

Josephine County Fair Board Meeting

January 21, 2025

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, Jon Aslakson 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 January 21st, 2025, and Jon Aslakson 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

3. *Julie Lockman made a motion to approve the minutes from November 19th, 2024, with edits of the Call to Order and Jon Aslakson 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

4. **General Public Input:** Guest in attendance. Sierra Falk, Jag McClintock, Commissioner Andreas Blech, Deb Berg

Reports

- a. **Auction Committee -Jen McGowan** no meeting since fall. The meeting is coming up in February. Animal project enrollment is up for this year.
- b. **Facilities Committee- Dean Saxon-** struggle to meet with the holidays. Dean presented a form called the Building Inspection Form that he had drawn up. Gives a floor plan and a place to rate structures, note repairs, dated, etc. The facilities committee will be conducting the inspections. Each building will have its own form. This will be a working document to keep us informed as to what repairs will be needed now and, in the future, when the last time repairs were made, etc. If repairs are needed, Tamra can then start researching costs, and how to proceed with repairs. *Julie Lockman made a motion to approve the Building Inspection Form as drawn up by the Facilities Committee. Aurthur 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*
- c. **Friends of the Fairgrounds Report- Jon Aslakson** very excited about the master plan and getting involved in helping to get the plan completed. Linda Bradley met with a new grant writer, and she will help with FOF write some new grants. FOF looking for more Board Members to help accomplish master plan. Jon presented the breakdown from the FOF support for 2024 fair. They donated \$42,719.05.

d. Director's Report

1. Grounds Report

A: Square Dance Building: is currently under construction under emergency repairs to remove the front awning that was separating from the building. The final renovation will be completed in two phases. Phase one is to make it safe and two, will be to make it more decorative. There isn't a current time frame for phase two.

B: Remaining ARPA Funds/Water Line – The department received the remaining unspent ARPA funds that can be used for water/sewer projects. Tamra is working on getting an estimate to lay a new main water line plan with individual building turn off valves is being worked on for the fairgrounds. The current amount available is \$160,000.

C: Ringuette Auditorium/Office - the Board of Commissioners have approved for the property and these building to go back to the fairgrounds in support of the master plan. The auditorium should be available in a few months for the public to rent. The office space needs improvements prior to being used but will hopefully be ready to be used in early spring. This movement follows the direction of the Master Plan and moving the main entrance to Ringuette.

D: Update Fair 2025 - Tamra showed the new Fair 2025 video theme announcement reel. The song is titled Buckle Up which fits perfectly with our theme! Hit social media today! Headliner has been secured for the grandstand's main concert with two artists for one concert. Tamra is looking to find another artist for Saturday night.

2. Oregon Fairs Association- Day at the capitol 2/3/25 there are two bills that we are currently following, one in the house and one in the Senate. Both deal with removing the cap of the annual State funding that the fair receives from our 1% of lottery dollars. We currently receive just over \$53k annually and if the cap were to be removed it would go to approximately \$250k per year. Both bills are receiving bipartisan support, and the Governor has addressed stabilizing funding the Fairgrounds as a priority, so we are hopeful. This secured revenue source is extremely important for the Fairgrounds. With all the success that we've been having, operational funding is still needed. Tamra suggested we look into developing a fundraiser this spring to create additional funding due to revenue shortfalls.

5. Business

- a. 2025 Fair Board Goals:** Dean proposed professional inspections of each building for roofs, HVAC units and electrical to help further develop a facilities plan and proper budget projections. Authur proposed a second goal would be to find new and stable funding.

6. Other Business

- a. Additional Discussion**

7. Next Fair Board Meeting: February 18, 2025 @6:00 p.m.

Motion was made to adjourn at 6:44 pm by Jennifer McGowan and 2nd by Jon Aslakson. Motion passed unanimously.