

Josephine County Fair Board Meeting
February 18, 2025
Josephine County Fairgrounds Floral Building

Present: Board Chair Dean Saxon Vice Chair Karl Haeckler, Lonnie Johnson, Jen McGowan 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, Dean Saxon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. Agenda

Lonnie Johnson made a motion to approve the Agenda for February 18th, 2025, and 2nd the motion. Jen McGowan 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Minutes

Jen McGowan made a motion to approve the minutes from January 21, 2025, and Karl Haeckler 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. General Public Input– No public Comment Guest, in attendance- Deb Berg and Sierra Falk

5. Reports

a. Auction Committee Report- planning is on schedule with as expected higher enrollment for the 2025 auction.

b. Facilities Committee- met and discussed hiring a company to evaluate the HVAC systems, existing electrical systems and the roofs of each of the buildings. The committee plans to collect this information and try and prioritize so that we may plan for replacement and repairs.

c. Friends of the Fairgrounds- Dean gave a report that he was at the Friends of Fairgrounds meeting and they are requesting estimates of what it would cost for some of the goals of the facilities committee so that they have an opportunity to help.

d. Directors Report- Due to limited staff the Fair office is moving into the Parks/Forestry office until the new space is complete. This will allow us to offer full Monday – Friday, 8 am – 5 pm office hours. We have left signs on the doors and will be driving through the Fairgrounds multiple times per day.

Grounds Report-

- In a holding pattern on the square dance building as we try to find the best solution for the roof.
- Contacted Business Oregon and received permission to upgrade the lights at the Fairgrounds to LED with the remaining grant dollars. Grower's Market donated \$500 towards the lights for the commercial building as well. Arts, Square Dance & Floral buildings will also be completed prior to the end of March.
- Looking for a general estimate for laying new water lines to submit for the remaining ARPA funds.
- Security update- Two incidents so far that have taken place where cameras are not located. Tamara has requested an estimate from the security company to have an additional camera put in. Friends of the Fairgrounds has approved that estimate and will pay for the additional cameras to be installed.
- Heater when out in the Arts the building and Friends of the Fairgrounds has approved that estimate as well.

Update on 2025 Fair

- Announced our Fair line up- tickets are selling well
- The staff in the office has met and looked at Fair Responsibilities to make sure that things run smoothly.
- We should be ready by mid-March to go live with our registrations for static exhibitors

Oregon Fair Association Report

- Jon, Dean and Tamra attended the Oregon's Fair Day at the Capital in Salem - There are two bills in the House and one in the Senate that the Fairs are watching and supporting.
 - The top priority is to remove the Fair funding cap that was placed in the early 2000s. Fairs were designated to receive 1% of lottery dollars annually but due to this cap being placed on, we only receive about \$53,000 annually. The removal of this cap estimates about \$250,000 per Fair per year. This increase would stabilize the funding for our fairgrounds.
 - The governor did discuss Fairs in her legislative priorities and suggested an increase in funds from the \$53,000 to \$75,000.

6 Business

A. Friends of the Fairgrounds- Dean attended the meeting and requested that he will be an additional liaison for the Fair Board. Dean was impressed to see what all the Friends Board does to keep BINGO moving as their main fundraiser for the Fairgrounds. He believes that with his involvement in the facilities committee, it would be a good tie-in for him to stay informed.

Karl Haeckler made a motion to appoint Dean as an additional liaison to Friends of the Fairgrounds, seconded by Jen McGowan. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Project Priorities

- Tamra expressed that she would like to see exterior paint done on the buildings. A fresh coat of paint is a quick improvement that can make a big impact on the public.
- Tamra would like to see the white snack shack be torn down and have a standalone ADA restroom in that space. A restroom here could serve as the main restroom for the arena as well as any events on the lawn and down the midway.
- In 2020, the Board discussed the space behind the grandstands and there is a design. This is a larger project, but with the increased soccer traffic, this needs to be considered a priority.
- Arthur emailed his projects priorities. He would like artists renderings from the Master plan to be put up in the buildings highlighting not only the upgrades for that space but for the Fairgrounds overall.

7. Other Business

A. Additional Discussion- No other discussion

8. Next Fair Board Meeting March 18, 2025 @ 6pm

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:42pm by Lonnie Johnson and 2nd by Karl Haeckler the motion was passed unanimously.