

NOTICE OF MEETING

Washington County Fair Complex Board of Directors
Wednesday, February 6, 2008, at 4:30 p.m.
Floral Building – Washington County Fair Complex
873 NE 34th Avenue, Hillsboro, OR 97124

Herbert Hirst, Chair	
Don McCoun, Vice Chair	Kathy Christy, Board Member
Renee Cannon, Secretary	Dan Logan, Board Member
W. Rafe Flagg, Treasurer	

Standing Committees

Air Show & Airport Interface

Don McCoun, Board Member

Booster/Coalition Liaison

Dan Logan, Board Member

Development Committee

Chair, Vacant
Herbert Hirst, Board Member
W. Rafe Flagg, Board Member

Fair & Facilities Management Committee

Kathy Christy, Board Member
Herbert Hirst, Board Member
Don McCoun, Board Member

The Washington County Fair Complex Board is comprised of seven members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. Each Fair Complex Board member is appointed for a three-year term.

The Fair Complex Board has the exclusive management of the grounds, and all other property owned, leased, used or controlled by the County and devoted to the use of the Fair Complex, and is entrusted and charged with the entire business management, and financial and other affairs of the Fair Complex.

The Fair Complex, a division of the County, produces the annual County Fair & Rodeo and manages year-round facilities rented for consumer shows, public expositions and special gathering. The Fair Complex Board meets monthly or as necessary, develops the Fair Complex's annual operating budget, and provides overall policy direction for the management of Fair Complex activities and facilities. The Fair Complex's day-to-day activities are the responsibility of the Complex Executive Director, who serves at the pleasure of the Fair Board.

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), this material, in alternate formats, or special accommodations for the meeting, will be made available by calling (503) 648-1416 at least 48 hours prior to this meeting

All public meetings are recorded.

Current Meeting Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, Fair Complex Board Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at 4:30 p.m. in the Floral Building at the Washington County Fair Complex, 873 N.E. 34th Avenue, Hillsboro, Oregon 97124.

Regular Business Meetings

Regular business meetings are the time during which the Fair Complex Board will consider the items published in their Board Agenda at the times noted above.

Generally, Board Meetings are scheduled to last no longer than two hours. At the discretion of the Board Chair, agenda items may be deferred to a later date if more discussion or consideration is required.

Quorum

To take formal action on any agenda item, at least four (4) Board members must be present. Once a quorum is established, at least a majority of these members present must vote in the affirmative to move an action or motion.

The Board can still conduct business and discuss agenda items without a quorum present. However, no formal action can take place until a quorum of the Board is in attendance.

Executive Sessions

There are times when the Fair Complex Board must discuss confidential matters such as lawsuits, real estate transactions (or other sales transactions) and labor relations matters. When the Board calls an executive session (posted on the agenda), it is done under the guidelines allowed for by Oregon State law. Each type of executive session generally fits under one of three types of State Laws that allow such closed sessions. These statutes are indicated on the agenda. Although the press is allowed to remain in the room, they are not allowed to report on executive session issues. The Board recognizes the sensitivity of conducting closed sessions and only conducts them when confidentiality is required (and allowed by law) to protect the interests of the Fair Complex, Washington County and its residents.

Once the Regular Business Meeting Begins

The Fair Complex Board's formal meetings typically include the following elements:

1. Call to Order: At the start of the Board meeting, the Chair (or Vice Chair) of the Board will call the meeting to order. All matters noticed and listed on the agenda, in any category, may be considered for action in any order at the discretion of the Board Chair. Items not so noticed may be discussed at the discretion of the Board Chair, but cannot be considered for action.

2. Oral Communications for Agenda and Non-Agenda Items (Fifteen Minute Limit): This is the time when members of the audience may step forward to address the Board on agenda and non-agenda items. This opportunity is time-limited to two (2) minutes per individual. The maximum time for Oral Communications is 15 minutes. Individuals providing written testimony are requested to provide 15 copies.

3. Consent Agenda: The items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be adopted in one motion unless a Board member requests, before the vote on the motion, to have the item considered separately. If any item is removed from the Consent Agenda, the Chair will indicate when it will be discussed in the regular agenda.

4. Regular Agenda Items: Unless otherwise noted, regular agenda items will follow in the order listed on the agenda.

5. Adjournment: At the conclusion of the items on the Board's agenda, the Board Chair will formally conclude the Board's regular business

Meeting Protocol

The Fair Complex Board welcomes public attendance and participation at its meetings. Anyone wishing to speak on an agenda or non-agenda item at a regular business meeting should feel free to do so. In doing so, the Board asks that the following guidelines be observed:

1. Please follow sign-in procedures located on the table by the entrance to the meeting room.

2. When your name is announced, please be seated at the table in front and state your full name, home address and organization represented, if any, for the record.

3. Groups or organizations wishing to make a presentation are asked to designate one spokesperson in the interest of time and to avoid repetition.

4. When more than one citizen is heard on any matter, please avoid repetition in your comments. Careful attention to the previous speaker's remarks will be helpful in this regard.

5. Individuals providing written testimony are requested to provide 15 copies.



AGENDA

NOTICE OF MEETING

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873 NE 34th Avenue, Hillsboro, OR 97124**

Herbert Hirst, Chair	
Don McCoun, Vice Chair	Kathy Christy, Board Member
Renee Cannon, Secretary	Dan Logan, Board Member
W. Rafe Flagg, Treasurer	

Standing Committees

Air Show & Airport Interface

Don McCoun, Board Member

Booster/Coalition Liaison

Dan Logan, Board Member

Development

Vacant, Chair
Herbert Hirst, Board Member
W. Rafe Flagg, Board Member

Fair & Facility Management

Kathy Christy, Board Member
Don McCoun, Board Member
Herbert Hirst, Board Member

Note: The Washington County Fair Complex Board will hold public hearing at 4:30 pm, February 6, 2008, regarding the Complex's 2008/09 Proposed Budget. Members of the public may testify on the proposed budget. This opportunity is time-limited to two (2) per individual or association. Individuals providing written testimony are requested to provide 15 copies.

A. Call to Order

B. Oral Communications for Agenda and Non-Agenda Items (Fifteen Minute Limit)

This is the time when members of the audience may step forward to address the Board on agenda and non-agenda items. This opportunity is time-limited to two (2) minutes per individual. The maximum time for Oral Communications is 15 minutes. Individuals providing written testimony are requested to provide 15 copies.

C. Consent Agenda

The items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will all be adopted in one motion unless a Board member requests, before the vote on the motion, to have the item considered separately. If any item is removed from the Consent Agenda, the Chair will indicate when it will be discussed in the regular agenda.

1. Financial Statements (PDF)
 - a. Budget Overview – December 2007 (PDF)
 - b. Balance Sheet – December 2007 (PDF)
 - c. Other, if any
2. Board Minutes – December 2007 and January 2008 (PDF)

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), this material, in alternate formats, or special accommodations for the meeting, will be made available by calling (503) 648-1416 at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.

3. Facility Use Schedule – February 2007 (PDF)
4. Other, if any

D. Special Reports

1. Air Show & Airport Interface Committee – Don McCoun, Board Member
2. Fair & Facility Management Committee – Kathy Christy, Board Member
3. Booster/Coalition Liaison – Dan Logan, Board Member
4. Treasurer's Report – W. Rage Flagg, Board Member
5. 4H Report – Terry Palmer, OSU Extension Agent
6. Operations Report – Don G. Hillman, Executive Director (PDF)
7. Other, if any

E. Old Business

1. Redevelopment Update, if any (PDF)
2. 2008-09 Proposed Budget – (PDF)
3. Other, if any

F. New Business

1. Renaissance Faire Update – (PDF)
2. Other, if any

G. Announcements

1. Calendar of Events (PDF)
2. Other, if any

H. Correspondence

1. Letters and Cards, if any (PDF)
2. Other, if any

I. Board Oral Communications

J. Other Matters of Information

1. Boosters Meeting Minutes – January 2008 (PDF)
2. Newspaper Article (PDF)
3. Other, if any

K. Executive Session

In accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (h), to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of the Board with regard to litigation or litigation likely to be filed; in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (e), to deliberate with persons designated by the Board to negotiate real property transactions; and/or in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (a), (b), (h), or (i), to discuss, review and evaluate employee-related matters. Pursuant to ORS 192.660 (3), it is Board's request that the items discussed not be disclosed by media representatives or others.

L. Adjourn

CONSENT ITEMS

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX
Budget Overview July 2007 - June 2008

Description	December 2006	July 2007	August 2007	September 2007	October 2007	November 2007	December 2007	Year to Date 2007/08	Budget 2007/08	%	COMMENTS
Opening Balance	\$ 719,828	\$ 627,250	\$ 818,755	\$ 670,238	\$ 620,920	\$ 880,205	\$ 843,368	\$ 627,250	\$ 469,660		
Interim Operating Revenues											
Parking	\$ -	\$ 40	\$ 29,911	\$ -	\$ 29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,980	\$ 21,000	143%	Blue Angles Performed in 2007.
RV Park	810	80	1,780	1,380	1,540	940	920	6,640	10,000	66%	
Rentals	22,671	-	7,376	28,250	37,414	4,691	26,715	104,446	200,000	52%	
Concessions	-	38	100	757	-	52	100	1,047	3,000	35%	
Misc Income	680	430	52	1,335	880	2,226	946	5,869	15,000	39%	Professional Services Reimbursements.
Total Interim Operating Revenues	\$ 24,161	\$ 588	\$ 39,219	\$ 31,722	\$ 39,863	\$ 7,910	\$ 28,681	\$ 147,982	\$ 249,000	59%	
Interim Operating Expenses											
Personal Services	\$ 27,893	\$ 13,235	\$ 41,029	\$ 25,434	\$ 26,297	\$ 24,181	\$ 25,353	\$ 155,529	\$ 389,208	40%	
Supplies	211	453	2,249	2,901	895	421	1,129	8,048	25,000	32%	
Professional Services	840	328	3,390	1,785	6,383	3,477	200	15,564	12,500	125%	
Advertising	476	-	1,200	-	-	490	-	1,690	1,000	169%	Air Show Parking & Chamber Publications.
Printing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
Communications (ATM)	-	-	18	17	21	18	16	90	500	18%	
Utilities	3,159	5,493	222	5,245	2,840	7,838	5,147	26,785	65,000	41%	
Repair and Maintenance	360	5,844	3,262	4,950	1,873	785	1,701	18,415	57,000	32%	
Rentals	-	-	243	747	476	228	188	1,883	5,000	38%	
Dues and Memberships	175	125	482	50	-	-	385	1,042	1,500	69%	
Training and Travel	287	211	33	29	153	449	245	1,120	1,500	75%	
Insurance	532	12,533	-	432	-	-	407	13,372	16,000	84%	Split between Interim and Fairtime.
Postage	102	-	43	58	58	26	28	212	500	42%	
Printing Internal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	0%	
Telephones	590	-	924	-	1,137	928	685	3,674	6,000	61%	
Special Expenses	204	451	1,084	184	906	1,286	266	4,177	5,000	84%	
County Legal	-	1,304	1,269	-	-	811	2,347	5,731	5,000	115%	
County Indirect Cost	1,494	1,643	1,643	1,643	1,643	1,643	1,643	9,857	19,711	50%	Split between Interim and Fairtime.
Total Interim Operating Expenses	\$ 36,823	\$ 41,620	\$ 57,091	\$ 43,475	\$ 42,683	\$ 42,581	\$ 39,740	\$ 267,190	\$ 610,919	44%	
Net Interim Revenues/Expenses	\$ (12,662)	\$ (41,032)	\$ (17,872)	\$ (11,753)	\$ (2,820)	\$ (34,671)	\$ (11,059)	\$ (119,207)	\$ (361,919)		

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX

Budget Overview July 2007 - June 2008

Description	December 2006	July 2007	August 2007	September 2007	October 2007	November 2007	December 2007	Year to Date 2007/08	Budget 2007/08	%	COMMENTS
36 Fair Revenues											
37 Commercial Booth Rentals	\$ -	\$ 89,950	\$ 1,150	\$ 450	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 91,550	\$ 82,500	111%	
38 Dept of Agriculture	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49,405	46,000	107%	
39 Parking Fees	-	73,082	8,190	(50)	-	-	(100)	81,122	77,500	105%	
40 Admissions	125	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	See Truck Pull and Demo Derby.
41 Sponsorships	-	45,850	15,850	3,450	-	-	-	65,150	56,500	115%	
42 Carnival Income	-	99,541	-	-	-	-	-	99,541	80,000	124%	
43 Advertising	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500	0%	
44 Entry Fees	-	8,096	30	-	-	-	-	8,126	6,500	125%	
45 Concessions	-	73,897	19,502	1,949	-	-	-	95,348	83,000	115%	
46 Other Revenues	-	1,675	8,021	135	900	-	-	10,731	10,000	107%	
47											
48											
49 Total Fair Revenues	\$ 125	\$ 392,091	\$ 52,743	\$ 5,934	\$ 900	\$ 49,405	\$ (100)	\$ 500,973	\$ 443,500	113%	
50 Fair Expenses											
51 Personal Services	\$ 12,390	\$ 8,191	\$ 38,826	\$ 11,105	\$ 11,688	\$ 11,275	\$ 11,071	\$ 92,156	\$ 177,625	52%	
52 Supplies	-	5,081	4,819	1,185	-	-	-	11,090	12,000	92%	
53 Professional Services	-	8,461	44,380	4,122	-	100	-	57,063	59,000	97%	
54 Advertising, Promotions, etc.	-	12,988	75,338	13,381	-	-	-	101,707	99,000	103%	Includes Hospitality and Sponsor Fees.
55 Printing	-	2,325	27	-	-	-	-	2,352	1,500	157%	
56 Utilities	933	-	7,353	3,640	-	-	-	10,993	12,500	88%	
57 Repair & Maintenance	-	1,730	-	-	-	1,079	-	2,809	2,500	112%	
58 Rentals	-	1,055	13,330	507	-	-	-	14,892	16,000	93%	
59 Dues and memberships	799	-	-	20	-	-	-	20	1,000	2%	
60 Travel and Training	633	-	-	610	339	683	551	2,183	4,000	55%	
61 Insurance	228	12,534	-	197	-	-	175	12,906	16,000	81%	Split Between Interim and Fairtime.
62 Postage	-	-	-	223	55	-	-	278	500	56%	
63 Telephone	-	1,291	-	799	-	-	-	2,090	2,500	84%	
64 County Legal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	0%	
65 Other/Special Expenses	27	76,440	1,835	22,612	-	-	34	100,921	100,000	101%	
66 Awards	10,000	51,838	-	(1,014)	65	-	-	50,889	45,000	113%	
67 County Indirect Costs	1,494	1,643	1,643	1,643	1,643	1,643	1,643	9,857	19,710	50%	Split Between Interim and Fairtime.
68											
69 Total Fairtime Expenses	\$ 26,504	\$ 183,577	\$ 187,551	\$ 59,030	\$ 13,794	\$ 14,780	\$ 13,474	\$ 472,206	\$ 569,335	83%	
70											
71 Net Fairtime Revenues/Expenses	\$ (26,379)	\$ 208,514	\$ (134,808)	\$ (53,096)	\$ (12,894)	\$ 34,625	\$ (13,574)	\$ 28,767	\$ (125,835)		

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX

Budget Overview July 2007 - June 2008

Description	December 2006	July 2007	August 2007	September 2007	October 2007	November 2007	December 2007	Year to Date 2007/08	Budget 2007/08	%	COMMENTS
Truck Pull											
72 Revenues	\$ -	\$ 13,730	\$ 270	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,000	\$ 12,500	112%	
73 Admissions	\$ -	2,250	2,413	-	-	-	-	4,663	8,000	58%	Late Sponsorship Cancellation.
75 Sponsorships	\$ -	\$ 15,980	\$ 2,683	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,663	\$ 20,500	91%	
Total Truck Pull Revenues											
76											
Truck Pull Expenses											
77											
78 Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52	\$ -	0%	
79 Professional Services	\$ -	6,713	134	316	-	-	-	7,163	7,000	102%	
80 Advertising and Hospitality	\$ -	-	-	394	-	-	-	394	500	79%	
81 Rentals	\$ -	-	997	254	-	-	-	1,251	2,000	63%	
82 Other Miscellaneous	\$ -	-	-	375	-	-	-	375	-	0%	
83 Prize Money	\$ -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
Total Truck Pull Expenses	\$ -	\$ 6,713	\$ 1,131	\$ 1,391	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,235	\$ 9,500	97%	
85											
86											
Net Truck Pull Income/(loss)		\$ 9,267	\$ 1,552	\$ (1,391)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,428	\$ 11,000	86%	
87											
Rodeo Revenues											
88											
89											
90 Admissions	\$ 40	\$ 23,830	\$ 1,900	\$ (80)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,650	\$ 25,000	103%	
91 Sponsorships	1,000	15,950	6,710	6,000	-	-	-	28,660	27,500	104%	
92 Queen Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
93 Miscellaneous	-	68	-	-	-	-	-	68	-	0%	
Total Rodeo Revenues	\$ 1,040	\$ 39,848	\$ 8,610	\$ 5,920	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,378	\$ 52,500	104%	
95											
96											
97											
Rodeo Expenses											
98											
99 Supplies	\$ -	\$ 872	\$ -	\$ 275	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,147	\$ 250	459%	
100 Professional Services	-	29,000	5,823	1,375	-	-	-	36,198	35,000	103%	
101 Advertising	-	-	6,569	(2,183)	-	-	255	4,641	3,000	155%	
102 Rentals	-	-	1,995	807	-	-	-	2,802	3,500	80%	
103 Training and Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
104 Other Misc Expenses	-	1,703	582	300	-	-	-	2,585	3,000	86%	
105 Awards/Prizes	-	4,000	-	-	-	-	-	4,000	4,000	100%	
Total Rodeo Expenses	\$ -	\$ 35,575	\$ 14,969	\$ 574	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 255	\$ 51,373	\$ 48,750	105%	
106											
107											
Net Rodeo Revenues/Expenses	\$ 1,040	\$ 4,273	\$ (6,359)	\$ 5,346	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (255)	\$ 3,005	\$ 3,750	80%	
108											
109											

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX
Budget Overview July 2007 - June 2008

Description	December 2006	July 2007	August 2007	September 2007	October 2007	November 2007	December 2007	Year to Date 2007/08	Budget 2007/08	%	COMMENTS
Demo Derby											
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112											
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WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX

Budget Overview July 2007 - June 2008

Description	December 2006	July 2007	August 2007	September 2007	October 2007	November 2007	December 2007	Year to Date 2007/08	Budget 2007/08	%	COMMENTS
147 Non-Operating											
148 Non-Operating Revenues											
149 Hotel/Motel Taxes	\$ 7,121	\$ -	\$ 12,437	\$ 12,988	\$ 171,228	\$ 44,202	\$ 6,860	\$ 247,715	645,000	38%	
150 Transfer from General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
151 Interest	2,538	2,487	3,232	2,221	633	4,906	2,792	16,271	22,500	72%	November includes some October Interest.
152 Total Non-Operating Revenues	\$ 9,659	\$ 2,487	\$ 15,669	\$ 15,209	\$ 171,862	\$ 49,108	\$ 9,652	\$ 263,987	\$ 667,500	40%	
153 Non-Operating Expenses											
154 Purchase/Lease											
155 Land Improvements - Fire Hydrant Project	\$ 503	\$ 503	\$ 11,739	\$ 503	\$ 503	\$ 11,739	\$ 503	\$ 25,490	104,483	24%	
156 Bad Debt Expense	-	400	-	3,950	-	-	1,960	6,310	-	0%	Easements Yet to be Executed.
157 Buildings and Structures - Main Exhibit Hall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	0%	
158 Equipment	-	-	538	-	-	-	7,834	8,372	40,000	21%	Panels and Ticket Machine.
159 Development Reserve	5,790	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	0%	
160 Total Non-Operating Expenses	\$ 6,293	\$ 903	\$ 12,277	\$ 4,453	\$ 503	\$ 11,739	\$ 10,297	\$ 40,172	\$ 189,483	21%	
161 Net Non-Operating Revenues/Expenses	\$ 3,366	\$ 1,584	\$ 3,392	\$ 10,756	\$ 171,358	\$ 37,369	\$ (645)	\$ 223,815	\$ 478,017	47%	
162 Total Fair Complex Revenues	\$ 35,726	\$ 474,894	\$ 121,366	\$ 59,735	\$ 320,096	\$ 143,449	\$ 38,233	\$ 1,157,773	\$ 1,538,000	75%	
163 Total Fair Complex Expenses	\$ 69,620	\$ 283,389	\$ 277,150	\$ 110,491	\$ 56,980	\$ 69,100	\$ 63,766	\$ 860,376	\$ 1,441,487	60%	
164 Net Fair Complex Revenues/Expenses	\$ (37,918)	\$ 191,505	\$ (155,784)	\$ (51,470)	\$ 255,247	\$ (32,798)	\$ (26,576)	\$ 180,124	\$ 34,513	522%	
165 Ending Fund Balance/Contingency	\$ 692,080	\$ 818,755	\$ 670,238	\$ 618,768	\$ 880,205	\$ 843,368	\$ 816,795	\$ 816,795	\$ 504,173	162%	

**Washington County Fair Complex
Balance Sheet Preliminary
December 31, 2007**

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash

Fairplex..Petty cash..	\$ 250
Fairplex..Petty cash.Finance- Petty Cash.	-
Fairplex..Cash drawer..	-
Fairplex..Cash drawer.Frite Lites.	-
Fairplex..General Cash Account..	116,429
Fairplex..USNB WASHCO ACH Clearing..	-
Fairplex..CCB-General Account..	4,249
Fairplex..CCB-Money Market Account..	691,309
Fairplex..CCB-ATM Account..	2,646
Fairplex..Gasb 31 cash general port..	-
Fairplex..CCB-ATM Cash Drawer..	20
Total Cash	<u>\$ 814,902</u>

Accounts Receivable

Fairplex..Accounts receivable - Sub..	\$ 13,050
Fairplex..Accounts receivable-on ac..	(31)
Fairplex..Due from other funds.Other 4-H.	(10)

Prepays

Prepaid items	\$ 9,797
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Total Current Assets

\$ 837,709

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Fairplex..Accounts Payable..	\$ (115)
Fairplex..Accounts payable- other..	-
Fairplex..Deposits payable-subsidia..	-
Fairplex..Retainage payable..	-
Total Payables	<u>\$ (115)</u>

Other Current Liabilities

Fairplex..Amounts due to others..	\$ (802)
Fairplex..Conversion Account..	-
Fairplex..Payroll payable..	-
Fairplex..Due to other funds..	-
Fairplex..Deferred revenue- unavail..	-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue..	-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Main Exhibit Hall.	788
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Cloverleaf Building.	-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Grounds/General.	(1,105)
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Parking-Operations.	-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.RV Parking-short term.	(80)
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Parking-Airshow.	75
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Rodeo Admissions.	-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Awards Open Class.	-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Advertising Inco.	(150)
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Airshow Income.	(75)
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Commercial Exhib.	14,950
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Concession Reven.	(3,500)
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Sponsorship Inco.	(9,353)
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Facilities Renta.	(21,622)
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Livestock Entry Fees.	56
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Camping Fees.	20
Total Deferred Revenues	<u>\$ (20,797)</u>

Total Liabilities

\$ (20,912)

Equity

Fairplex..Fund Balance..	\$ (843,370)
Net (Income)/Loss for the Period	26,574

Net Equity

\$ (816,797)

Total Liabilities and Equity

\$ (837,709)

Minutes
Washington County Fair Complex Board
Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Convened: 4:30 pm

FAIR COMPLEX BOARD:

President Rafe Flagg - Absent
Vice President Dan Logan - Absent
Board Member Rich Vial
Board Member Kathy Christy
Board Member Herb Hirst
Board Member Mike Steward
Board Member Don McCoun

STAFF:

Don Hillman, Executive Director
Leah Perkins-Hagele, Fair Coordinator
Lisa DuPre', Marketing/Events Director

Board Member Christy, acting as Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., and welcomed the audience. Christy opened public oral communication time for agenda and non-agenda items.

Public Oral Communications - None

1. Consent Agenda

Motion by Board Member Hirst to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Board Member Steward. Motion carried 5 -0.

2. Special Reports

A. Airshow & Airport Report – Board Member Hirst had nothing to report.

Board Member McCoun reported that they will be voting on charities for distribution of funds. They will know the dates next week. Board Member Vial asked the board to recommend to President Flagg to make a change to the Airshow committee since Board Member McCoun is more involved than Board Member Hirst.

Board Member Steward stated that Vice President Logan wants to recommend that the Booster President make the monthly Booster report.

B. Fair & Facilities Management Committee – Board Member McCoun reported that he thought the last meeting was much different than the first meeting. Participants talked about buildings and what they would like to see.

Board Member Hirst said that he likes the format of the meetings, will have good feedback to provide to the board. Still have a long way to go, not ready to make suggestions yet.

Board Member Christy said that on January 2nd they will have a meeting for those who they haven't talked to yet. Christy also noted that they plan to visit the Portland Expo Center and the Clark County Event Center and that the committee will be doing research on other facilities and event centers. Discussion ensued.

C. Treasurer Report – Board Member Vial noted a few things. Airshow parking turned out much better than forecast. Having a Blue Angel year and the location of the show made a difference.

Looking at the Fairtime income, Vial stated that he believes that this is the best evidence that the "Free" model is working. Community Booths, Carnival and Concessions are all up significantly and up significantly over projections. With the savings that we realized we made \$7000 on Fairtime operations, impressed by the staff.

Vial also pointed out that the Truck Pull income was \$9400. The Rodeo is \$3200. It's more expensive to put on the rodeo but it has more sponsors that maybe only available for the rodeo, it's hard to say.

The Demo Derby has \$20,000 in net income, it was a real winner. Frite Lites was very successful, impressive difference than what was forecast.

Board Member Christy said she would like to present this information to the County Commissioners. Executive Director Hillman said he would like to meet with the County's new CFO first.

Board Member Steward voiced concerns on how to maintain rodeo sponsors, how they can be moved to support other areas. Steward also noted that rentals are a major area of decrease and needs to be looked at.

Vial said that there is not a decrease in rentals; it's exactly the same as last year. Vial agreed that rodeo sponsors are a concern, will the rodeo sponsorship go down if the rodeo continues to go down and their advertising is not being seen and is inclined to suggest that the current rodeo sponsors be converted to overall Fair sponsors.

Steward said that better rodeo stock will make people come out to the rodeo. Discussion ensued.

D. 4-H Report – Terry Palmer, OSU Extension Agent, was not available and there was no report.

Board Member Christy reported that 4-H would be handling the Jeanie Leeson Scholarship.

E. Boosters/Coalition Liaison Report – In the absence of Board Member Logan, Board Member Steward did not have an update.

Board Member Christy asked Booster member Lyle Spiesschaert for any updates. Spiesschaert reported that the Boosters are having a Christmas gathering and invited the board.

F. Operations Report – Executive Director Don Hillman added to the written report that the facility survived the storm well with no losses or disruption.

G. Other, if any – None

3. Old Business

A. Redevelopment Update – Board Member Christy reported that updates were sent via e-mail. Christy also voiced concern about going out to the voters for anything.

Board Member Vial said he is concerned about the 4-H campground not being in the phase designs.

Motion by Board Member Vial to recommend as a board, incorporation of a youth campground as part of the overall redevelopment design, equivalent or greater to running the 5-year average. Second by Board Member McCoun. Motion carried 5-0

Board Member Hirst asked how many times a year camping is currently used.

Vial reported that it's for two weeks a year.

Board Member Steward said the only other alternative is for kids to go home at night which drives other issues.

Board Member Christy said that some people don't want the Renaissance Faire people to be able to have camping and it's not fair. There needs to be rules for who can camp.

McCoun asked why we need the Renaissance Fair, it doesn't seem to fit and it's a hot topic with the locals. Discussion ensued.

B. 2008-09 Budget Draft – Executive Director Hillman reported that for the budget committee President Flagg had chosen Ken Madden, Board Member Christy chose Cindy Strum, Vice President Logan chose Ron Reichen and still needed appointments from board members Hirst, Vial, McCoun and Steward.

Board Member Vial asks that he not chair the committee this year and chose Dave Barno for his appointment for the budget committee.

Board Member Steward chose Lyle Spiesschaert and Board Member McCoun chose Bill Ganger.

C. Frite Lites – Executive Director Hillman that the partner for the haunted house wants to come back next year and haunt more of the grounds. Discussion ensued.

D. Other, if any – None

4. New Business.

A. Other – Board Member Christy reported that the staff has been doing research on the history of the Fairgrounds. Christy noted that over the years she has heard stories on who bought the Fairgrounds. Christy gave a hand-out and then reported that on April 23, 1946, the Fair Board purchased the current Fairgrounds property for \$16,000 with Pari-Mutual fund money.

The Fair Boosters were formed on April 12, 1978, which started as the Fair Savers and then changed their name to the Fair Boosters.

Board Member Steward said that the Boosters have also been putting chronological details together.

Board Member Vial stated that the Boosters will always be a problem. When the Booster organization started they became the tail that wagged the dog. The Fair Board has not been able to act accordingly because the Boosters have convinced the press and other officials that they have equal status with the Fair Board. Discussion ensued.

5. Announcements – None.

6. **Correspondence** - None other than what was in the packet.
7. **Board Oral Communications** – Board Member Christy announced that this was Board Member Vial's last meeting. Christy read a thank you to Vial and spoke of the things that he had done during his term. Christy then presented Vial with an inscribed rock. Christy thanked Vial for his time and the sacrifices that he and his family had made.
8. **Other Matters of Information** – None other than what was in the packet.

With no further business before the Board, Board Member Christy adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Motion by Board Member Hirst to adjourn. Second by Board Member Steward.
Motion carried 5 -0.

Don G. Hillman
Recording Secretary

Rafe Flagg
Board President

Minutes
Washington County Fair Complex Board
Wednesday, January 2, 2008

Convened: 4:30 pm

FAIR COMPLEX BOARD:

President Rafe Flagg
Vice President Dan Logan
Board Member Renee Cannon - Absent
Board Member Kathy Christy
Board Member Herb Hirst
Board Member Mike Steward - Absent
Board Member Don McCoun

STAFF:

Don Hillman, Executive Director
Leah Perkins-Hagele, Fair Coordinator
Lisa DuPre', Marketing/Events Director

President Flagg called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., and welcomed the audience. Flagg opened public oral communication time for agenda and non-agenda items.

Public Oral Communications

Ken Kuedell – President of the Washington County Master Gardeners. Kuedell reported that they, along with the Tualatin Valley Garden Club, are working on improving the drainage in the gardens. They would like to replace the chip surface with a surface that is accessible by wheelchair. They are looking for donations of money and materials. Both clubs have already spent \$1200.

Board Member Christy asked how much they need to finish the project. Kuedell reported that they still needed \$1000.

Motion by Board Member Christy to donate \$500 to the Washington County Master Gardeners to help finish their project. Second by Board Member Logan. Motion Carried 5-0.

1. Consent Agenda

Motion by Board Member Hirst to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Board Member Christy. Motion carried 5 -0.

2. Special Reports

A. Airshow & Airport Report – Board Member McCoun reported that the Airshow dates are August 8th through the 10th, but the dates are tentative until the end of January and only if they can get a Jet Team. No contracts have been signed yet.

B. Fair & Facilities Management Committee – Board Member Christy reported that Booster President, Lyle Spiesschaert, gave the committee the Boosters ideas on a management structure. Christy reported that there will be no meetings in January and they would like to have a recommendation to the Fair Board by March.

C. Treasurer Report – Board Member Flagg reported that the financials are in the packet. The cash on hand is at an all time high, even after paying \$150,000 for the fire hydrant project.

D. 4-H Report – Terry Palmer, OSU Extension Agent reported that she has been talking to the Oregon State Fair about hosting a science fair at the county fair that is geared toward younger children. Palmer stated that this would help with the mandate to have 20,000 kids in 4-H technology. Board Member Christy asked if anything had gone out yet regarding the scholarship. Palmer said she would check on it.

E. Boosters/Coalition Liaison Report – Board Member Logan reported that the minutes are in the packet and that was the extent of his report.

Booster President Lyle Spiesschaert spoke up from the audience and said that from the last board meeting he thought that he was going to do the report from now on. President Flagg stated that he had not made any decision on that, but allowed Spiesschaert to give his report this time.

Lyle Spiesschaert, Booster President – Spiesschaert reported that he is the newly elected President. The Boosters are going to elect an Executive Committee and adopt goals and discuss ways they will promote revitalization and ways the Boosters can help with the 2008 Fair. Spiesschaert then stated that he was un-happy about some Fair Board members at the last meeting accusing the Boosters of lying about how the land was acquired.

Board Member Christy interjected that she did not accuse anyone of anything.

Spiesschaert stated that they Boosters have done a history and suggested that an accurate history be posted on the website.

President Flagg suggested to Spiesschaert that if the Boosters would like to give their information to the staff to go over and this can be discussed at future meetings.

F. Operations Report –Executive Director Don Hillman reported that most of staff had been off in December. There was a new show in the Main Exhibit Hall, The Last Chance Christmas Show, and they will be returning next year. Also met with the Eagle Scout, Josh Salame, and discussed the kiosk project, but staff is more interested in signage that can be changed and moved as needed. Also, Christmas tree recycling is being done on-site through the City of Hillsboro and the Boy Scouts and will last through January 11th.

G. Other, if any – None

3. Old Business

A. Redevelopment Update – President Flagg reported that the last Task Force meeting capped a successful year. The Final Draft plan is in the packet including a timeline. The Task Force will reconvene in April for community outreach and marketing.

Board Member Hirst said it was an interesting meeting. They came up with a fine plan that should be easy to support and has high hopes of the bond measure passing.

Board Member McCoun said that it's very exciting to think about what could happen. The County will have two other bond measures on the ballot, but he is optimistic. It's the board job to go out and talk to everyone about it. The Task Force did a terrific job, but it's still a work in progress.

Board Member Christy asked if there was a timeline for developing the renaissance faire. Christy worried that this will get dropped away.

Hirst stated that the Task Force backed off.

Christy said they need to submit a request to the County Commissioners regarding the timeline. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Board Member McCoun to request that the Board of County Commissioners begin conversations with representatives of the Oregon Renaissance Festival to bring this event to the Fair Complex, and complete their due diligence and provide clear direction regarding this proposed event to the Fair Complex Board by February 20, 2008. Second by Board Member Hirst. Motion carried 5-0.

Board Member Christy also stated her concern regarding the wording on overnight tent camping. Allowing only one group to camp and not others is the wrong message and not appropriate. Discussion ensued.

President Flagg suggested that staff find out what kind of options there may be and have potential recommendations by February or March.

B. 2008-09 Budget Draft – Executive Director Hillman reported that the six budget committee members met for two and a half hours and went through the budget by line item. Some comments that were made were the same as last year. Some concerns about allocating expenses.

President Flagg stated that lots of good changes were made from last year, lots of tactical questions. The strategic questions end up being policy issues such as the ball fields. Some of the policy questions were certain groups not paying concession fees and storage fees, should the Fair go back to a paid gate, should the Complex lower rental rates, should the Rodeo continue as part of the Fair and what should happen to the Renaissance Faire. Flagg noted that staff will make revisions and a public hearing will take place at next months meeting.

Hillman noted that budget changes could be made in regards to the Renaissance Faire, if needed.

C. Other, if any – None

4. New Business.

A. Election of Officers – President Flagg nominated Board Member Hirst for President. Board Member Christy 2nd the nomination. Nomination carried 5-0.

Board Member Christy nominated Board Member McCoun for Vice President. Board Member Hirst 2nd the nomination. Nomination carried 5-0.

Board Member Christy nomination Board Member Cannon for Secretary. Board Member Hirst 2nd the nomination. Nomination carried 5-0.

Board Member McCoun nominated Board Member Steward as Treasurer. Board Member Christy nominated Board Member Flagg as Treasurer. Nominated carried 3-2 for Board Member Flagg. Board Members McCoun and Logan voted for Board Member Steward and Board Members Hirst, Flagg and Christy voted for Board Member Flagg.

B. Other – None

5. Announcements – None.

6. Correspondence - None other than what was in the packet.

7. **Board Oral Communications** – Board Member Christy stated that the article about Management Companies was very interesting.

Board Member Logan said that if the Bond Measure is the road that will be taken, it's very critical to be done by donated funds. A political action committee will need to be formed. It will take a huge effort and there is not much time. It will take a huge marketing campaign, serious time and money and how the media views them is important.

Board Member Hirst stated that it's the role of the staff to provide facts and public documents only.

President Flagg directed staff to talk to County Commissioner Brian about what is in place and get clear guidelines.

8. **Other Matters of Information** – None other than what was in the packet.

With no further business before the Board, Board Member Christy adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Motion by Board Member Hirst to adjourn. Second by Board Member Christy. Motion carried 5 -0.

Don G. Hillman
Recording Secretary

Rafe Flagg
Board President

SPECIAL REPORTS

County of Washington

**Washington County Fair Complex
873 NE 34th Avenue
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124
Phone: (503) 648-1416
Fax: (503) 648-7208
donh@faircomplex.com
www.faircomplex.com**

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 30, 2008

To: Washington County Fair Complex Board
Washington County Fair Complex

From: Don G. Hillman, Executive Director
Washington County Fair Complex

Re: January 2008 Operations Report

Main Exhibit Hall Power Service – During the Gen Faire, just before closing for the evening, the main power line feeding the Main Exhibit Hall broke away from the weather head. The break occurred about six feet from the weather head. The power line fell on the ground and across one car.

PGE provided repairs that evening and power was restored by 10:00 pm. However, this may be a wake up call for other problems to be experienced with the aging condition of the Fair Complex's infra structure.

OLD BUSINESS

County of Washington

**Washington County Fair Complex
873 NE 34th Avenue
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124
Phone: (503) 648-1416
Fax: (503) 648-7208
donh@faircomplex.com
www.faircomplex.com**

FAX MEMORANDUM

Date: January 30, 2008

To: Washington County Fair Complex Board
Washington County Fair Complex

From: Don G. Hillman, Executive Director
Washington County Fair Complex

Re: Proposed 2008/09 Fair Complex Budget

Find attached the second draft of the Fair Complex's FYE 2008/09 Proposed Budget.

It was reviewed by the Budget Advisory Committee on December 28, 2007. Minor revisions have been made to the estimates, except for the Frite Lites Program which now reflects more accurate estimates for 2007/08.

Since attending the Oregon Fairs Association Convention in January, staff has found through conversations with other rodeos and representatives from the Northwest Professional Rodeo Association that cowboys will be in short supply this summer and to exacerbate the problem even more, its become apparent that too many rodeo overlap during the summertime months. On the weekend of the Washington County Fair, there are currently at least five rodeos scheduled. This spreads out participant especially those rodeos with Friday and Saturday performances.

Faced with this reality, staff is suggesting a programming revision for the 2008 Washington County Fair with on opening night featuring a bull riding event, followed by the traditional truck pull on Friday night. Saturday night would feature a new motor sports event involving monster trucks and mud bog races. Sunday night would continue to feature the ever-popular demolition derby including the VIP Tournament of Destruction.

Staff has talked to various promoters and event organizers, and based upon those discussions, believe there are sufficient bull riders to produce a meaningful bull riding

event on Thursday night, and sufficient public interest via motor sport enthusiast to produce an exciting show featuring monster trucks and mud bog racing.

From a revenue perspective, staff believes that the cost of producing the two events would not exceed the costs currently estimated for the traditional two-performance rodeo. In addition, staff believes that the revenues (admissions and sponsorships) associated with the two new arena events, would equal or surpass the current revenue estimates for the traditional two-performance rodeo. Sponsorships will continue to be a challenge, but having two new programs, with one featuring the most popular rodeo event, will help in this area.

As with any new programming, there will be those that will want the current programming to stay intact no matter what; however staff would strongly recommend that we embrace the new programming given the current insight in to the possible summertime rodeo conditions.

As such, staff would recommend that the Fair Complex FYE 2008/09 Proposed Budget be adopted as proposed with staff having the latitude of spreading the current two-performance rodeo estimated revenues and expenses across to the two new programs.

Once approved by the Fair Complex Board, the Complex budget will be sent to the CAO Office to be included in the County-wide budget.

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX

Budget FYE 6/30/2009 (SECOND DRAFT)

<p>The Washington County Fair Complex, home of the annual County Fair & Rodeo, is funded primarily through its entrepreneurial business operations and industry tax subsidies. Approximately 55 percent of the Fair Complex funding comes from operating revenues generated from user fees and services generated through facility rental, event services parking, food & beverage businesses, RV Park, and annual County Fair & Rodeo. The remaining 45 percent comes from lodging industry tax subsidy, government loans (if any) and investment earnings. The Washington County Fair Complex receives no property tax support for operations.</p> <p>The mission of the Washington County Fair Complex is to provide excellent facilities and services in a self-supporting manner for the following purposes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preserve the annual County Fair & Rodeo and its' heritage. 2. Promote the "World-Class" agriculture of the County. 3. Provide a welcoming environment for all volunteers. 4. Commitment to life-long learning with a special emphasis on youth. 5. Promote year-round facilities for consumer trade shows, public exhibitions, and special gatherings 6. Promote a sense of community among residents of Washington County. 						
Description	Actual 2004/05	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Estimated 2007/08	Proposed 2008/09	COMMENTS
1 Opening Balance	\$ 397,999	\$ 456,459	\$ 634,348	\$ 627,250	\$ 823,607	
Interim Operating Revenues						
2 Parking	\$ 36,732	\$ 21,088	\$ 11,826	\$ 29,981	\$ 21,000	No Jet Team in 2006. No July 4th or AKC Dog Shows.
3 RV Park	10,706	8,035	12,955	10,000	10,000	Estimated at 2007/08 Levels.
4 Rentals	225,938	266,057	199,667	200,000	200,000	No Rent Increase Scheduled. No Boal/RV Storage. No AKC Dog Show.
5 Concessions	5,660	5,317	2,055	3,000	3,000	No July 4th or July Dog Show.
6 Misc Income	13,770	12,209	21,116	15,000	15,000	Pre-Paid Event Security, Surplus Equipment Sales Proceeds, etc.
7 Total Interim Operating Revenues	\$ 292,806	\$ 312,706	\$ 247,619	\$ 257,981	\$ 249,000	
Interim Operating Expenses						
8 Personal Services (Includes OPE)	\$ 336,244	\$ 354,372	\$ 380,172	\$ 336,852	\$ 389,208	Budgeted at 2007-08 Adopted amounts. Will be adjusted by County when adopted.
9 Supplies	20,589	23,931	27,951	25,000	25,000	Janitorial & First Aid Supplies, Office Supplies, Electrical Supplies, Computers, etc.
10 Professional Services	8,862	13,595	15,184	20,000	20,000	Pre-Paid Event Security, Webmaster, Electrician, etc.
11 Advertising and Marketing	4,141	2,072	1,073	1,690	1,750	Special Announcements, etc.
12 Communications (ATM)	526	1,199	406	500	500	Telephone Fees Associated with ATM.
13 Utilities (Water/Sewer/Elect/Natural Gas)	56,611	58,949	53,347	65,000	65,000	Electricity, Natural Gas, Garbage Service, Front Office/Floral Bldg. Propane, etc.
14 Repair and Maintenance	48,815	46,505	56,189	57,000	57,000	Ongoing Activities Associated with Facility and Grounds,
15 Equipment Rentals	4,531	3,484	2,597	5,000	5,000	Photo Copier. Miscellaneous Equipment Rentals.
16 Dues and Memberships	1,052	1,975	814	1,750	1,500	Chamber Dues, etc.
17 Training and Travel	944	569	2,226	1,500	2,000	Associated with non-Fair Activities.
18 General Liability & Equipment Insurance	13,037	13,539	16,188	13,372	15,000	Split Between Fairtime & Interim.
19 Postage	435	209	442	500	500	Split Between Fairtime & Interim.
20 Printing Internal	4,107	333	19	500	500	Non-Fairtime Printing.
21 Telephones	5,723	6,770	6,797	6,000	6,000	Split Between Fairtime & Interim.
22 Special Expenses	5,799	3,428	5,334	5,000	5,000	Board Related Expenses, etc.
23 County Counsel - Legal Services	1,913	5,321	10,220	7,500	8,000	Non-Fairtime Activities.
24 County Indirect Cost	13,276	14,904	17,972	19,711	20,510	County Administrative Expenses Split Between Fairtime & Interim.
25 Total Interim Operating Expenses	\$ 526,605	\$ 551,155	\$ 596,931	\$ 566,875	\$ 622,468	
26 Net Interim Revenues/Expenses	\$ (233,799)	\$ (238,449)	\$ (349,312)	\$ (308,894)	\$ (373,468)	

Description		Actual 2004/05	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Estimated 2007/08	Proposed 2008/09	COMMENTS
Fair Revenues							
27	Admissions	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	Free Admission Fair since 2004.
28	Commercial Booth Rentals	48,557	78,575	94,950	91,550	86,500	Expected between 2005 & 2006 levels.
29	Dept of Agriculture	35,141	46,456	46,456	49,405	46,000	Lottery Funds distributed to each County Fair via Dept. of Agriculture.
30	Parking Fees	77,810	74,665	81,879	81,222	78,000	Expects Continued Increase in MAX Ridership.
31	Admissions (Truck Pull/Demo Derby)	32,152	24,739	25,160	-	-	See Truck Pull and Demo Derby for additional Sponsorships reported after 2006.
32	Sponsorships	62,000	64,433	66,289	65,150	72,500	See Truck Pull and Demo Derby for additional Sponsorships reported after 2006.
33	Carnival Income	67,572	77,361	81,865	99,541	90,000	Expected between 2006 & 2007 levels.
34	Advertising	1,450	-	-	-	-	Miscellaneous Advertising - Auction Ring, Show Rings, etc.
35	Entry & Camping Fees	4,486	40	7,968	8,126	8,000	Estimated at 2007 Levels.
36	Food and Beverage Concessions	79,242	83,106	83,838	95,348	87,500	Expected between 2006 & 2007 levels.
37	Other Revenues (ATM/Merch/Etc.)	7,974	8,426	11,361	10,731	10,000	Miscellaneous Revenues.
38	Total Fair Revenues	\$ 416,384	\$ 457,801	\$ 499,766	\$ 501,073	\$ 478,500	
Fair Expenses							
39	Personal Services (Includes OPE)	\$ 163,705	\$ 170,257	\$ 177,242	\$ 146,737	\$ 177,625	Budgeted at 2007-08 Adopted amounts. Will be adjusted by County when adopted.
40	Supplies	11,362	8,848	16,005	11,090	12,000	Paper Products, Shop Supplies, Office Supplies, Office Furniture, Computers, etc.
41	Professional Services	76,173	63,754	58,323	57,063	60,000	Security, Parking, Cleanup, etc.
42	Advertising, Promotions, etc.	98,506	99,040	98,544	101,707	105,000	No Pre-Publicity Event Proposed.
43	Printing	1,198	1,718	1,095	2,352	2,500	Flyers, Daily Schedules, etc.
44	Utilities (Water/Sewer/Elect/Natural Gas)	3,035	6,739	11,892	10,993	12,500	Portion of July Charges.
45	Repair & Maintenance	3,207	2,265	2,521	2,809	2,500	Minor Repairs to support Fairtime related activities.
46	Equipment Rentals	5,927	24,759	19,504	14,892	16,000	Bleachers, ADA Ramp, Food Court Generators, Light Towers, etc.
47	Dues and Memberships	965	580	1,556	1,000	1,000	Association Dues - OFA, WFA, IAFE, etc.
48	Travel and Training	4,303	5,512	5,112	5,500	6,000	Related to Fairtime Activities.
49	General Liability & Equipment Insurance	13,009	13,539	15,057	12,906	15,000	Split Between Fairtime & Interim.
50	Postage	825	437	309	500	500	Split Between Fairtime & Interim.
51	Telephone	1,306	742	2,241	2,500	2,500	Split Between Fairtime & Interim.
52	County Counsel - Legal Services	-	642	-	500	1,000	Related to Fairtime Activities.
53	Entertainment/Special Exhibits	134,355	113,928	104,139	100,921	105,000	Family/Community/Main Stages, Walk-Around, Tents, Special Exhibit, etc.
54	Awards & Competitive Exhibits Program	43,228	26,828	46,910	50,889	50,000	4H, FFA and Open Class Judges, Premiums and Related Expenses.
55	Indirect County Charges	13,786	14,904	18,120	19,710	20,510	County Administrative Charges Split Between Fairtime & Interim.
56	Total Fairtime Expenses	\$ 574,890	\$ 554,492	\$ 578,570	\$ 542,069	\$ 589,635	
57	Net Fairtime Revenues/Expenses	\$ (158,506)	\$ (96,691)	\$ (78,804)	\$ (40,996)	\$ (111,135)	

Description		Actual 2004/05	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Estimated 2007/08	Proposed 2008/09	COMMENTS
58	Truck Pull						
59	Admissions			\$	14,000 \$	13,000	Admissions at \$10.
60	Sponsorships				4,663	4,500	Title Sponsor plus prorated share of arena sponsors.
61	Other Revenues				-	-	
62	Total Truck Pull Revenues			\$	18,663 \$	17,500	
63	Truck Pull Expense						
64	Supplies			\$	52 \$	100	
65	Professional Services				7,163	7,500	Producer Fee, Security, EMTs, etc.
66	Advertising, Promotions & Hospitality				394	500	Sponsor Hospitality.
67	Rentals				1,251	1,500	Prorated share of bleachers, ADA Ramp, etc.
68	Other Miscellaneous Expenses				375	500	
69	Prize Money				-	-	
70	Total Truck Pull Expenses			\$	9,235 \$	10,100	
71	Truck Pull Net Revenues/Expenses			\$	9,428 \$	7,400	
	Rodeo Revenues (Two Performances)						
72	Admissions	\$ 37,431	\$ 29,956	\$ 25,923	\$ 25,650	\$ 25,000	NPRA Sanctions - Admissions: \$10.
73	Sponsorships	28,222	43,365	23,175	28,660	29,000	Estimated higher than 2007 levels with NPRA sanctions for third year.
74	Queen Fees	-	-	-	-	-	No fundraising activities anticipated - Use NPRA Queen where possible.
75	Other Revenues	1,393	-	-	68	-	Forego merchandise sales - costs higher than revenues.
76	Total Rodeo Revenues	\$ 67,046	\$ 73,321	\$ 49,098	\$ 54,378	\$ 54,000	
	Rodeo Expenses (Two Performances)						
77	Supplies	\$ 2,575	\$ 720	\$ 291	\$ 1,147	\$ 750	Miscellaneous.
78	Professional Services	37,114	50,312	33,081	36,198	37,000	Rodeo Producer, EMTs, Security, etc.
79	Advertising, Promotions & Hospitality	4,556	8,758	2,770	4,641	4,500	Includes Sponsor Hospitality.
80	Rentals	9,870	6,814	3,184	2,802	3,000	Bleachers, Generators, Tents, etc.
81	Training and Travel	-	77	-	-	-	None Expected.
82	Other Miscellaneous Expenses	5,594	10,606	2,689	2,585	2,500	Includes Sponsor Fees.
83	Prize Money	37,396	1,300	4,000	4,000	4,000	Fair Complex to contribute \$500 per event.
84	Total Rodeo Expenses	\$ 97,105	\$ 78,587	\$ 46,015	\$ 51,373	\$ 51,750	
85	Net Rodeo Revenues/(Expenses)	\$ (30,059)	\$ (5,266)	\$ 3,083	\$ 3,005	\$ 2,250	

Description	Actual 2004/05	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Estimated 2007/08	Proposed 2008/09	COMMENTS
Demo Derby						
86 Admissions				\$ 19,430	\$ 18,500	Admission at \$10.
87 Sponsorships				14,626	14,500	Title plus share of arena sponsors.
88 Other Revenues				5,700	5,700	VIP Tournament Fees.
89 Total Demo Derby Revenues				\$ 39,756	\$ 38,700	
Demo Derby Expenses						
90 Supplies				\$ 113	\$ 150	
91 Professional Services				16,946	17,000	Producer fees, security, EMTs, etc.
92 Advertising, Promotions & Hospitality				769	1,500	Sponsor Hospitality
93 Rentals				1,500	1,500	Share of bleacher, ADA Ramp, etc.
94 Training and Travel				-	-	
95 Other Miscellaneous Expenses				120	150	
96 Prize Money				1,620	1,500	Incentive monies for drivers.
97 Total Demo Derby Expenses				\$ 21,068	\$ 21,800	
98 Net Demo Derby Revenues/Expenses				\$ 18,688	\$ 16,900	
Total Fair Revenues/(Expenses)	\$ (188,565)	\$ (101,957)	\$ (75,721)	\$ (9,875)	\$ (108,885)	
Frite Lites Revenues						
100 Admissions	\$ 14,874	\$ 37,464	\$ 41,324	\$ 130,015	\$ 130,000	Admission Fees based upon 2007 Actuals.
101 Concessions	32,100	1,075	741	1,432	1,500	Food and Beverage. No concession fee in 2004/05.
102 Sponsorships	832	31,000	5,023	-	15,000	Sponsors. No title sponsor in 2006 or 2007.
103 Other Revenues		653	1,635	551	750	Truck Rides, Glow Sticks, etc.
104 Total Frite Lites Revenues	\$ 47,806	\$ 70,192	\$ 48,723	\$ 131,998	\$ 147,250	
Frite Lites Expenses						
105 Personal Services (Temp. Salaries)	\$ 1,677	\$ 2,055	\$ 1,394	\$ 3,362	\$ 10,500	Setup Labor, Admissions Staff, etc.
106 Supplies	3,036	6,962	3,331	5,044	6,000	Glow Sticks, Candy, etc.
107 Professional Services	2,497	26,406	21,856	77,033	77,500	Haunted Houses (2005, 2006 & 2007), Security, Canopies, etc.
108 Advertising	19,645	31,466	14,746	28,512	30,000	TV, Print, Radio, etc.
109 Other Expenses	7,142	4,701	4,281	2,822	3,000	Replacement bulbs, etc.
110 Total Frite Lites Expenses	\$ 33,997	\$ 71,590	\$ 45,608	\$ 116,773	\$ 127,000	
111 Net Frite Lites Revenues/(Expenses)	\$ 13,809	\$ (1,398)	\$ 3,115	\$ 15,225	\$ 20,250	

Description	Actual 2004/05	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Estimated 2007/08	Proposed 2008/09	COMMENTS
Non-Operating Revenues						
112 Hotel/Motel Taxes	\$ 563,038	\$ 645,664	\$ 683,808	\$ 680,000	\$ 680,000	Estimated at 2006/07 Budget Levels.
113 Loan from County (Bleachers)	-	123,901	-	-	-	No additional County loans expected for FYE 2007/08.
114 Interest	8,610	17,901	27,354	22,500	22,500	Higher Rates and Higher Monthly Balances.
115 Sports Complex Lease - City of Hillsboro	-	-	-	-	-	No Revenues Budgeted.
116 Total Non-Operating Revenues	\$571,648	\$787,466	\$711,162	\$702,500	\$ 702,500	
Non-Operating Expenses						
117 Lease Payments (Principal & Interest)	\$ 70,034	\$ 101,987	\$ 99,594	\$ 104,483	\$ 116,061	Quadrant Property/Fork Lift/Light Displays/Bleachers.
118 General Equipment	18,483	138,255	48,273	40,000	40,000	Continue to replace older equipment.
119 Fire Marshall Deficiencies (2007/08)	-	-	-	10,000	15,000	Fire Marshall Deficiencies corrected as necessary.
120 ME Hall Fire System Upgrades (2006/07)	-	-	26,098	-	-	2006/07 - Main Exhibit Hall Fire Alarms and Extend Sprinkler System.
121 Fire Hydrants Project (2006/07)	-	-	134,270	10,000	-	2007/08 - Project completed with easements, etc.
122 Development Reserve/Expenses	16,803	28,781	4,476	10,000	20,000	(Consultants, Market Studies, Legal Counsel Fees (\$4800).
123 Total Non-Operating Expenses	\$105,320	\$269,023	\$312,711	\$174,483	\$191,061	
124 Net Non-Operating Rev/(Expenses)	\$466,328	\$518,443	\$398,451	\$528,017	\$511,439	
125 Total Fair Complex Revenues	\$ 1,395,690	\$ 1,701,486	\$ 1,556,368	\$ 1,647,930	\$ 1,631,250	
126 Total Fair Complex Expenses	\$ 1,337,917	\$ 1,524,847	\$ 1,579,835	\$ 1,451,573	\$ 1,581,914	
127 Total Net Revenues/(Expenses)	\$ 57,773	\$ 176,639	\$ (23,467)	\$ 196,357	\$ 49,336	2006-07 Included upwards of \$200K in Equipment Purchases and FM Upgrades.

NOTES:

NEW BUSINESS

County of Washington

**Washington County Fair Complex
873 NE 34th Avenue
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124
Phone: (503) 648-1416
Fax: (503) 648-7208
donh@faircomplex.com
www.faircomplex.com**

FAX MEMORANDUM

Date: January 30, 2008

To: Washington County Fair Complex Board
Washington County Fair Complex

From: Don G. Hillman, Executive Director
Washington County Fair Complex

Re: Renaissance Faire Update

County Chair Tom Brian has reengaged the Revitalization Task Force on the future of the Renaissance Faire as an event to be located to the Washington County Fair Complex. In doing so, the Chair is asking members of the Task Force, as well as the City of Hillsboro, County Commissioners, Fair Complex Board Members, Washington County Visitors Association, and other interested parties, to visit the Arizona Renaissance Faire as part of that process.

A delegation is scheduled to visit the Arizona Renaissance Faire over the February 22, 2008 weekend.

Since the work of the Task Force on the Renaissance Faire directly affects the Fair Complex, we have agreed, if necessary, to sponsor up to three members of the Task Force. To date, all Task Force activities have been underwritten by the County.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendar of Events
February 2008 – July 2008

Date	Event	Location
February		
6	Board Meeting	Floral Building (4:30 PM)
6	Booster Meeting	Floral Building (7:00 PM)
18	Presidents Day	Office Closed
March		
5	Board Meeting	Floral Building (4:30 PM)
5	Booster Meeting	Floral Building (7:00 PM)
April		
2	Board Meeting	Floral Building (4:30 PM)
2	Booster Meeting	Floral Building (7:00 PM)
May		
7	Board Meeting	Floral Building (4:30 PM)
7	Booster Meeting	Floral Building (7:00 PM)
26	Memorial Day	Office Closed
June		
4	Board Meeting	Floral Building (4:30 PM)
4	Booster Meeting	Floral Building (7:00 PM)
July		
2	Board Meeting	Floral Building (4:30 PM)
2	Booster Meeting	Floral Building (7:00 PM)
4	Holiday	Office Closed
7 – 13	4H Horse Fair	Arena and Stable Area
24 – 27	Washington County Fair	Fair Complex

CORRESPONDENCE

AGENDA

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Agenda Category: Boards and Commissions (All CPOs)

Agenda Title: ANNOUNCE VACANCIES ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Presented by: Robert Davis, County Administrative Office

SUMMARY (Attach Supporting Documents if Necessary)

Due to upcoming term expirations we are requesting authorization to recruit for vacancies on the following Board-appointed advisory committees:

Commission on Children and Families	(2 vacancies, 1 term to expire 3/31/08)
Developmental Disabilities Council	(6 terms to expire 3/31/08)
Fair Board	(1 vacancy (District 4) to expire 12/31/08)
Housing Advisory Committee	(4 terms to expire 3/31/08)
Solid Waste Advisory Committee	(2 vacancies, plus 2 terms to expire 3/31/08)

Per Board of Commissioner procedures, nominations will be solicited for these committees for a six-week period or until all vacancies are filled. The County Administrative Office will work with the affiliated departments to solicit applications from qualified individuals. Staff will keep the Commissioners apprised of applications received and of approaching deadlines.

As specified in the revised "Recruitment, Selection & Appointment Process," there will be an opportunity for the Board to discuss appointments at a worksession prior to scheduling any formal action.

See Board description on the next page.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

Announce vacancies and authorize recruitment of applicants through March 4, 2008 or until all vacancies are filled.

Agenda Item	
No.	3.a.
Date:	1/22/08

Commission on Children and Families (CCF)

- Description:** The Commission's charge is to help every child reach their full potential and to support families and the community in achieving that goal. Working with many partners, the Commission looks at conditions in the community that affect children and families and recommends planned strategies and funding to improve those conditions.
- Members:** Fifteen members who represent the geographic and cultural diversity of the county, and bring expertise and knowledge about the developmental stages of childhood and adolescence, and issues facing children and families. At least eight of the members must be lay citizens who do not derive income from children & family services.
- Time Commitment:** Second Thursday of each month, 7 p.m.
- Length of Term:** 4 years

Developmental Disabilities Council

- Description:** The Council functions in an advisory capacity to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Board of Commissioners on program development, planning, monitoring and funding issues.
- Membership:** Comprised of fifteen members including recipients of service, advocates, and professionals in the field, key referral sources, provider representatives, and lay citizens. Members are residents of the county or have work interests in the county.
- Time Commitment:** 2-3 hours per month
- Term Length:** 3 years

Fair Board

- Description:** The Fair Board is comprised of seven members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The Fair operation, a division of the County, produces the annual County Fair & Rodeo and manages year-round facilities rented for consumer shows, public expositions and special gathering. The Fair Board meets monthly, develops the Fair Complex's annual operating budget, and provides overall policy direction for the management of Fair Complex activities and facilities. The Fair Complex's day-to-day activities are the responsibility of the Complex Executive Director, who serves at the pleasure of the Fair Board.
- No. of Members:** 7
- Membership:** Seven members who reside in the county. County Commissioners from Districts 1, 2, and 3 each appoint one member, the At-Large and District 4 Commissioners each appoint 2 members.
- Time Commitment:** One meeting per month plus additional as necessary
- Term Length:** 3 years

Housing Advisory Committee (HAC)

Description: Providing affordable housing in Washington County is a formidable job. Nine representatives from real estate, banking, building, agriculture, employment, public housing and neighborhoods help the Housing Services Department and the Board of Commissioners with this task. The Committee assists the Board of Commissioners by making recommendations on countywide housing policy issues as well as policies affecting operations of the County's four core housing programs.

Membership: Nine members representing various interest groups. These include Housing Authority rental assistance program participants, elderly & minority, agricultural/farm worker community, real estate or finance, social service organizations, legal, and two at-large members.

Time Commitment: 4 hours per month

Term Length: 3 years

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

Description: The nine-member Solid Waste Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on solid waste and recycling policy and program issues.

Members: Six members representing the public plus three members representing the solid waste industry. A representative of the County Health Department serves as a non-voting committee member.

Time Commitment: Minimum one meeting per year

Length of Term: 5 years

January 16, 2007

To: The Family and Friends of Brian Herinckx:

Many of you may have first hand witnessed or have been told about all of the hours and hard work that Brian Herinckx has put into the swine barn and the kids at the Washington County Fair.

As a tribute to Brian, my husband, John Stables, the Agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Hillsboro High School, has started a fund to renovate the pig barns. This is a project that will make a huge impact on a lot of people and kids in the community. It is also a project that Brian, himself has wanted to have completed for several years. It is something that will allow Brian to be honored for many years to come. Currently, we have approval from Brians kids and from Cathy. Just yesterday, we received the go ahead from the Fairgrounds. John will be opening an account today with the Oregon First Community Credit Union.

I wanted to give family and friends the opportunity to donate to this fund. The project has several phases depending on how much money is raised. The obvious first phase is to replace the current pens because they have become a safety hazard.

All donators will be listed on a program that will be available at the dedication celebration. Any sponsor over \$1000.00 will also be listed on the banner that will hang on the pig barn.

All donations to the project are tax deductible.
The Credit Union information is:
Oregon First Community Credit Union
3924 Pacific Avenue
Forest Grove, OR 97119
or:
434 SE Washington St
Hillsboro, OR 97123

Please write checks to: Swine Barn Renovation
Any questions I can be reached at:
email: cjdgardens@netzero.com
Phone: 503-662-3951

Also, any memories that family have of Brian and his pigs - please send them my way. We would like to have them for the dedication.

Thanks for your support,
Carla Stables

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

OTHER MATTERS OF INFORMATION

**Washington County Fair Complex Boosters
Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2008**

President Lyle Spiesschaert called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Floral Building of the Fair Grounds.

Minutes of December 5, 2007 were approved as mailed out.

Treasurer's report was given. There was a motion to accept the report, It was seconded and passed unanimously. Inez Griffels made a motion to accept the bills for payment. Kathy Schmidlkofer seconded. Passed unanimously. An audit of our books will be done by our next meeting. Treasurer Dave Rohrer presented a draft Budget. Discussion followed and an amended Budget will be presented at the February meeting.

Executive Committee- it was discussed who should be on this committee. One thought was to have the 5 main committee chairpersons: Fountain –Bill Ganger, Webmaster-Tom Black, Membership-Sheila Day, Food Booth – Al Goldman, and Events Representative. Also brought up was the idea of putting our Fair Board liaison Dan Logan on this committee. No action was taken at this time, will be discussed at the next meeting.

Fair Board Report- Dan reported the new Fair Board Officers. They are President-Herb Herst, Vice President- Don McCoun, Secretary- Renee Cannon, and Treasurer-Rafe Flagg.

Revitalization Committee – Dave Rohrer said that it is now time to take the new plans for the fair grounds to the public and inform them about what will be built and why we need their yes vote on the November ballot.

Water Feature- Bill Ganger said that we are having problems with the fountain overflowing. He will look into seeing what is out there to put on the water line to keep this from happening again.

Website – Tom Black reported that Ryan (webmaster) updated the calendar. We also need to check with Mike Steward regarding our server. Tom will post the minutes and agenda on the Web Site in a PDF format.

Oregon Fair Association Conference: It will be January 11 – 13 at the New Convention Center in Salem. Kathy Schmidlkofer, Sheila Day and Lyle Spiesschaert will represent the booster during the convention.

Slogan- our slogan right now is: *Protecting the public trust*. It was felt by the membership to be out dated. A list was past around for members to look at and comment on. No decision was made for a new one at this time.

Logo- President Spiesschaert has requested a unified logo to be included on envelopes and letterheads. It will enhance our image and will create a type of easily identifiable brand. This should also include our slogan.

2008 Fair – Booster will request to have a meaningful role at the 2008 Fair.. We will again request to be ambassadors for the fair.. Lyle will explore the proper procedures to achieve this result.

Fair Ground History – Lyle cautioned members to speak careful and accurately about the fairground history. Lyle appointed Inza Griffel, Judy Goldman, and Sheila Day to a committee to compile accurate facts regarding the fair and fair grounds history. Once compiled the information will be sent to the Fair Board for their review and approval. Lyle and maybe Fred Scheller will also be on the committee. It was thought that we should become associate member of the Washington County Historical Society. Motion was made that we become associate member of the Washington County Historical Society. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom Black talked about the **Boy Scout Project** that is in the works. The scout brought his proposal of a kiosk's for the fair to Don Hillman. Mr. Hillman had a different idea in mind. He wanted signs instead. Tom is positive that the scout and Mr. Hillman will come to an agreement on what the scout can do for his eagle project. Tom also asked the membership for some funds to help the scout out. No action was taken; it will be put on the agenda for the February meeting.

Al Goldman indicated we need to change signers on the Booster account. There was discussion about having two signatures on each check. Bill Ganger made a motion: *To have all four officers signatures on the bank card, with two signatures required on checks.* Inez Griffels seconded it. Passed unanimously.

Membership Committee – Sheila Day said we have 173 members and 14 Associate members.

Lyle thanked Dave Rohrer with a plaque from the Booster for his dedicated service and for keeping us on track during his time as president. He also thanked the other retiring officers.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Marsh Secretary

**Next meeting is February 6th, 2008
7:00 pm – Floral Building**



New fairgrounds closer to reality

By Jessica Dudenhofer and Ryan Jeltema
Daily News staff writers

Friday, January 18, 2008

STANTON - The future of the Montcalm County 4-H Fair is reaching a crucial stage.

For some time now the Montcalm County 4-H Fair Association, which is in the 49th year of a 99-year lease with Montcalm County for the current fairgrounds on Hillcrest Street in Greenville, has hoped to move the annual event to a 63-acre parcel of farmland near the corner of Peck Road and M-91, behind Mid-Michigan Fire & Safety Supply and Jay's Quality Muffler & Brake Shop, in Montcalm Township.

The township board recently approved an amendment to its zoning ordinance allowing for the new fairgrounds to be developed as a special use under its current agricultural zoning classification. Fair officials will need a special use permit and site plan approval from the township before they are allowed to begin work.

The fair association also recently reached an agreement with the County Board of Commissioners to split proceeds from the sale of the current fairgrounds property. The fair association would receive 80 percent while the county would get 20 percent or \$250,000 of the sale price, whichever figure is greater.

The fairgrounds property isn't currently for sale, however, and won't be until the fair board is certain that it can pay for developing the new fairgrounds.

"We're not going to sell the old fairgrounds until we know that the funding is in place," Fair Board President Pat Schuster said.

Franz Mogdis, Montcalm Alliance executive director and co-chairman of the fair association's Fairgrounds Task Committee, said the rezoning and sale agreement were big steps forward in moving the fair to larger accommodations.

Mogdis said a rough draft of plans is complete and officials are refining them before releasing any information to the public. In addition to raising enough money to pay for developing the Peck Road property, fair officials still need to plan for how to move to the new facilities and draft a financially feasible operating plan.

"We feel the next six months are going to be critical," Mogdis said. "The business plan needs to deal not only with building a new fairgrounds and relocating to the new site but also ongoing operations and maintenance. It does no good to build a nice, new fairgrounds and find out two years down the road you don't have enough money to operate it."

The commissioners' Economic Development and Physical Resources Committee will work with fair officials on the county's role in the project. Mogdis said fair officials already have researched the property's deed, which was donated to the county, to make sure the land can be sold.

He said having more space is critical to the fair's future.

"We think the fairgrounds and the fair are a major economic driver for Montcalm County," said Mogdis. "But we're reluctant to promote it (the current fair) outside of the county because our facilities are inadequate."

Related Links

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Published: Monday January 28, 2008



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/FILE

Daughtry performs at the Colorado State Fair last summer. Despite huge popularity, the act lost money for the Fair.

Not Fair: Expo losing entertainment game

Despite good efforts, concert performances continue to hurt the State Fair financially.

**By NICK BONHAM
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN**

The music hasn't died - it just got more expensive.

Don't count on seeing music acts like Toby Keith, the Red Hot Chili Peppers or the Steve Miller Band anytime soon during the Colorado State Fair.

People shouldn't expect large entertainment lineups in the future of the 11-day summer expo, either.

After posting another losing year at the box office in 2007, the Fair board and staff members are looking at its concert series closely to improve financial matters.

The plan is to reduce the number of performances and book cheaper acts. General Manager Chris Wiseman said Sunday that the Fair's entertainment budget of \$600,000 will be cut in half - \$50,000 going to boost ground attractions and the rest will go into savings.

"We need to reduce the Fair's risk on entertainment and enhance the experience people have on the grounds," Wiseman said. "It's just to improve the overall profitability of the Fair. Entertainment has changed so much in the last eight to 10 years that I have to find the up-and-comers and the niche acts like Tom Jones and Kenny Rogers. The problem with acts like Toby Keith and George Strait is they

(cost) a half-million (dollars) plus."

Country singer Kenny Chesney is an example Wiseman used on how the market has changed. When Chesney performed at the Fair in 2002, the show cost \$60,000.

"Now he goes for \$1 million a show," Wiseman said.

The Fair is strongly considering reducing its number of performances to four and schedule the acts on the busiest nights, weekends and Fridays. The idea is to package the concerts - four acts for \$40 - but Wiseman said that's still in the making.

Booking one or two large acts is a possibility, but Wiseman's leery of high ticket prices.

"When acts (cost) more than \$175,000, I stop looking. Ticket prices get too high. We want families to get more value for their ticket."

The Fair's governing board will meet in Lakewood on Wednesday for its monthly meeting, where additions to ground attractions and free events bought with entertainment funds, should be announced.

It was at the Fair board's meeting in November where entertainment promoter Bob Romeo mulled over ideas and problems with the expo's entertainment schedule with the board.

"The problem is that you try to sell eight shows in 11 days. No one puts that many tickets on sale in that short of time," Romeo said.

A longtime promoter, Romeo also is president of the American Country Music Association. He, too, like Fair staff and management, is perplexed why acts don't see more success during the Fair.

Case in point: Chris Daughtry.

Last year, Romeo brought Daughtry to the Fair and the year before, Carrie Underwood, both products of the hit TV show, "American Idol." Both are successful, popular young performers with large album sales.

And both lost money at the Fair.

**Chris Wiseman****Bob Romeo**

"It's amazing to have the coverage and success (Daughtry's) had and sell 3.2 million albums and we lose money at the show in Pueblo. What's more amazing is the year prior to that we lose money on another 'American Idol,' Carrie Underwood. If can you enlighten me on why this continues to happen, I would love to hear some input," Romeo wrote in an recent e-mail.

Said Wiseman: "The issue in Pueblo is not our talent buyer. We talk to radio stations, record stores, we try to get as much information as we can on what's selling and what's popular. Pueblo is a unique market, and finding the right line of entertainment is tough."

'No magic formula'

Denny Stoecklein is the general manager of the Kansas State Fair.

His 10-day summer expo has seen success with its entertainment lineup the past few years, he said, but there's no winning strategy to it.

"It's a total risk," he said. "There's no magic formula. If I knew it, I'd bottle it and start selling it to fair managers all over the country."

Of its seven concerts last year, the Kansas Fair made money on all but two - popular country singer Gretchen Wilson and the duo of Sawyer Brown and Bucky Covington.

Three Day's Grace, Seether and Chicago, to name three of the popular acts that performed, all made money, Stoecklein said.

The Fair in Pueblo had eight performances last year but only three made money - the duo of Los Lonely Boys and the Doobie Brothers, and Josh Turner.

The New Mexico State Expo is 17-days long and hosts a nine-day entertainment

lineup, according to its general manager, Frank Peralta.

"We go out and look for up-and-coming talent, someone that's going to break into the money," Peralta said.

The Chieftain talked with officials at the Kansas and New Mexico state fairs because their expos are similar in size to Colorado's. Messages to other similarly sized state fairs were not returned.

What works to Peralta's advantage is his fair is held in the state's largest city, Albuquerque.

"That makes a difference - 60 to 70 percent of our customers come within 50 miles."

Stoecklein also recognized geography as being important to a fair's success. Located in Hutchinson, Stoecklein says he competes with venues in Wichita that are only 45 miles away, Kansas City and in Oklahoma.

The same argument can be made here with Pueblo venues competing with myriad Denver locations and the World Arena in Colorado Springs.

Jim Tucker, head of the International Association of Fairs and Expos, echoed his cohorts on the importance of geography. The IAFE has more than 1,300 members and works with expos all over the world.

"There is no question that live entertainment has been going up (in cost) the last few years, and as a result of that the large acts are demanding a large amount of money and getting the audience that will pay for that is a challenge," Tucker said.

"I find it interesting that the fairs that are doing well with big-name entertainment, who are seeing a positive bottom line, they are located in geographical venues that are not close to other entertainment venues."

What others say, want

In December, The Chieftain published an article seeking community feedback on three possible music groups to perform at this year's Fair - Smokey Robinson, KC & the Sunshine Band and the Commodores.

Out of 21 e-mails received, only one of the aforementioned was approved - Smokey Robinson (the Fair has not publicly decided on its entertainment schedule).

Kiss, Journey, Godsmack, Korn, the Brian Setzer Orchestra, New Edition, Lisa Lisa, Brad Paisley and Rascal Flats were some of the more popular choices sent in by readers.

Wrote Marie Martin of Penrose: "The three acts listed in the paper are not going to attract the crowds into the Fair - they are all 'oldies.' This is the problem (with) entertainment that has been booked in past years. We need some 'TOP' names! I have been complaining about the fair entertainment for the past eight years !!!!"

Another reader, anonymously, replied: "I am amazed that the State Fair is considering the entertainment package outlined in the newspaper article. It seems that they are not paying attention to what brings in the crowds . . . The bands mentioned are not contemporary artists and not the most desirable of the 'oldies' either. If the Fair would like to actually make money, perhaps they should consider cutting back on the number of concerts and improve the quality. Most people would be willing to pay a little more to see headliner quality acts."

Hosting a battle of the bands, pitting local and state bands against each other for possible prize money, was a popular suggestion by readers and one Wiseman discussed at the board's December meeting.

Having a battle of the bands "would cost zero dollars for the local lineup, give local talent the opportunity to show off their talent and possibly bring in the youth of Southern Colorado that is dying to get some fresh music. How's that for an idea?" wrote reader Steve Dean.

Bill Toller wrote: "I think a battle of the bands would be a great attraction. Limit it to bands only from Colorado because after all it is the Colorado State Fair. A fee could be charged to each band that wanted to perform and a total prize package for the winning band could be around \$5,000-\$7,000 which is far below what it would cost to get a headliner and hoping that enough tickets would be sold to make a profit."

While entertainment draws big attention because of its fun value, Tucker, of the IAFE, argues it's not as important in the scheme of expos.

"In an overall (national) survey of fair attendees, 86 percent don't go to the grandstand," he said. "Fairs are rooted in agriculture. Fairs have a statutory mandate from their state, or most of them, to provide a venue for competition in agriculture and a venue to educate the public on agriculture product and showcase various aspects of the community and the state."

The Colorado State Fair lost more than \$260,000 on entertainment last year, but the summer event did turn an overall profit of almost \$750,000, which was \$300,000 more than the previous year.

SILICONVALLEY.COM

Pizarro: County fair may scale back to only livestock

By Sal Pizarro
Mercury News

Article Launched: 01/12/2008 01:42:36 AM PST

The Santa Clara County Fair as we know it may be history.

Word has been circulating that the fair - which just 58,000 people attended last year - could be canceled this year, with only the livestock judging surviving.

Actually, the county board of supervisors hasn't wielded the ax yet. But last month, the board put off a decision to give the fair a \$675,000 subsidy for this year.

That pause certainly indicates the board is thinking seriously about the fair's future. And fair administrators say they need more money to improve offerings and increase marketing.

Supervisor **Ken Yeager** told me he's not comfortable with such a large subsidy, especially if it winds up being accompanied by another loss. The fair's red ink has averaged nearly \$275,000 a year over the past decade.

The board asked fair administrators for their best estimate of what this year's loss could be, and the issue could be resolved as soon as next month.

"I think we could do away with most of the costly aspects of the fair - the carnival rides, games, musical acts, and specialty acts - and keep such activities as the livestock competition and possibly arts and crafts," Yeager said in a newsletter to constituents. "They are a link to our past that shouldn't be lost and would continue even if the fair is relocated some place else in the future."

It's a terrible dilemma for those of us who remember the fair as an entertainment-filled spectacle from our childhoods. Without some serious cash, the fair can't bring in the attractions and marketing that could draw big crowds. But with deficits building, you can't blame the board of supervisors for thinking twice.

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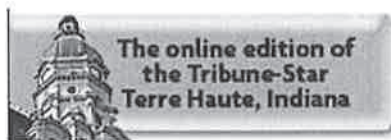


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**TribStar.com**

Thompson Thrift, Gibson Development offer \$9.2 million for Vigo fairgrounds

By Arthur E. Foulkes
The Tribune-Star

TERRE HAUTE— The Wabash Valley Fairgrounds board of directors is looking at a proposal to swap most of the fairgrounds property for \$9.2 million plus 72 acres of land west of the existing site. The proposal, put forward by Thompson Thrift and Gibson Development, was pitched to the Fair Board at its Jan. 10 meeting.

"The board is taking it under advisement," said David Hartmann, president of the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds board. "So far no action has been taken."

The more than 20-page proposal envisions most of the fairgrounds being turned into a large retail shopping area. A new fairgrounds would be built on 72 acres of land presently owned by Gibson Development just west of the existing fairgrounds site.

"We feel like there is an opportunity here to reshape the face of the U.S. 41 retail corridor," said Paul Thrift of Thompson Thrift. "I believe strongly that this is the time."

Terre Haute has been losing retail business to Plainfield and Evansville, Thrift said. A new retail facility, with large retailers currently not in the Terre Haute market, could help change that, he said.

Some large retailers have expressed an interest in the fairgrounds site, he said.

According to the Jan. 10 proposal, the new fairgrounds would sit on 91 acres, down from its current 130 acres of land. However, there is room for negotiation if the Fair Board wanted more space, Thrift said.

The fate of the Terre Haute Action Track, which sits in the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds, and a nearby drag strip, could be affected by the proposed deal. Thompson Thrift and Gibson Development are proposing three options for the racing facilities: Move them to the new fairgrounds, keep them where they are, or abandon them altogether.

A decision to relocate the racing facilities would cost the Fair Board around \$3.2 million, according to the proposal. Leaving the race tracks where they are would reduce the cash portion of the offer from \$9.2 million to \$6.2 million.

Thompson Thrift also is offering to build the new fairground facilities, such as exhibit halls and a new grandstand for tractor pulls and other such events, for around \$7.8 million. However, Thrift said, the Fair Board would be free to use any company they wish for that construction.

"We're not telling them what to build," he said. "We just wanted to show them something concrete."

The timetable for the project is "aggressive" but realistic, said Greg Gibson, owner of Gibson Development.

The plan calls for the new fairgrounds to open in May 2009 – before the new retail shopping facility would be completed.

"We wanted to offer them something with no down time," Thrift said. Construction of the retail buildings could begin as early as September 2009, he said.

"I truly believe it's a fantastic proposal for the Fair Board, for 4-H" and for the county as well, Gibson said.

New development in the proposed retail area would generate new tax dollars for the county, he said.

The Fair Board voted a couple of years ago that they were not seeking to sell the fairgrounds property, board president Hartmann said. Some board members view the fairgrounds as a "nice green space," he said, adding, however, that he cannot speak for the other members of the 27-person board.

Hartmann also noted that the existing fairgrounds has "some real positive things happening," such as an upcoming world class dog show. He is also optimistic about the future of the Action Track and the 2008 Vigo County Fair, he said.

The Wabash Valley Fair Association is a private, not-for-profit organization.

Thompson Thrift, "has the best interest of this community at heart," Thrift said. "We want to be involved in projects that benefit this community."

If the Fair Board decided to take other bids for the fairgrounds property, "I would welcome that," Thrift added. "We want to pay market value for it."

Arthur Foulkes can be reached at (812) 231-4232 or arthur.foulkes@tribstar.com.

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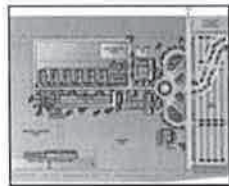
Photos



An aerial view of the proposed new Vigo County fairgrounds Special to the Tribune-Star



An aerial view of the proposed retail development on the site of the current Vigo County fairgrounds Special to the Tribune-Star



Proposed layout of the new Vigo County fairgrounds behind the current fairgrounds. Special to the Tribune-Star



High traffic area: The frontage of the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds property on US 41 gives an indication of it's value as a retail property. The Tribune-Star



Greg Gibson The Tribune-Star



Paul Thrift of Thompson-Thrift The Tribune-Star

Venues TODAY

VENUE NEWS



Wrestling with alligators at the Nebraska State Fair, Lincoln.

NEBRASKA STATE FAIR FACES POSSIBLE MOVE FROM ITS 100-YEAR LOCATION IN LINCOLN

The University of Nebraska, Lincoln, wants the 250 acres occupied jointly with the Nebraska State Fair for its own Research and Technology Park. They have made it known they will seek legislative recourse over purchasing the property.

Meanwhile, the state fair can't justify the cost of relocating which, according to a study by HOK Smith + Forkner, would cost in the \$175 million range, said Barney Cosner, fair manager. To upgrade the current site to an acceptable level would cost \$30.7 million.

Friday, Dec. 14, the Agricultural Committee is scheduled to hear five presentations regarding moving the fair. Those proposals will come from Grand Island, Carney, Gretna, LaVista and Lancaster County, Cosner said. Each believes it has an acceptable location to host state fair park.

Cosner expects he'll be much wiser about the options after those presentations, but the prevailing preference with state fair administration is to stay put. They will make their own presentation to the Ag Committee. "I'm looking forward to it; to see the thought processes about what facilities are out there," he said of the upcoming presentation. "I've been getting e-mails from land sellers regularly." There's even a site Wal*Mart gave up in West Lincoln that has been made available.

"We are within 25 miles of 300,000 people here," Cosner said. The fair drew 299,175 attendance last year, its fourth increase in a row. It has grown 24 percent since 2003.

And it is simply impossible to duplicate the facilities without a huge expenditure, none of which the university is willing to cover.

The state fair operating budget is \$8 million and its operating revenues, including lottery income of about \$2.5 million, is \$8 million, Cosner said.

The university is arguing it has the "highest and best use" for what is now state fair park. The university group projects a research park would be an opportunity to create \$1 billion worth of economic impact.

The fair first occupied the space in 1901. The 2008 fair, Aug. 22-Sept. 1, isn't going anywhere. The carnival is Mighty Blue Grass Shows. The entertainment budget is \$315,000. The marketing budget is \$325,000.

But the future, that's the question. "We have no money to relocate; no money to create a new state fair park," Cosner said. As to relations with the university, "we've agreed to disagree," he said. The chancellor of the university is on the state fair board. - Linda Deckard
Interviewed for this story: Barney Cosner, (402) 473-4110

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Protesters: Rodeo inhumane sport

By: Anna Hodges

Posted: 1/22/08

Animal rights student activists have their sights set on the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show.

Although rodeo officials said ticket sales did not seem to be affected by this weekend's protests, TCU student protesters said their goal is for rodeo patrons to think twice about buying a ticket next year.

Veronika Terrian, senior history major and coordinator of TCU People for Animal Well-Being, protested with five to 10 others outside the rodeo gates holding up signs that read, "No one likes an 8-second ride" and "Real sports require willing participants." Terrian and others passed out leaflets to educate the public on some aspects of the rodeo.

James Russell, a sophomore anthropology and religion major, said most people are not aware intense prodding, flank straps and stun guns are used to provoke the animals into performing.

"All we want to do is have them go in there and see the rodeo in a different way," said Edita Birnkrant, a representative from Friends of Animals. "We want them to say, 'hey, I never thought about it like this before, but maybe this is wrong.'"

Rodeo officials said they will not take any actions to intimidate people from their right to protest.

"They were able to express their opinions and we were able to have a really good rodeo," said Matt Brockman, the executive assistant at the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show.

Brockman said the protesters' agenda is not necessarily just rodeo.

"Their agenda is to bring the livestock industry to a screeching halt and turn American society into a society of vegetarians and vegans," Brockman said. "Animals are athletes just like the cowboys and cowgirls who raise them and, as performers, they are treated accordingly."

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association identifies more than 60 rules that address animal welfare issues. Brockman said the Southwestern Exposition is PRCA sanctioned and adheres to those guidelines.

Brockman said though he has seen livestock die on rodeo grounds, rodeo officials take every possible precaution to protect the livestock. A veterinarian is on the grounds at all times, he said.

"Our job is to put rules in place, enforce them and continue to look for new and better measures to keep animal welfare constantly at the forefront," Brockman said.

Student protesters said their overall goal is to make people question what is going on.

The protesters involved with TCU Peace Action and TCU People for Animal Well-Being said they will continue weekend protests until the rodeo ends Feb. 3.

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This story is taken from Sacbee / News.

Looking to grow, Yolo fairgrounds considers move

By Lakiesha McGhee - lmcghee@sacbee.com

Published 12:00 am PST Tuesday, January 1, 2008

The Yolo County Fairgrounds – one of the oldest and one of the few free-admission fairs left in the West – is surrounded by homes in Woodland and should probably move, according to fairgrounds and city officials.

A \$25,000 study that is under way will determine whether there is money and an appropriate site to relocate the fairgrounds. The amount of community support also remains to be seen.

"The city is not pushing for the fair to be moved," Woodland Mayor David Flory said, adding that the fairgrounds outside downtown Woodland is recognized as a significant part of the community.

"But we realize, if the money is there, in order for the fair to grow and to keep up with the future, there are better locations that will allow for better traffic flow and (fairground) buildings."

Many fairgrounds sites, originally built on the outskirts of towns, are finding themselves hemmed in by residential areas or bustling commercial centers. Conflict has mounted between residents who complain of noise, dust and traffic problems and the need for fairgrounds officials to generate funding by hosting year-round events.

"It's a problem that every fair is facing," said Stephen Chambers, executive director of the Western Fairs Association, a trade association representing 150 fairs in the western United States and Canada.

Fairgrounds are typically viewed as a community asset, Chambers said, because they provide a venue for outdoor events such as horse shows or home-and-gardening expositions. But as the population grows, so does the demand for fair activities and accompanying complaints from neighbors.

The dilemma has led many fairground officials at some point to discuss relocation. About 25 percent of the members of the Western Fairs Association have discussed relocation, but only a few have actually pulled it off, Chambers said.

Successful relocations, including the Antelope Valley Fair in Southern California, are attributed to good coordination among agencies. Cost is cited as a major obstacle and as the reason discussions drag on for years and even decades.

"If you are going to talk about relocation, make sure you have a timeline because it becomes like a black hole," Chambers said.

Mayor Flory said he thinks the Yolo County Fair will relocate but probably not within the next 10 years.

"With the downturn in the economy and with land values dropping, it's going to be difficult to make it work," Flory said.

Woodland initially funded a study in the 1990s to investigate moving the fair to a site north of the city limits, said Lonny Wunder, Yolo County Fair chief executive officer. The fair board at the time determined the \$45 million price tag was not feasible.

An alternative plan involved an even exchange of property – the existing fairgrounds in exchange for a fully operational new fairgrounds.

The current \$25,000 study – funded equally by Woodland, Yolo County and the 40th District Agricultural Association that governs the fairgrounds – is expected to be finished in the spring. The study will identify and evaluate alternative sites that would allow the fairgrounds to expand from 55 acres to 150 acres, Wunder said.

The fairgrounds attracts about 135,000 people a year to approximately 150 events, mostly sponsored by community organizations.

"Everyone has memories of the fair," Wunder said. "It's the place of a first kiss and special times with family and friends. ... When you tap into people's emotions, watch out."

Meanwhile, the fair is undergoing a different transition.

Wunder said he will resign Feb. 28 after eight years as fair chief to spend more time with his family. The fair board this month will begin interviewing 15 applicants from throughout the country vying to replace him.

The governor recently appointed two new fair board members to replace board President Helen Voss and member Rick Gonzales whose terms had expired. Taking their seats are Michael Mata, 56, of Woodland, a development engineer at UC Davis, and Katie Villegas, 41, of West Sacramento, executive director of the Yolo County Children's Alliance.

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Steward resigns from Fair Board

Friday, January 04, 2008

The Hillsboro Argus

Washington County Fair Board member Mike Steward submitted his resignation to the county's Board of Commissioners Thursday, citing frustration with board leadership and a poor relationship between the board and the public.

His resignation is effective Feb. 1.

Steward, a longtime member of the Fair Boosters, has often gone against the majority in his two-year tenure on the board. He abstained from voting to allow Executive Director Don Hillman to immediately retire to a part-time position. That vote was later determined to have been held after an illegal executive session.

He recently requested assignment to a subcommittee to study the future of fairgrounds management, but was twice rebuked by then-Chairman Rafe Flagg.

Steward says he'll continue to support the efforts of the Fairgrounds Revitalization Task Force.

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County recommends giving fair association \$500,000

Alan Reed The Dickinson Press

Published Saturday, January 05, 2008

The Stark County Fair Association appeared before the Stark County Commission to give an annual report Friday morning and received a major vote of support from commissioners in return.

Commissioners unanimously voted to recommend the Stark County Park Board give the fair association \$500,000 to jump start the development of a new fairgrounds adjacent to the Interstate 94 Business Loop on Dickinson's west side.

The commission also agreed the fair association should be the first to get consideration for any future revenues generated by the sale of county owned lots in the State Addition immediately east of the proposed fairgrounds.

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Fair association President Kurt Froelich told commissioners the fair group is preparing to conduct public meetings to gain input on what residents would like to see in a fairgrounds complex. The first meetings are from 1:30-4 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 29 at the Belfield City Hall and then from 6-8 p.m. at the Dickinson City Hall.

A second set of meetings is from 1:30-4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 12 at the Richardton Legion Hall and from 6-8 p.m. at the Dickinson City Hall.

Froelich said during the upcoming meetings, he expects people to ask what funding is available for the fairgrounds project.

"Can you give us some thoughts about how to respond to those



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questions?" Froelich asked commissioners Friday.

Commissioner George Nodland said he assumes the fair group would come to the county park board for some of the funding.

"You need to come with an idea of what you want to build and how much it will be," Nodland said. "I also think you need to go to the private field and ask for donations like anybody else."

Commission Chairman Duane "Bucky" Wolf said when the county gave the fair association 58.06 acres this past September for the fairgrounds site, "we became committed to the fair board."

Froelich said the fair association members have ideas of what they'd like to see in a proposed complex, but they also want to provide the opportunity to hear what needs exist in the minds of residents.

Commissioner Russ Hoff said there are some concerns about all of the work the fair association is currently putting into the project if funding isn't available.

"If there isn't funds available, are we putting this time and effort in for nothing?" Hoff asked.

Nodland said if the county park board gives \$500,000 toward the fairground, the fair association could combine that with \$350,000 the city of Dickinson has designated for the fairgrounds.

When contacted Friday about the city's contribution, City Administrator Greg Sund said the Dickinson City Commission approved giving \$500,000 to the fairgrounds in the late 1990s. The current city commission allocated about \$160,000 of that in 2003-2004 for improvements at the speedway south of town.

Sund said the remaining \$340,000 is setting in a reserve fund, but there have not been any recent conversations by the city commission about allocating those funds.

Froelich said the fair group sees the complex being developed in stages and not all at once. He also asked commissioners to help spread the word about the upcoming meetings.

"Please talk to your neighbors, please talk to the folks you have coffee with and ask them to come to one of these meetings or more," he said.

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The Dickinson Press
1815 1st Street West
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Daily Pilot

Newport Beach and Costa Mesa, California

Print Page

Published Saturday, January 5, 2008 7:09 PM PST

Business

OC Fairgrounds get a new name for brevity's sake

Many Costa Mesa residents refer to it simply as the fairgrounds; but until recently, the venue on Fair Drive sported a lengthy official name: the Orange County Fair and Exposition Center.

Starting New Year's Day, however, the home of the Orange County Fair and Market Place boasts a new moniker. In December, The Fair Board renamed it the OC Fair and Event Center.

The fairgrounds adopted the previous name in 1992 to coincide with the Orange County Fair's 100th anniversary. The venue itself was built in 1949 after the Santa Ana Army Air Base closed following World War II.

— Michael Miller

[CLOSE WINDOW]



Fair board bids the county to say yea or nay to Renaissance fair

Tuesday, January 08, 2008

By Kurt Eckert
The Hillsboro Argus

The Argus

Members of the Washington County Fair Complex Board of Directors voted unanimously Wednesday to press county commissioners to complete due diligence and provide clear direction on whether they think a Renaissance fair is a suitable alternative for the 15-acre portion of the 101-acre fairgrounds tract left undeveloped in a new draft master plan.

They'd like an answer whether to move forward with negotiations with Royal Faires of Minnesota by Feb. 19.

"I think it's dying from lack of interest," said member Don McCoun. A small event that would generate significant parking revenue should be given consideration, he said.

Royal Faires first approached Washington County in September of 2006, but backed out in February 2007, citing too little enthusiasm for making a long-term commitment. Royal Faires then entered negotiations with Linn County.

After that deal fell through, organizers came back in July, saying they realized development just doesn't move forward as quickly in Oregon as previous projects in Arizona and North Carolina.

Royal Faires would build their own facilities, and use the buildings for a large-scale Dark Ages festival for six to eight weekends each summer. Otherwise, the buildings would be for county use.

Member Rafe Flagg said the fair needed to get an answer very soon if it is to begin planned operations in summer of 2009.

"We need to have made that decision yesterday," Flagg said.

New Fair Boosters President Lyle Spiesschaert said it was premature to talk about the Renaissance Fair when the Fairgrounds Revitalization Task Force subcommittee on the subject had never met. Questions have been raised about the lease terms offered by the fair, he said, which promise only a guaranteed \$50,000 annually, plus 5 percent of receipts over \$1,000,000, he said.

"It's a pretty weak deal," Spiesschaert said.

New officers were also named to the fair board Wednesday. Herb Hirst takes over from Flagg as chairman, McCoun was named the vice chairman, Flagg became treasurer and new member Rene Cannon was named secretary in absentia.

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Hillsboro Argus

Fair Board to vigorously promote task force plan

Tuesday, January 08, 2008

The Hillsboro Argus

Members of the Washington County Fair Board of Directors Wednesday discussed the best way to get a positive message out to the entire county in hopes of passing a bond issue to pay for upgrades to the fairgrounds property south of Cornell Road in Hillsboro.

Key will be convincing people from all corners of the county that the \$39 million bond will provide parks space, agricultural education facilities and modern, high-tech show rooms that will be a boon to families, tourism and everyone else, said new Vice Chair Don McCoun.

Member Dan Logan said it was important to involve service organizations and use a heavy dose of the media in promoting the bond plan.

"To think it is going to happen by force of good will is absurd," Logan said.

McCoun said the Hillsboro School District's bond snafu from last May won't help the county push through its three funding proposals this November, including the fair bond, a Major Streets Traffic Improvement Program bond and an extension of the Enhanced Sheriff's Patrol District. Though the HSD used a common bond practice of front-loading higher payments the first year, they made the mistake of not informing taxpayers.

"Their new math didn't help us much," McCoun said. "I've heard people say 'it'll be a cold day in that part of the world before I vote yes on anything again.' "

But realistically, the annual cost to the average homeowner is basically equal to the cost of a large pizza, he said.

"That's pretty nominal," McCoun said. "(But) we do have to join hands and sing 'Kum Ba Yah.' "

According to documents from the Hillsboro Planning Department, the county and the Fair Board have since attempted three separate unsuccessful bond measures, the first in 1978. The City of Hillsboro also attempted to adjust regulations to provide flexibility for mixed-use development. Several attempts at developing the property for partial or total commercial development have fallen flat over the years.

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A New Home For The Arkansas State Fairgrounds?

The Arkansas State Fairgrounds could make the move from Little Rock to North Little Rock. Fairgrounds general manager Ralph Shoptaw tells Today's THV he's been investigating possible new locations. Currently, the Arkansas State Fair Complex is located on Roosevelt Road near Howard Street. But it's this very location that's causing problems and prompting talk of change.



E-mail This Article

When talking about location, there are a number of obstacles. The State Fair Complex general manager says it's landlocked. The fair has outgrown the facilities and there's not enough parking. Old and narrow roads limit accessibility to the fairgrounds and the older neighborhood surrounding the complex presents another challenge.

"Maybe there's a little more crime in that area. Point blank is that people sometimes feel a little unsafe going to places like that," said Terry Hartwick, North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce President.

Hartwick says he wants central Arkansas to attract big events, which is why he's helping the city of North Little Rock find a new location for the state fairgrounds.

"Big time rodeos, family motorcoach events, maybe even Harley events. You may even have a drag strip," said Hartwick.

State Fair general manager Ralph Shoptaw tells Today's THV he would like a drag racing strip also. But mostly, he says he needs 300 to 400 acres to build a fairgrounds that will accommodate equestrian events and more.

Now, Shoptaw is talking with North Little Rock city leaders.

Joe Smith, North Little Rock Director of Commerce and Government Affairs said, "We're fortunate in North Little Rock that we do have land that's available. We have the interstates 30 and 40, a lot of our land is more accessible than in other areas."

And North Little Rock has certain locations in mind. But city leaders say it's too early to disclose those spots because they have yet to talk to property owners.

Smith said, "Timing is everything in real estate. If the right piece of property opened up for the State Fairgrounds, then we would have to get it on the fast track for the State Fair Commission and the governor to see if they would be interested in making a run for a certain piece of property."

The plan is to break ground on new state fairgrounds within the next three years. It could take that long to get the money and donations needed to make it happen. The fairgrounds may receive state funding, but it's privately owned and operated through a non-profit group.

The State Fair complex manager says he's looking at North Little Rock options, but he will also explore options in Little Rock. He says he wants to keep the fairgrounds in this area.

Robert Bell, Executive Producer
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StatesmanJournal

SALEM, OREGON

News

Friday, January 11, 2008

Embezzling of fair funds earns prison term

Oregon State Fair ex-worker pleads guilty to theft

RUTH LIAO
Statesman Journal

January 11, 2008

A former Oregon State Fair employee accused of embezzling about \$94,000 in fair funds pleaded guilty in court and received a three-year prison sentence Thursday afternoon.

Deborah L. Gorski, 56, pleaded guilty to three counts of first-degree aggravated theft. Gorski also pleaded no contest to a charge of first-degree theft.

Gorski admitted stealing checks and cash in three separate incidents beginning in March 2004, Marion County Deputy District Attorney Henry Loebe said.

According to one Oregon State Police affidavit, Gorski allegedly diverted rental payments made by the Oregon High School Equestrian Team into her personal bank accounts. Gorski then attempted to falsify and alter the fair's financial records, the documents said.

The equestrian team noticed the discrepancies when checking their own financial records and found Gorski's name on the payee line of checks cleared by the group's bank, the affidavit said.

Gorski worked for the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center from 1995 until she —was placed on paid leave in March 2006, officials said. At the time of her departure, Gorski was an event and sales manager for the state fair. Her annual salary was \$58,080.

Gorski will have to repay the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center \$94,474 in total, Loebe said.

Gorski also pleaded no contest in a theft charge that involved another woman's bracelet.

South Salem resident LaNaya Ritson spoke in court, saying the two of them were former friends and co-advisers of the South Salem High School equestrian team.

Ritson said she lost the bracelet in April 2004, and then saw Gorski wearing the bracelet about a month later at an equestrian team banquet.

Ritson said she later was told by state fair employees that the bracelet was found and turned over to Gorski to be entered into the fair's lost-and-found.

Ritson said the bracelet was the last gift she received from her late husband, Robert, who died of cancer Christmas Day in 2000.

"The sentimental value cannot be measured," said Ritson, who told the court her daughter was meant to inherit the bracelet.

Gorski will have to repay Ritson \$5,000 for the bracelet's value.

Gorski's defense attorney Paul Ferder said Gorski did not have the bracelet in her

The charges

Deborah L. Gorski, 56, was convicted of three counts of first-degree aggravated theft. Two first-degree aggravated theft charges had been dropped.

On the first count, Gorski received a concurrent six-month sentence. On the second count, Gorski received a 19-month sentence. On the third count, Gorski received a consecutive 17-month sentence. Gorski received a concurrent 13-month sentence on the first-degree theft charge.

possession.

Ferder said Gorski, who had no criminal history, had gone through a feeling of insecurity at the time of committing her crimes. Ferder described the crimes as an "aberration of her normal conduct."

Ferder said Gorski's two children strongly supported their mother, who is divorced.

Oregon State Fair manager Dave Koellermeier said the Oregon Secretary of State's Office audits division began an audit in January 2006.

Since then, the fair has implemented numerous policies, including software and cash-handling changes and overall personnel training, Koellermeier said.

Marion County Circuit Judge Lynn E. Ashcroft said Gorski's actions affected people beyond the state fair agency and herself, which included her family and community members.

"It's pretty obvious you let them all down," Ashcroft said.

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Hillsboro Argus

Boosters, fair board plan joint written fair history Fair Board asks for future direction

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

By Kurt Eckert
The Hillsboro Argus

The Argus

The county's Fair Boosters on Jan. 2 agreed in principle to form a subcommittee to investigate and draft a "true" history of the fairgrounds property south of Cornell Road.

Wedged mostly between Northeast 28th and Northeast 34th Avenue, the current site was widely thought to have been purchased by the Boosters, known at the time as the Fair Movers, said board member Kathy Christy.

New Boosters President Lyle Spiesschaert said while it was true a group of citizens had purchased a site near Shute Park in 1925 to hold the fair, the Boosters had never claimed to have purchased the Cornell Road property. They had promoted moving the fair from the small Shute Park facility to a larger property, hence their former name, he said.

The Movers were integral in finding the property in 1946, and donated a lot of money and materials to new buildings, including the current main exhibit hall, he said. The fair moved in 1952.

"We all want the history to be accurate," Spiesschaert said. "But we can't just leave it out on the table."

According to documents from the Hillsboro Planning Department, the county and the Fair Board have since made several attempts to fund more modern facilities at the fairgrounds, including three separate unsuccessful bond measures, the first in 1978. The City of Hillsboro also attempted to adjust zoning regulations to provide flexibility for mixed-use development.

Several attempts at developing the property for partial or total commercial development have also fallen flat over the years, according to the documents.

Outgoing president and new Treasurer Rafe Flagg said fairgrounds staff was already working to develop a collection of minutes from all board meetings between 1931 and 1969.

Meanwhile, the Fair Board is looking for directions into the future.

The Fair Board Jan. 2 issued a request to county commissioners to complete due diligence and provide clear direction on whether a Renaissance fair is a suitable alternative for the 15-acre portion of the 101-acre fairgrounds tract left undeveloped in a new draft master plan.

They'd like an answer whether to move forward with negotiations with Royal Faires of Minnesota by Feb. 19.

Commissioner Andy Duyck said he couldn't speak for the entire board, which held its first meeting of 2008 on Jan. 8, but said he'd like to wait for the recommendation of the county's fairgrounds task force, which has a subcommittee working on the Renaissance fair.

"If a recommendation (is) made to proceed, I will have to have a clear understanding as to why we would tie up land for any length of time prior to redevelopment of the whole piece," Duyck wrote in an e-mail. "It seems to me that if we go to the voters this fall and they turn down a funding request, our future options for redevelopment would be limited by a long term lease to Royal Faires."

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The Oregonian

Letting 'er buck in Pendleton

Nearing its 100th anniversary, the fabled Round-Up needs more than a face-lift: It needs new faces

Monday, January 21, 2008

The Oregonian

When Mike Thorne finally retired home to his Pendleton ranch, the city handed its politically prodigal son its highest honor. It made him a director of the Pendleton Round-Up.

Just how tightly tied to tradition are these tall-in-the-saddle stalwarts? Let's just say they make Portland's Royal Rosarians look like punk rockers. If that is their blessing, it's also their curse.

Thorne's timing seemed perfect. After an 18-year run in the Oregon Senate, 10 years leading the Port of Portland and a storm-tossed passage helming the Washington State Ferries, he returned just in time to help plan the Round-Up's 100th anniversary in 2010. But first, Thorne thought, he'd better peek at the books. That's when he learned one of America's most famous rodeos -- lock, stock and barrel-racing -- was going broke.

Seeing costs rising quicker than revenues at the vintage -- that's a polite term for dilapidated -- Round-Up grounds, Thorne soon concluded that what the rodeo with the legendary let 'er buck trademark needed was a face-lift. Then he came up with a price tag: \$10.4 million.

That did not go unnoticed on the nearby Umatilla Indian reservation, where the confederated tribes of the Umatilla, Cayuse and Walla Walla think they, too, have a stake in the Round-Up. Native Americans have been a big part of the rodeo since 1910, and they like to remind all who will listen that for them the celebration has, from its outset, been a remembrance. Not a party.

Round-Up President Butch Thurman is keenly aware that only three rodeos survive in which Native communities play a major role: Calgary, Cheyenne and Pendleton. And Round-Up directors, he says, have been meeting with Umatilla tribal members for more than a year to discuss the rodeo's future. But the tribal newspaper last week pointed to plans for spiffy new grandstands for ticket-buying tourists but no provision for upgrading the traditional tribal seating area, with its obscured sightlines, out in the direct sun.

Oregon is fortunate that the people of Pendleton have, for 98 years, husbanded one of the state's signature events. The historic city of wheat and wool and whiskey now faces a wonderful opportunity to showcase a more modern, a more dynamic, tribal culture, and to do so on the Native Americans' own terms rather than as reflected through the lens of the conqueror culture.

Thurman, a 41-year volunteer at the Pendleton Round-Up, understands exactly what's at stake here. "Indians are a big part of our rodeo," he said last week. "They're very important to us."

We can think of one way he and his fellow directors can show just how important Native Americans are. That would be by inviting representatives of the tribes to serve on the Round-Up's board of directors. While they're at it, they might also include a woman or two. After 98 years, it might just be time.

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Fair task force seeks public's comments for April meeting

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

The Hillsboro Argus

The Washington County Fairgrounds Revitalization Task Force intends to reconvene by April 2008 to review comments received during the public review period.

After the April meeting, the task force will refine preliminary recommendations as may be necessary, then report final recommendations to the county's Board of Commissioners, the Hillsboro City Council and the Fair Board for final action.

If all goes as planned, the county bond measure will be on the November ballot.

The 15-member task force consists of elected officials, business interests, citizens and tourism promoters, as well as users and potential users of the 101-acre fairgrounds property south of Cornell Road in Hillsboro.

After eight monthly meetings, the group used reports from consultants, architects, as well as comments from the public, to create a draft master plan. The first phase includes a new, 126,000 square-foot exhibit hall, and an entry plaza on the south side of the complex with adjoining green space. Because of the development, the Hillsboro traffic plan calls for the extension of Grant Street from 28th Avenue to Brookwood Parkway.

Later phases call for an open pavilion and the relocation of the National Guard armory. The armory's move would call for a land swap involving the county, the Guard and the Port of Portland. Existing ball fields would be retained and another added. Several existing buildings would be rehabilitated and additional green space would be added along Cornell.

Assuming voter approval of phase one of the master plan, all county homeowners would pay an initial rate of 6 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, declining to 3 cents per \$1,000 over the 30-year life of the bond.

Homeowners with an average assessed value of \$200,000 would pay an estimated \$12 for the first year, and reduced amounts in the years after that.

The rest of the estimated \$55 million cost of phase one would come from a \$5 million Hillsboro-backed revenue bond and city traffic impact funds.

In exchange for Hillsboro's contribution, the county would grant the city a 30-year lease on the ball fields on the fairground's southwest side.

All other sources of revenue, including naming rights and the possibility of a large-scale Renaissance fair, will be explored in the future, task force Co-Chair Tom Brian said.

The master plan documents are posted at www.co.washington.or.us/fairgroundstaskforce. The public is encouraged to provide input by e-mailing fairgroundscomments@gmail.com.

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Patriots Jet Team returns to Air Show

Posted by [rgregory](#) January 23, 2008 15:33PM



COURTESY AIRSHOWS

AMERICA The Patriots Jet Demonstration Team returns to the Oregon International Air Show this year after a five-year absence.

The Patriots Jet Demonstration Team will be the headline performer for the 2008 Oregon International Air Show, officials announced today.

This year's air show is scheduled for Aug. 8-10 at Hillsboro Airport, and features a mix of returning performers and new acts.

"We are excited to welcome the Patriots back to Hillsboro and have them as our headlining performer for this year's show," said Judy Willey, air show president. Their previous appearance in Hillsboro was in 2003.

The Patriots, based in Discovery Bay, Calif., have team members who have flown with the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, for the former Soviet Union and then for the Ukraine.

Last year's event was the show's 20th anniversary presentation, with donations to state and local charities and projects going over the \$1 million mark for the air show's history.

--Roger Gregory; rogergregory@news.oregonian.com

Categories: Breaking News, Washington County

Comments

Footer

Washington County hires new chief financial officer

Posted by [tmaurer](#) January 23, 2008 17:19PM



Mary Gruss

Mary Gruss has been chosen as Washington County's chief finance officer.

Gruss, 49, was finance director for the city of Hillsboro for the past 12 years. Her first day with the county will be Feb. 4. Her salary will be \$115,800.

Before going to Hillsboro, Gruss worked four years as accounting manager for the city of Tigard; two years as a financial analyst for a national computer equipment distributor; and five years as an accountant for Peat Marwick.

In 2005, Gruss was president of the Oregon Municipal Finance Officers Association and now serves on the board of that organization. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Idaho.

Gruss replaces Keith Hobson, who started Nov. 30 with the county and finished Dec. 12 to return to his old job with the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District.

The prior chief financial officer, Wayne Lowry, left last year to become the director of finance and operations for the Sherwood School District.

-- Kathleen Gorman;

kathleengorman@news.oregonian.com

Categories: [Washington County](#)

Comments

Footer

OPINION

Washington County Weekly
1/24/08

LETTER

Another idea for fair site: Wal-Mart

Since Jerry Boone's column Dec. 17 ("Fair site plan is different: It has support," Metro), I have been asking myself if the Washington County commission and others are doing the right thing.

This 101 acres is a very valuable piece of property and should be able to support itself and possibly make a profit. The county should not have to raise taxes.

Get a knowledgeable person and begin negotiations with a big-box retailer such as Wal-Mart. Then negotiate a lease that will

generate a good cash flow for the next 50 years.

The fair people can then issue bonds that will be paid for by the lease. This will allow them to build whatever they want and not cost the taxpayers any money.

A small group of people will complain about Wal-Mart and how evil they are. If getting more taxes and up to 300 jobs is evil, then something has gone wrong.

Plans call for letting Hillsboro taxpayers contribute to this project. We are paying more taxes than we should already.

H.L. BICKFORD
Hillsboro

TAKE YOUR TURN

Do you have an issue you feel strongly about? My Turn is an opportunity to express yourself. Opinion pieces or essays on personal experiences should be no more than 600 words. They must include the writer's name, address and a daytime phone number. Not all submissions can be printed. All submissions become the property of The Oregonian and will not be returned; submissions may be edited and may be published or otherwise used in any medium. Write to The Oregonian, 1675 S.W. Marlow Ave., Suite 325, Portland, OR 97225. E-mail to west@news.oregonian.com. Or fax to: 503-294-5902.

YOU CAN HELP

ART, CULTURE & SCIENCE

Cedar Mill Community Library: Process new books, shelve books or lead a conversation group for new English speakers to practice. www.cedarmill.org/library or 503-644-0043.

Gaston Community Library: Serve patrons, shelve and repair books, process new materials, enter data, help with computers and the Internet or conduct story hours for children. 503-985-3464.

North Plains Public Library: Staff the library, tell stories or help with reading programs. 503-647-5051.
Student Evahanna Haefel Terra Lin

Sundays. Benefits the Cedar Mill Community Library. 503-644-6395.

ADULT & SENIOR AID

Meals-On-Wheels: Deliver meals to homebound senior citizens in Multnomah and Washington counties. www.loavesandfishesonline.org or 503-736-6325.

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WELCOME TO THE E

Carol Divine

From: Don Hillman [donh@faircomplex.com]
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2008 4:24 PM
To: Albert Flanagan Jr.; Carol Divine; Lisa DuPre'; Perkins-Hagele Leah
Subject: Bill's Absence

FYI - Bill will be away from the Complex beginning Wednesday morning (1/23) through Monday afternoon (1/28). Plan accordingly.

Don G. Hillman CFE
Executive Director
Washington County Fair Complex
Phone: (503) 648-1416 Ext. 205
FAX: (503) 648-7208

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change." Charles Darwin - Scientist

