounds Rd., Grants Pass, Or. 97527

Present: Board Chair Arthur O’Hare, Vice Chair Jon Aslakson, Dean Saxon, Lonnie Johnson, Julie Lockman, Jennifer McGowan, Karl Haeckler and Tamra Martin, 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 6:05 pm.

2. Agenda

Lonnie made a motion to approve the Agenda for June 18th, 2024, and Julie 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Minutes

Lonnie made a motion to approve the minutes from April 16th, 2024, and Karl 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. General Public Input: Guest in attendance. Anne Byers, no comment

5. Reports

- a. Auction Committee- Jen McGowan- committee meeting held just before Fair Board meeting to hear 2 requests for “exception to the rules” for Auction. Legal Department has not weighed in on liability for non-terminal option. At this point we will move forward as planned.
- b. Facilities- Dean Saxon- met twice in the last two months. There was discussion of the new gazebo and remaining safety concerns. The committee would like to see it re-inspected by another inspector and the concrete and rafters have some issues that should be looked at. Dean reached out to a local paint supplier to see if we could get some donation for painting the Pavilion, but that did not pan out. Also, the overhang on the Square Dance building need repair or replacement. It is starting to separate and needs to be a priority. Dean has been working with a company that is willing to donate paint and labor for the inside of the arena but won’t happen before fair, but it will happen.
- c. Friends of the Fairgrounds Report- Jon Aslakson- they currently have funds they would like to donate to help get the grounds ready for Fair. They are working with Brandon to establish a list. Jen recommended that the list of needs also be reviewed in case there are Fair supporters who may be willing to donate. Terri will be working on flowerbeds and has some connections for donations.
- d. Director’s Report:
 - a. **Grounds and Financial Update- Tamra Martin-** horse racing kicked off last weekend and concerts in the Park starts tonight. We will be hosting a

booth at CIP and Tamra asked Fair Board member to help man the table and use it as an opportunity for community outreach.

b. Fair 2024 Update- 50 days until fair

1. Fair Board Liaison Assignments

Banners and Signage- Dean

Security- Karl

Entertainment Hospitality- Julie

Vendor relations- Jon

Parking- Lonnie

Livestock- Jen

Finance- Arthur

2. Hours- discussion on what time to open on Wednesday and Thursday. The Carnival will not be able to open at 11:00 am and will be opening later in the afternoon on Wednesday and Thursday and noon the other days. The Fair Board decided that even with the delayed carnival opening, the rest of the vendors/Fair and areas should be opening at 11:00 am on all days (Sunday excluded).

3. 5:00 Sun on Pavilion Stage is brutal, considering doing more of a family game hour. Tamra was interested in any of the Fair Board would consider hosting. If not, then they will just have music playing.

6. Business-

A. Permanent Fair Fund- Tamra passed out a copy of the Ordinance that was placed to secure the proceeds from the sale of the Flying Lark long term for Fairgrounds Use. This is an incredible win for the Fairgrounds by creating long-term funding.

B. Long Term Horse Boarding- This was discussed at the last board meeting. Safety, liability and the expense of boarding no longer make year-round boarding a sustainable option for the Fairgrounds to offer. *Jen made a motion to “cease all long-term horse boarding after the Fall 2024 race season and only allow boarding associated with an event on the fairgrounds or an overnight haul-in (up to three days per occasion)”.* *Jon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

C. Grounds Security- we have a reoccurring issue with break ins and theft on the Fairgrounds after hours. We need to create a plan to increase our security, suggesting a locked front gate with key code. More discussion will take place to review ideas and create a plan. Arthur suggested we discuss this at the next fair board meeting.

7. Other Business-

A. Additional Discussion – Anne announced that every commercial space and vendor/food space is sold out for Fair.

8. Next Fair Board Meeting: July 16th, 2024

Motion was made to adjourn at 7:30 by Dean and 2nd by Julie Motion passed unanimously.