Josephine County Fair Board Meeting

September 15, 2026

Josephine County Fairgrounds Floral Bldg

1451 Fairgrounds Rd., Grants Pass, Or. 97527

Present: Board Chair: Dean Saxon, Vice Chair: Karl Haeckler, Kim Gasperson, Jen McGowan Trent Carpenter, Arthur O'Hare 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**
   Karl Haeckler made a motion to approve the Agenda for September 15, 2026, and Kim Gasperson 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Minutes**
   Karl Haeckler made a motion to approve the minutes from August 18, 2026, and Jen McGowan 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **General Public Input:** Guest in attendance: Frank Boothby and Lonnie & Debbie Johnson: Online: Anne Byers, Deb Berg, Kaci Williams, Marcia Pratt, Libby Watts
   a. Lonnie Johnson: Spoke on behalf of Kiwana's PNW to share his appreciation for the Fair Board and the partnership for Fair parking.
   b. Kaci Williams: Wants clarity for livestock rules around shows
   c. Deb Berg: was contacted after the auction from Montgomery Meats by error.
5. **Reports**
   a. **4H/OSU – Frank Boothby** discussed their move to the RCC campus for their office space and hiring 2 new staff members. Also brought up birthdates for livestock shows and wants clear expectations prior to Fair.
   b. **Auction Committee -Jen McGowan-** discussed the updates to the manual for next year's Fair and is working with processors to schedule 2027.
   c. **Facilities Committee- Dean Saxon –** no meeting, nothing to report
   d. **Friends of the Fairgrounds Report- Dean Saxon-** nothing new to report
   e. **Director's Report**
      1. **Grounds Report-** Tamra reported that the staff has shifted gears from Fair clean up to upcoming Fall and Winter reservations. Focused on cleaning the buildings for a busy event season. Horse racing is back on the grounds for their Fall Racing season. She encouraged the Board to go visit a race day to see the improvements that have been made and the displays of the proposed improvements.

2. **Fair 2027:**
    1. Tamra would like to rearrange how the Fair is laid out to freshen up the look of the Fair. She also asked the Board to start considering the theme for next year's Fair as mentioned that it's the 100th year of the County owning the Fairgrounds.
3. **Upcoming Events**:
    1. **Trunk or Treat:** October 31st Halloween does fall on a Saturday this year and is expecting a large crowd. Lonnie confirmed that Key Club will be volunteering to help hand out candy and Tamra asked the Board to show up Saturday morning to help park cars and participate in the event.
    2. **Last Minute Gift Sale:** December 19th is the sale date. Tamra is requesting help from the Board to help set up in the days leading up, sale day for visitor interaction and tear down at the end of the event.

6. **Business**
    a. **Oregon Fairs Association:** Tamra spoke about the Oregon Fairs Association and the purpose and impact that they have on all County Fairs. She invited all the Fair Board to attend the upcoming convention where there will be legislative updates and education opportunities.
    b. **Fee Review & Discussion:** The County is getting ready to review the fees in their annual process. In addition to the previous fees that the Board has approved, Tamra proposed:
        - Monthly arena rental fee from $30 to $35 for the month.
        - Fair Office Rental Fee: $100
        - Vendor Penalty Fee- Board discussed this proposed fee. Discussed calling it Contract Non-Compliance Fee with a range of $50-$250.
        - Open Class Livestock Fee- $10 This will not pertain to Youth that have already paid a 10$ Prefair fee for this animal if registered as a backup.

Trent Carpenter made a motion to approve the summary of fee changes as presented with the exception of changing the Vendor penalty fee to Contract Non-Compliance Fee and Open Class Fee is changed to the Open Class Livestock Fee, and Jen McGowan 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Other Business**
8. **Next Fair Board Meeting: October 20, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Motion was made to adjourn at 6:58 pm by Jen McGowan and 2nd by Karl Haeckler. Motion passed unanimously.