

Thurston County Fair Board
May 4, 2022
Minutes

Members Present: Kathie McWaid, President; Theresa Reid, Sgt at Arms; Don Wadsen, Peggy Zimmerman, Heidi Thomson; Mike Rendon

Members Absent: Kya Ramirez (excused) Jed Haney (unexcused) Paul Longwell (unexcused)

Guests: Ann Shipley

Kathie McWaid called the meeting to order. Minutes were corrected. Don Wadsen moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Peggy Zimmerman seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Promotion: Peggy Zimmerman reported that we will participate in 4 parades: Tumwater (July 4th), Rochester Swede Day Parade (June 19), Lakefair (July 16) and Rainier (August 24). Still no information on the Yelm parade. Banners for both the parades and those that go across Capital Blvd., Yelm Highway, and College street are ready to go. Heidi Thomson said the county "Insider" newsletter for county employees had a nice article about the Fair. Dates are included.

Commercial: Theresa Reid reported that we haven't gotten as many applications for vendors as we have in the past. Many of the same food vendors will be returning. Andy's restaurant may scale back the menu since they are having labor problems. We have a vendor doing cotton candy animals. We all need to give out the same message to vendors-everyone must follow the same rules. All vendors must be in their booth space and cannot pull people in and the signage has to be consistent.

Entertainment: Theresa reported that we will have chain saw carver demonstrations. There will be a Beer Garden run by The Cider Barrel. We will pay them \$1700 up front and then any revenue the Beer Garden makes, the Fair will receive. We should be able to recoup our costs. We will need to promote the Garden. Mike Rendon asked if we need to "build" anything for the fencing around the Beer Garden. Theresa said no, it is already taken care of with the vendor. Beer Garden will be open during the time we have bands on the Expo stage.

Agriculture-No report

Facilities/Safety-No report

Still Life-No report

No Old Business.

New Business:

New Members: We have potentially four new members. They have to be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.

Preparation for the Fair: Make sure the superintendents know that they need to spruce up their physical areas. Theresa said they will try to get the superintendents meeting and boxes out early.

Review of Superintendents Meeting: Theresa missed the meeting because of airline cancellations. Kathie reported that we had a small turnout of superintendents. One issue that came up was closing the fair earlier than 10 pm. Theresa reminded members we had decided to close the Fair at 9 on Wednesday, and Thursday and 10 on Friday and Saturday at the 2019 fair. We close on Sunday at 8 and barns close at 7 to prepare for haul out. Emily Killeen will take care of informing 4-H and the FFA Advisors need to inform FFA youth and we will take care of the informing the public.

Fair Foundation Report: Kathie reported that the Foundation is holding a raffle for a State Fair Basket, a Breakfast basket and a \$25.00 3rd prize. The Foundation is very happy with the Spring 2nd Hand Safari turnout and process. They will be holding a Fall 2nd Hand Safari in October which will be a ½ day Friday and full day Saturday.

Fair Coordinator Report: Theresa reported that the North Thurston School District will not go to the modified calendar. Troy (owner of the Cider Barrel) will be helping to find sponsorships.

The Olympian no longer has the “bandwidth” to sell advertising. So instead of a program we will ask them to include a one page flyer as an insert to promote the fair.

Staffing for the fair will be challenging. Theresa has asked the county to get our seasonal staff on board by June 1. She is also considering asking a team or organized group to maintain the food court. We could then provide them a stipend for the team or group which becomes a fundraiser for their groups. The wrestling group will continue with the trash pickup. Theresa sent Request for Proposals forms to local cleaning companies. As a contracted vendor, we can pay them one set amount and not issue W-4s. Camping on line is still being developed. It will be on-line only. Only one person at a time can be registered (no group registration). Reservations June 1 through June 15th on line ONLY. There is a maximum of 35 ft of the entire trailer and car in the electrical units. The agreement includes a clause that the user is responsible for any damages.

Heidi will ask about having the K-9 officers at the fair. She will also ask about the big SWAT vehicle.

With no further business, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peggy Zimmerman
Substitute Secretary