

Minutes of a joint work session for the Fair Board and Save the Fair Citizens Committee held at the fair office April 10, 1978.

CALL TO ORDER

Fair Board Chairman Jerry Boyer called the session to order at 7:43 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

FAIR BOARD

Jerry Boyer
Ralph Holland
Charles Colegrove

STAFF

Lorrie Maki

SAVE THE FAIR CITIZENS

Dalene Fisher
Carol Rohrer
Sonja J. Simpson
Margaret Rice
Clarence Rice
Lyell Gardner
Larry Markus
Ernie Bennett
Robert Twigg

SUMMARY

Chairman Boyer summarized the past meeting of April 5 as a super meeting having an impact on the Board of County Commissioners toward the saving of the fair.

The Fair Board and citizens now have additional hurdles to face; those being time and organizational.

The calendar of events calls for an April 26th County Budget Hearing, which is most important that the people wishing to save the fair let their voices be heard and the July 7th deadline for the initiative petition.

Boyer commended Larry Markus for informing the public as to the needs of the fairgrounds.

April 26th an ad hoc committee will be appointed by the Fair Board to put organized action into saving the fairgrounds.

The April 26th budget hearing calls for a positive directional proposal to be presented to the budget committee and County Commissioners. The sum of \$9,800 is very important to the continued operation of the fair for 1978-79.

DISCUSSION

Chairman Boyer outlined the suggested needs that the people should consider in order of importance.

1. Drainage
2. Parking
3. Renovation of Main Exhibit Building
4. 4-H Building addition
5. 40 to 50 trailer hook-ups
6. Multi-Purpose building

The question was asked if anyone present had other ideas as to the order of importance or deletion from this request.

DISCUSSION Lyell Gardner felt that the drainage most certainly is a priority and the design needs to include a plan for future expansion as well as present needs.

Larry Markus suggested that the total amount put forth to the voters not be underestimated - half a building would be a sad situation.

Margaret Rice suggested that the words 'Expo Livestock' were not fully understood by the voters. She feels that a more realistic and accurate word should hereafter be 'Multi-Purpose' Building. All agreed.

The Main Exhibit Building renovation would be a major chore and during that time it would not be in use by the fairgrounds. It must be remembered that during the renovation other problems such as rotting timbers must be considered for cost estimates.

Operating revenue must be allotted during the down time.

Carol Rohrer questioned the importance of the April 26th meeting. Boyer informed all that without a positive voice from the public and a direction towards a viable fairground facility, the budget committee may consider the fairgrounds a 'dead horse' and not fund

Mrs. Rice asked "What does the Board of County Commissioners have in mind?"

Chairman Boyer responded that the commissioners at this time are non-committal.

The proposed November election will not encumber any County Fair funds because it is the general election.

Larry Markus commented that a number of fund raisers must be considered to cover the costs of another campaign.

All agreed that now each had a better idea of what is needed to save the fairgrounds. They in turn will go to their groups and relay this information as well as gather input from the groups members for direction to bring back to the Ad Hoc Committee.

MEETING SET

A meeting was set for Wednesday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m. with the Fair Board, Ad Hoc Committee, and interested citizens.

Mrs. Rice invited all to attend the quarterly Grange meeting on April 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Fair Board Secretary will send reminders to all for next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Mahi

Minutes of a joint meeting held at the Courthouse, Room 402 on April 5 with the Fair Board and the Washington County Board of Commissioners.

The meeting was attended by approximately 300 people from all parts of the county. Many groups were represented including 4-H, FFA, service clubs, riding clubs, 4-wheel drive clubs, Grange members, chamber of commerce and concerned citizens.

A demonstration was held by children, adults, animals all carrying signs in support of saving the fair before the meeting was called to order, outside the courthouse. The press was also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER Miller Duris, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Mr. Duris welcomed all those in attendance and asked the Fair Board and Fair Manager to introduce themselves.

He explained how the Commissioners and Fair Board function - The Fair Board is appointed, they operate autonomously. The Fair Board is responsible for operation and maintenance of the fairgrounds complex, they hire the manager and staff. The Board of County Commissioners only appoints the Fair Board.

Mr. Duris was happy to see such a large, standing room only turnout for saving the fairgrounds. He commented that the room was empty at the Task Force and Commissioners public hearing.

Fair Manager Hesse was asked to summarize the sequence of events that led up to this evening.

Chairman Duris stated that the Commissioners were here to listen to what the community wants. After all the input is considered, the Fair Board will come to the budget committee on April 26th with constructive ideas and insight as to what the Washington County citizens want.

CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION

Citizen participation was initiated.

Dean Carmichael of Sherwood, Washington County Livestock Assn., sec./treas., indicated that at the March 7th meeting of the Association the sale of the fairgrounds was discussed. The Association felt that the sale would not be in the best interest of the citizenry or the agricultural community in general. A resolution was passed to oppose the sale of the fairgrounds and asked the Fair Board to keep fairgrounds and modernize and operate on a logical budget. Perhaps a park could be included into fairgrounds usage.

Cari Ellis, 4-H member stated that there are over 2,000 4-H members. She asked the Board of County Commissioners to keep the fairgrounds. 4-H is a character building organization and all year is spent on projects to come to fair. "Please respond now to help achieve our goals."

**CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION
CONT.**

Harry Cowles, Pomona Grange, stated this was the fifth time he had come forward in support of the Fair Board and Fair. His main worries were the fate of the 4-H and FFA, if the fairgrounds is sold. The programs are so good for young people. He felt that if the county could operate with a reasonable, new tax base, the county would have many problems of funding needs solved.

Chairman Davis explained that the key point of the general fund budget is the tax base. The county is operating on the 1916 tax base and voters have not approved a new one since.

Paul C Paulsen, Attorney for the 4-Wheel Drive Association, stated the 4-Wheel Drive Clubs put in many hours of public service work. "It's about time to say, 'What is worthwhile is worth paying for.'" Mr. Paulsen felt that if a special election were held the vote would be YES - for the Fair. "Everyone who enjoys the fair should get out and work for it."

Linda Ireland, Washington County Holstein and Dairy Wives, asked that the fair should be kept and "Old time America is good for Washington County."

Dale Scheller, 39 year resident and member of Kiwanis Club consisting of 80 Hillsboro businessmen, commented that the Kiwanis Club cast a unanimous vote for saving the fairgrounds. "I would hate to see people deprived of fair - Agriculture is the mainstay of our existence."

Russ Puncocher, FFA student of Hillsboro Senior High School, felt the fair is an opportunity to show achievements and give a true sense of accomplishment; "Gives a chance to feel worth."

Kim Delashmutt felt that many kids learn from the fair activities. "The city kids get to see livestock and animals."

Clayton Nyberg, 1933 4-H member and 20 years a leader in 4-H, feels that 4-H paves the way for successful citizens. Also a past Fair Board member, he feels that a county this size should be able to fund a fair. The county must look at the priorities and take it to the people.

Kevin Evers, FFA Chapter, added that FFA has always supported the fair and done many volunteer hours of work painting, raking, and building to make the fair better than ever before, and will continue to do so.

Jack Long, Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, supported the February bond measure and supports the fair and fairgrounds. Each chamber in Washington County was asked to individually endorse the fair. The commissioners are asked to postpone deciding the future until

CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION
CONT.

Robert Trigg, 4-H President of the Executive Council, feels that all have work to do. The commission and action were not started. The fair is wanted. There are lots of volunteers in the county who would and should be directed into a positive force with responsible leadership. "Without the fair we could go back to bankruptcy."

Sharon Granish, 4-H Horse Dealer for 5 years, feels there is "more to fairgrounds than dollars." She believes that the "Port of Portland is pulling a political manipulation for the fairgrounds." She said Barr wrote of options to keep or dispose of the fairgrounds. "Disposing of the fairgrounds will sell youth down the drain for a lousy dollar!"

Odus Bales, United Grocers, has been a long time supporter of 4-H and livestock groups for years. The fair has a dual purpose in aiding in the production of livestock in the county and the encouragement of youth.

Aggie Whitman, 40 year resident of Hillsboro and member of 4 4-Wheel Dive Clubs, offered to help with work, if the county will supply materials.

Virgil Markus, Rotary Club and 4-Wheel NW Mountain Cruiser Club member, and acting chairman of Save the Fairgrounds Committee, stated that with \$2 million people attending fairs in 1977, fairs are indeed alive. Approximately every \$1.00 spent during the fair generates \$10.00 of income to the community. Tent, paint, gravel, backhoe have all been offered recently to the fairgrounds. However, all those volunteers can only do so much. The grounds and buildings still have to be maintained and money put into proper direction over a period of time. "Fair is not dead. People of fair are in support and alive. Money is talking now." Money for printing and petitions is available if that direction is needed to be taken. Perhaps a change in the millage in state legislation is needed. The fairgrounds has so much potential. There are positive thoughts all over the county. Time is needed to work out what is needed in the way of dollars for fairgrounds use. A realistic evaluation by an ad hoc committee may be needed. Year around operation would be a prime consideration. "We need your support (County Commissioners)."

Lawrence Smith, Board Director of Oregon Horseman Assn., Western Horseman Assn., and Washington County Game Warden member is in support of the fairgrounds.

Mark All is in favor of saving the fairgrounds. After the move of Multnomah County Fair, it has not been the same. A positive step is needed from the Board of County Commissioners.

A group of about ten 4-H members asked the commissioners, "Please save it for youth."

CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION
CONT.

Charles Dickens, owner of a small Arabian horse farm, indicated a series of events has been held to improve the horse facilities at the fairgrounds. That event is currently held in trust. The fairgrounds is a place for a play day, and hopes youth become involved in positive activity. The costs need for critical prosecution when for such reports.

Jan Lock, 4-H member, believes prime responsibility is to save fair for young impressionable youth in need of fair activity.

Sheila Wilson, Forest Grove 4-H, asked that all alternatives be considered before closing fairgrounds. If sold, the funds should go to the Fair Board. "The defeat of the election is not a mandate to close the fair."

Dave Eischen, 4-H and FFA, feels that a 'sense of accomplishment replaces need to follow the crowd, quite often in the wrong direction.' "Fair is where town and country meet." Surely alone drainage and parking would improve fairgrounds usage. Location is perfect, even as the City of Hillsboro is growing around it. We do need a multi-purpose arena. "Don't lose potential because of lack of dollars."

Wally Crawford will help to raise money along with other auctioneers for a fund raiser for the fairgrounds.

Rita Houston presented an idea for usage. Like the Homestead Act, special interest groups could be given a plot of ground to use, care for, and maintain as a fund raiser. They would have to adhere to a list of uses, a general fund, and a governing body of their own. A time limit of perhaps five years would be given to prove their good intentions.

Larry Markus, NW Mountain Cruiser member and a member of the Save the Fair Committee, feels "the fair issue is close to the very young and old." It is operating on a shoestring budget. Now is the time to remedy the state of disrepair. "It is a moral obligation to take care of the fairgrounds. Will the Board of County Commissioners state how they feel?"

Bill Bloom - Fair is a dead issue unless there is a ground swell of support.

Richard Heisler - I understand the concerns of the young. I hope to see the fairgrounds kept, but there is a problem with funding.

Virginia Dagg - There is a potential problem of the airport and fairgrounds being so close along with growing population. She asked, "Do we need 80 acres for the fair?" Is relocation an alternative? If people are not willing to renovate old buildings, but still want the fair; maybe a smaller piece of land would be better.

CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION
CONT.

Miller Duris - Fair is a vital part of our county and has a rich heritage. Keep the fair what it is now. Facing difficulties means maintaining the fair as a priority. "Thank you to all who have sought especially the young for their ideas, suggestions, comments, and suggestions."

Fair Board Chairman Boyer stated an increase in attendance for 1978. Miller Duris indicated a better facility should mean more of an increase.

Heisler - If the county could only get taxation money as easily as C. I. S. G. and Tractor does.

Larry Karkus said the groups are here tonight to save the fair and with some leadership to organize them, they will.

Margaret Cooney felt the election was held at a bad time. Fair problems need more than a bandaid. The tax base is important. Ms. Cooney asked if the Port of Portland has a hand in this.

Ernest Bennett feels moving the fairgrounds is not good and it just needs to be improved. A new tax base would definitely be helpful.

Duris stated that no Port of Portland manipulation is involved and rejected that idea totally and completely.

Chairman Boyer also rejected any Port of Portland involvement as there has been absolutely no correspondence to the Fair Board in recent years on this matter.

Forest Grove FFA member feels that with the Washington County Fair ranked 8th in the state and the county being a farming community the Fair must remain a part of the community.

Dwayne Forney asked the commissioners if any O and C funds from timber sales could be put to fair use, or other county O and C funds could be shared for Washington County. "No fair is unAmerican."

Jerry Ash, Washington County Vocational Rehabilitation counselor, felt that after working with the juvenile department of the courthouse, the youth in the community most definitely need a positive direction with active leadership to help them form productive habits of good citizens.

Clarence Rice, Beaverton Grange, felt that the enthusiasm this evening "stirred up in the community" should now be put into save the fair action.

**CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION
CONT.**

The Save the Fair Commission will be meeting in the fairgrounds office on Monday, April 16 and the Commissioner and Fair Board along with interested citizens are invited to attend at 7:30 p.m.

R. Miller, 404 and 41st Street Drive Club member asked if the Fair had been dismantled several years ago. Margaret Boyer said the 1973-74 the fairgrounds had been ordered to tear it down by the state. As federal revenue sharing was available, the state was put in and approved by the county.

Vernon Jones asked if donations were being accepted. In 1967 or thereabouts his club asked to put in some trailer hook-ups and was turned down.

Chairman Boyer said YES donations are being accepted! Sometimes the cost of using donations, such as moving buildings, is prohibitive and not workable.

Harry Coulson felt that "doing is the best donation."

Bill Bloom stated that he is not opposed to the County Fair, but one problem must be faced - lack of dollars to spread around. People must support the fair or it is dead.

Duris commented that the 19.66 acres acquired by the city of Hillsboro will be complimentary to the fairground complex, when improvements are made.

Chairman Boyer expressed special appreciation for all those who came to support the fair "down to the rattle-taggle, little dog and ducks with signs on their backs - Save our Fair! We received some positive direction here and will meet April 12 to evaluate the citizen input."

Commissioner Duris urged all to work with the Fair Board to solve the problems at hand. The April 26th budget meeting the commissioners will expect to be presented with a plan of action from the community and Fair Board, so they will know the proper direction to take.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Maki, Secretary