

**MINUTES OF FAIR BOARD MEETING
MARCH 2, 1994**

FAIR BOARD

John Thomas
Linda Gray
George Otten
absent: David Lintz
Ken Leahy

STAFF

Cal Wade
Mike Wold
Sue Oxendine

GUESTS

Dave Russell
Larry Eisenberg
Dick Eagle
Marla Warren
Rocky Williams

CONSENT AGENDA

Wade asked if anyone is having problems understanding the new financial forms in the report. The third quarter hotel/motel tax was received in the amount of \$78,303.00. The goal of \$200,000 cash carry forward is looking good.

Bingo is starting to show an up turn in attendance. The goal is to have 175 per week and predictions for the attendance swings from grand opening to stabilization are holding true.

MOTION: MOVED BY LINDA GRAY, SECONDED GEORGE OTTEN, TO ACCEPT. MOTION PASSED 2 - 0.

RODEO BOARD

Dick Eagle reported the application to the PRCA has been submitted and the application for the wild horse racing is in the process of being sent in to the association. Joe Sanford will be the 1994 rodeo clown. The Coronation Dance will be held in conjunction with Family Fair at the end of April.

BOOSTERS

New Booster President, Dave Russell, reported the boosters are working on getting additional benches.

MARKETING

Wade reported for Patti Poe that the bookings are equal or better than last year at this time. A couple of large shows have been held in the ME Building the last few weeks. The Petco Pet Fair was very well attended and the Rare Animal Expo also received a good response. There has been some public criticism of the Home Show sponsored by KUIK, but not directed towards the FairPlex. DJ's Motorcycle Swap Meet is scheduled for March 13.

The PI responded to the fair board's request to produce the Fall PI. The PI Board has decided to let the fall show die rather than let the name be used by another producer. The Junior Show will be held in Prineville.

MAINTENANCE

Mike Wold represented the Maintenance Team at this month's meeting. He reported that Monday the team and Wade attended a team seminar training session in Portland.

On going projects include the Main Exhibit building roof, office annex and remodeling, and the fuel tanks. All vehicles except for the people mover are running. Wold has started cutting the roadway to do the Poultry/Rabbit asphalt repairs. He will also be planting new shrubs recently purchased from Oregon Garden Products.

A new employee, Craig Henry, started March 1. He is temporary for six months but will hopefully become full time and help with the Bingo set-up and readerboard changes.

Earl Bisbee, a seasonal employee through the Fair, also started March 1.

EXTENSION OFFICE PROPOSAL

Larry Eisenberg, County Facilities Manager, asked to speak to the fair board and explore some ideas regarding the relocation of the extension office. He explained the move was in the exploratory stage and the County Board of Commissioners have not heard anything on the proposal he was submitting to the fair board.

He showed two site plans of the River Road county property - the existing site plan and the Master Plan for the area, part of which is being implemented. The Master Plan calls for the dog shelter and county facilities (fleet maintenance included) to be enlarged and in new quarters at the property. The branch building where the extension office is presently located would become offices for Land Use & Transportation (LUT). A new home for the extension office is now being sought.

Eisenberg proposed the county acquire the Gardner Beedon property and relocate two existing buildings from the current LUT property to the Gardner Beedon land and remodel them into extension offices. The county would pay for the land and site development for the buildings and parking for 60 cars. In exchange for maintaining the extension buildings the FairPlex could use the remaining acreage for parking during events.

The extension office would also need classroom and meeting space and Eisenberg proposed utilizing some of the FairPlex facilities and forging a stronger relationship between the fair board and extension service.

The county jail garden is also being affected by the River Road Master Plan. The jail maintains the garden to help decrease the cost of feeding the inmates. Ideally the garden should be within two miles of the jail. The Gardner Beedon property just fits within the 2 mile radius. Eisenberg estimates the garden will take five acres, the extension office and parking two acres. Wade reminded the board that Tri-Met will require four acres for the 350 car park & ride.

The River Road Master Plan is being submitted to the Board of County Commissioners and if approved, design remodeling of the branch building would begin in July of 1994

with construction started as soon as the extension offices are relocated. The extension service has expressed the desire to only be moved once.

Otten asked if this would close the door for future fair expansion in the area. The garden, Tri-Met, and the extension office would take up all the land of the twelve acre Gardner Beedon property. Eisenberg suggested asking the Port of Portland's permission to use the clear zone for the garden.

The board members agreed that use of the clear zone would be paramount and the fair board would have to be given control of the property by the county. The question of charging for meeting space was raised. Wade explained that the FairPlex office has been working closely with the extension service to educate its users about paying fees for buildings. The suggestion was also made that rental fees would have to be built into the county budget for extension usage at the FairPlex.

The board elected to table the proposal until all fair board members were present for more discussion.

CHARGING FOR RODEO

Members of the rodeo board have been invited to discuss the feasibility of charging for Friday and Saturday night performances of the rodeo.

Rocky Williams presented an emotional plea to not charge. He believes that charging for rodeo would only make the fairgoers angry. He stated that a larger percentage of sponsorship dollars offset the 1992 rising rodeo costs than they have in previous years, meaning the rodeo is being managed well by the rodeo committee and board. Charging would only discourage the rodeo committee from going forth with improvements to the rodeo grounds. The committee is adamant about putting on a professional rodeo that will become number one in the state.

The rodeo board is requesting an additional 1000 seats which they maintain would keep the fairgoers happy because fewer would be turned away from lack of seating. Truck pull would also benefit from more seating Williams contends.

Eagle explained how Canby is putting in a VIP section that will be sold as lifetime seats and part of sponsor packages. Gray would like a similar set up at Washington County.

Williams stated another sore point with the rodeo committee was the talk of a stadium in the location of the present day rodeo grounds. He said the rodeo momentum has stopped with the talk of doing away with the rodeo grounds. Thomas stated that there is a need for a multi-purpose arena to justify the expense of the maintenance. No one on the fair board can say when or how long it will take to build. It has never been the intention of the fair board, past or present boards, to do away with the rodeo grounds. Gray said that she could not support a stadium for baseball or other events if it meant doing away with the rodeo grounds for rodeo or horse events.

Wade said the problem with adding 1,000 seats is how to pay for them. The rodeo is already over budget with contracts and event prize money.

Eagle asked about charging more at the gate. Wade explained the fair is already one of the highest priced fair in the state and the public perception of fairs limits the amount that can be charged.

Gray stated the fair board should cooperate with the rodeo board if there is a way to get sponsorship dollars for the extra seating. Otten agreed.

Wade said that he is not against the extra seats, there has to be a means to pay for them. The rodeo board needs to come up with the location and exact number that can be placed in the arena area and the fair and rodeo boards will have to come up with a way to pay for them. Otten believes it should be a joint effort.

Eagle is also looking for sources for 250 seat portable bleachers to enlarge the VIP section. Otten will check with the Tualatin Hills Park & Rec District.

MOTION: MOVED BY LINDA GRAY, SECONDED BY GEORGE OTTEN, TO ELIMINATE ANY PLAN FOR CHARGING IN THE GRANDSTAND THIS YEAR. MOTION PASSED 2 - 0.

FAIRGROUNDS NAME

The staff is requesting the board resolve the issue of the name. The lack of or confusion over the name is becoming an increasingly serious problem with identification and credibility.

MOTION: MOVED BY LINDA GRAY, SECONDED BY GEORGE OTTEN, TO ADJUST THE NAME FROM FAIRPLEX TO FAIR COMPLEX. MOTION PASSED 2 - 0.

FUEL TANKS

Since the work session Wade has done additional research on the tanks. Double walled fiberglass or corrosive proof metal tanks are required to bury. At the end of five years they would be required to be pressure tested and from then on monitored daily on the outside and inside.

Above ground tanks must be two hour double walled tanks. Currently no monitoring is required although probably will be within two years.

Tank suppliers have informed Wade the cost of legal above ground tank would be \$3,500 - \$4,500.

Josephine County purchased fifteen of the state surplus tanks for \$250 each and worked with the state in getting them installed at the county parks. The Fair Complex too can

work with the city and State Fire Marshall and do both tanks enclosed in a concrete bunker for the cost of one legal above ground tank.

MOTION: MOVED BY LINDA GRAY, SECONDED BY GEORGE OTTEN, TO AUTHORIZE WADE TO "JUST DO IT". MOTION PASSED 2 - 0.

BASEBALL STADIUM PROPOSAL

The group proposing the baseball stadium were unable to attend tonight's meeting. They will address the fair board in April.

DAMAGES DURING 1992 FAIR

A power line went down during the 1992 fair resulting in a fire. Effluent from the fire extinguisher dripped down on a tepee underneath the power line. A year later the tepee owners noticed holes in the covering and are blaming the fair. Damages total around \$500.

MOTION: MOVED BY GEORGE OTTEN, SECONDED BY LINDA GRAY, TO GIVE WADE PERMISSION TO HANDLE THE SITUATION IN THE BEST DISCRETION. MOTION PASSED 2 - 0.

MOTION: MOVED BY GEORGE OTTEN, SECONDED BY LINDA GRAY, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION PASSED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:15 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 6, 1994.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Oxendine
Secretary