

**MINUTES OF FAIR BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 6, 1991**

FAIR BOARD

John Thomas
Rocky Williams
Jeanne Leeson
Marla Warren

STAFF

Cal Wade
Ron McAuley
Patti Poe
Sue Oxendine

GUESTS

Fred Scheller
Claire Whittaker
John Meek

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairman Thomas. Visitors were welcomed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Wade stated that the budget is in line with earlier revised predictions. The second quarter Hotel/Motel Tax is critical to the income side of the budget. Payroll costs may come in lower than on the revised budget.

MOTION: MOVED BY JEANNE LEESON, SECONDED BY ROCKY WILLIAMS, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION PASSED.

RODEO BOARD

The 1991 rodeo was named Rodeo of the Year by the PCRA. The board attended the convention. John Growney attended the Rodeo Board meeting to discuss turning PRCA. To make the change will cost an additional \$2,600. Sponsorships may pick up the difference. Coors would put in money if there is a Coors distributor at the fair.

FAIR BOOSTERS

The Boosters purchased a golf cart for the office staff's use and a popcorn wagon for arena events. Thanks to Jeanne Leeson and her committee, the Boosters will have a complete slate of officers to vote for at the November 8 meeting.

MARKETING

Poe reported "business is booming". The Cloverleaf usage was up 145% in October. Overall attendance in October was down 8% due to the shortened PI.

A regional cat show has booked facilities in 1992 and 1993. They have also reserved 50 rooms at the Hallmark Inn.

MAINTENANCE

Primary October projects included starting the RV storage season and remodeling of the Main Exhibit Building restrooms.

HAPPY DAYS

The committee who discussed Happy Days following the 1990 festival met again to review the 1991 event. Committee members included: Marla Warren, John Thomas, Cal Wade, Mayor Shirley Huffman, Bob Herb, and Jerry Willey. Huffman checked on the assumed business name of Happy Days and found it to be filed improperly. Willey was to check on the income tax status of the Jaycees.

As far as the actual show, Happy Days went well in 1991. The problems were in the cleanup and follow through, and the amount of unpaid bills throughout the community. The committee recommended the Fair Board notify the Jaycees that the FairPlex would not be rented to them in 1992 based on lack of performance according to the Jaycees' own outline as given prior to the 1991 Happy Days and the amount of unpaid bills.

MOTION: MOVED BY ROCKY WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY JEANNE LEESON, TO HAVE WADE WRITE A LETTER TO THE JAYCEES ON BEHALF OF THE FAIR BOARD, STATING THAT THE FAIR BOARD WILL NOT RENT THE FAIRPLEX FACILITIES TO THE JAYCEES FOR 1992 DUE TO LACK OF FOLLOW THROUGH AFTER THE 1991 EVENT AND THE AMOUNT OF OUTSTANDING BILLS. THE JAYCEES ARE INVITED TO ADDRESS THE BOARD AT A SPECIAL MEETING. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MERIT RATING

Another Gold!! Oxendine reported the 1991 Fair rated extremely well with the merit rating. Wade and Oxendine are concerned with the high numbers given the Fair, but are confident the Fair will not drop out of the Gold Medallion rating in 1992.

Oxendine reviewed parts of the Merit Rating Book. Some areas, namely 4-H Cloverleaf displays and areas around the barns, need attention. The merit rater especially enjoyed the new banners, jazzed up main entrance, Arts and Crafts display, and new amphitheater. She commended management, staff, and the dedicated Fair Board.

TRAFFIC IMPACT

In response to the City's assessment of a traffic impact fee on the new amphitheater, Chief Shook wrote a letter to the City explaining why the Police Department believes the amphitheater is not creating further usage. He further stated that the amphitheater was an improvement for crowd control at FairPlex events.

Wade also appealed to the City stating concerts had always taken place at the FairPlex and the only possible new usage for the amphitheater would be High School graduations.

The City has dropped the assessment.

28th STREET WIDENING

The City has plans to widen 28th Street to two 14' lanes with a 12' turn lane and 6' sidewalks on either side. Costs in part will be paid by assessments to property owners along 28th Street. The FairPlex is being assessed \$149,000 because of the high impact the property has on the street. 100% of the FairPlex 28th Street frontage is the Sports Complex.

The lease with the City for the Sports Complex is for 30 years with the option to renew. The lease was signed in 1975, and the Fairgrounds received \$25,000. The lease does not address who is responsible for street improvement assessments.

Wade had been in contact with the City and has informed them that the FairPlex was never notified of the meetings regarding the proposed widening of the street. Wade is meeting with Roy Gibson of the City to further discuss the matter.

A hearing on the assessment has been scheduled for December 3.

John Meek suggested requesting the City begin the process over, starting with the proper notification to the property owners. Outside legal counsel may be needed.

The Board recommended Wade talk to Dan Olson, County Legal Counsel, to get his advice before contacting outside counsel.

GOLF CART

The Boosters donated a golf cart to the FairPlex for use by the staff. Poe and Wade will ask the Boosters what signage they would like to see on the "Boostermobile".

ANIMAL SHELTER

The Department of Assessment and Taxation operate the animal shelter and is looking for a possible new site for the planned new facility. The FairPlex has been suggested as a possible site and a letter has been received asking for the Board's opinion.

Leeson and Thomas were opposed to the idea but Williams recommended talking with the Department of Assessment & Taxation before totally rejecting the idea. Williams feels there may be monetary advantages to locating the facility at the FairPlex providing the shelter was designed to be fully enclosed and silent.

The other board members agreed, and recommended Wade contact the Department of Assessment and Taxation to further investigate the idea.

NON AGENDA

EVERS WATER FOUNTAIN

Joe Evers has decided on a handicapped accessible model to be located in back of the livestock restrooms, if the area is nicely landscaped. The Evers Family will work on the wording of the plaque for Albert Evers, Joe's father.

WISH LIST

The staff has compiled a list of projects and equipment and their prices. The list will be distributed to the Boosters and other service organizations throughout the county.

POTLUCK DINNER

A tentative date for a potluck dinner honoring Jeanne Leeson and Lloyd Baron, retiring Fair Board members, has been set for either January 11 or 18 at John Thomas' home.

NO DECEMBER MEETING

There will not be a fair board meeting in December due to the OFA

Convention. A special meeting with the Jaycees will be called if the Jaycees request one.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Fair Board meeting will be January 8, 1992 at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Oxendine
Secretary