

**Minutes**  
**Washington County Fair Complex Board**  
**Wednesday, May 3, 2006**

**Convened:** 4:30 pm

**FAIR BOARD:**

Chair Rich Vial  
Vice Chair Herb Hirst  
Board Member W. Rafe Flagg  
Board Member Kathy Christy  
Board Member Ken Madden - Absent  
Board Member Dan Logan  
Board Member Mike Steward

**STAFF:**

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

Chair Vial called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., and welcomed the audience. Chair Vial opened Public Oral Communication time for comments not on the regular agenda items. There were none.

**1. Consent Agenda**

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

**2. Special Reports**

**A. Air Show & Airport Report** – Chair Vial asked for suggestions on how to respond to the Air Show to express disappointment for cutting off communication, but let them know that we are not in a position to move or change the dates of the County Fair.

Board Member Hirst explained that the Air Show Board cancelled the meeting that was scheduled with members of the Fair Complex Board, and then the next day, Dennis Griffiths, Chair of the Air Show Board, asked for his resignation from the Air Show Board. The Air show Board made the determination that they do not want a member of the Fair Complex Board on their Board of Directors and they were ceasing communication because they had an Air Show to run. Board Member Hirst also explained that he spoke with Commissioners Brian and Duyck and they expressed their disappointment with the action of the Air Show Board. Board Member Hirst talked about how the sterile corridor works. Explained that the corridor must be vacant of people, but the FFA cannot force people to leave the area. Board Member Hirst also reported that he

was not notified about the letter with the dates that they were choosing, it was sent without his knowledge, he thought that the Air Show didn't need to submit dates to ICAS until June, and also feels that the majority of the Airshow Board doesn't know about the letter either.

Chair Vial invited a motion to authorize Executive Director Hillman to draft a letter to the Air Show explaining that we do not plan on changing the dates of the 2007 County Fair, but will be willing to talk with them in the future.

**Motion by Board Member Flagg to authorize Executive Director Hillman to draft a letter to the Airshow explaining that we do not plan on changing the dates for the 2007 County Fair, but will be willing to talk with them in the future. Second by Board Member Hirst.**

Board Member Christy joined the meeting in progress.

Board Member Steward asked what would happen if the Air Show did land on the County Fair. He doesn't want to shut the door on the Air Show, and noted that we need to work together.

Board Member Hirst explained that working together is no longer an option; in that the Air Show has decided to cease all further communication.

Executive Director Hillman talked to the Board about why we changed the County Fair date policy six years ago.

Chair Vial further explained why the 18-month policy was set, agreed with Board Member Steward, and would like to find a way to generate synergy.

Board Member Steward asked that the letter reconfirm dates, set the tone appropriately, and encourage them to work with us in the future.

Board Member Logan asked that the letter be pro-active and not a letter to tell them they can't have our date.

Board Member Hirst stated that he thought they would see that as retaliatory.

Board Member Christy asked that the letter be hand delivered so as to create an opportunity to talk personally.

**Motion by Board Member Logan to amend previous motion to add that the letter to the Air Show be from the Fair Complex Board and be hand delivered to the Chair of the Air Show Board. Second by Board Member Steward. Motion Carries 6-0**

**B. Fair Visioning Committee Report** – Nothing to report at this time.

**C. Boosters/Coalition Liaison Report** – Board Member Logan had nothing to add to the Boosters minutes in the Board packet.

**D. Treasurer Report** – Board Member Flagg referred to the financial reports and explained that the BiMart payment had been received, but still working on resolving the interest payment.

**E. Operations Report** – Executive Director Hillman referred to the memo regarding the Main Exhibit Hall updates. Executive Director Hillman explained that the bid process was complete and had met with the Fire Marshall regarding the low bidder for each project. The deficiencies must be corrected prior to the 2006 County Fair, and asked permission from the Board to request the County to increase the Fair Complex’s current fiscal year budget to complete the project.

**Motion by Board Member Christy to allow staff to request from the County a supplemental budget increase as described in the Board memo dated May 2, 2006. Second by Board Member Hirst. Motion Carries 6-0**

**F. Other, if any** – None

**3. Old Business**

**A. Redevelopment Update** – Defer to executive session.

**B. Other, if any** – None.

**4. New Business**

**A. Draft Policy – Organization of the Board**

**Motion by Board Member Hirst to adopt Policy Resolution 105. Second by Board Member Christy. Motion carried 5-1. Board Member Logan in opposition.**

Board Member Logan asked if this policy was in-line with how the County operates and to check with other fairs to be consistent.

Board Member Steward stated that he thought these policies were already in effect.

**Motion by Board Member Logan to rescind motion for Policy Resolution 105. Second by Board Member Steward. Motion carried 6-0.**

Discussion ensued. Fair Complex Board decided to eliminate #4 of Policy Resolution and develop a special policy on the date and time of Board meetings.

**Motion by Board Member Hirst to approve Policy Resolution 105 minus section #4. Second by Board Member Christy. Motion carried 6-0.**

**B. Other, if any** – Board Member Steward noted that he is concerned about the environment and other things; that the Board needs to be held to a higher level; each Board member needs to be scheduled time during the County Fair and wear shirts that identify who they are so people can recognize them as Board members; wants to see accountability from the Fair Complex Board; would like to see a booth during the County Fair; and hold a summit after the County Fair.

**Motion by Board Member Steward to have the Fair Board have a booth at the County Fair for outreach to the community, for awareness for the fair, development and the future of the fair. Second by Board Member Logan. Motion Failed 4-2. Board Members Flagg, Hirst, Christy and Vial voting in opposition.**

Discussion ensued. Board Member Logan asked about a summit with vendors, users, clients and political figures. The summit could happen well after the County Fair in August or September

**Motion by Board Member Logan to convene a summit of key constituents and policy makers in the community within 60 days after the fair, to consist of no more than 25 people, not including the Fair Board or staff, with each Board Member suggesting up to three people each. Second by Board Member Steward.**

Discussion ensued. Board Member Flagg would like more definition and vote next month.

**Motion by Board Member Flagg to table the motion regarding the summit. Second by Board Member Logan. Motion carries 5-1. Board Member Steward in opposition.**

5. **Announcements** – None.
6. **Correspondence** - None other than what was in the packet.
7. **Board Oral Communications** - None.
8. **Oral Communications – Second Session**

Dave Rohrer – Wanted to let the Board know that he is excited about the work the Boosters are going to be doing.

Judy Marsh – Suggested that during the County Fair, Board members should be in shirts, greet people, and let them know who you are. Also, if a summit is to be held, do not let the staff be present.

Judi Palumbo – Does not feel she is being heard since she is not a Booster.

Merle Eakin – Thanked Executive Director Hillman for the information on the land lease with the Michels Corporation.

Tom Black – Wants to know what is going on with the lease on the Sports Complex.

9. **Other Matters of Information**

A. Newspaper Articles, if any

B. Other, if Any

With no further business before the Board, Chair Vial requested that the Board go in to executive session.

**Motion by Board Member Flagg to move in to executive session. Second by Board Member Hirst. Motion carried 6-0.**

**Motion by Board Member Hirst to return to regular session. Second by Board Member Flagg. Motion carries 6-0.**

With no further business before the Board, Chair Vial adjourned the meeting.

**Motion by Board Member Flagg to adjourn. Second by Board Member Logan. Motion carried 6-0.**

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**Don G. Hillman**  
**Recording Secretary**

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**Rich Vial**  
**Board Chair**