

Thurston County Fair Board  
Meeting Minutes  
June 1 2022

Members Present: Kathie McWaid, President; Theresa Reid, Sgt. Of Arms; Mike Rendon; Larry Stamp; Heidi Thomson; Don Wadsen; and Peggy Zimmerman

Members Absent: Kya Ramirez (excused); Jedidiah Haney (excused) and Paul Longwell (unexcused)

Guests: Kris Shackley and Ann Shipley

Meetings was called to order by Kathie McWaid, President. Guests were welcomed and Larry Stamp, new board member was introduced. Heidi Thomsen moved to approve the minutes of the May 2022 Board Meeting. Don Wadsen seconded the motion, motion carried. There was no correspondence.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports for Agriculture, Facilities/Safety, and Still Life.

Kathie reported that the Scrapbook/History committee has talked but nothing to report.

Theresa Reid reported for the Commercial Committee. She said the Office is still getting a few application but fewer than optimal. Larry Stamp said he is hosting an event on the fairgrounds and he has about 50 vendors so he will spread the word to those vendors about exhibiting during the fair.

Theresa also reported for Entertainment and said she has contracted with a different sound system this year. Spectrum Sound will save us money and provide the same service as our previous contractor.

Peggy Zimmerman reported for the Promotions committee. She said that the committee reviewed the passport locations and were making plans in case the BeeKeepers would not be at the fair. We have subsequently learned that the BeeKeepers will be at the fair so alternative plans are not necessary. We will need a different point in the Williweit Pavillion since the Llamas will not be doing the passport this year. Peggy said that Emily Killeen, WSU Extension, will ask 4-Hers about helping with the parades coming up. We need more participation.

Kya Ramirez is making a poster for the fair to be displayed at the Tumwater Library.

Peggy reported that she is bidding on magnetic signs in an on-line fundraiser. So far, she has the winning bid for 4 signs.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Kathie asked for volunteers to serve on the nomination committee. The offices of President and Secretary will be on the slate. Theresa, Don, and Peggy volunteered.

Preparation for the Fair:

- Don and Paul Longwell are working on the shed which will need to be painted.
- The Food Court Stage floor needs to be finished
- Flower beds throughout the grounds are in need of attention.
- Kris Shackley said she would talk with 4-H clubs about their gardens
- Hans is getting the West bathroom in shape for the Duck Dash scheduled for this weekend.

#### FOUNDATION REPORT

Kathie reported that the Foundation still has tickets for the Raffle which included a huge (\$700) basket for State Fair events, the 2<sup>nd</sup> basket is a pancake breakfast and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is \$25. Drawing will be held June 25<sup>th</sup>.

## FAIR EVENT COORDINATOR REPORT

Theresa reported on a letter received from the State Veterinarian related to Avian Flu which states that local fair boards can decide on exhibitions of poultry as long as water fowl is separated (in a different barn) from all the other poultry. As more information becomes available, we can decide how to handle exhibits.

Theresa also reported there has been a rise in hemorrhagic disease among rabbits but there has been no guidance from the State Department of Agriculture. Again, as information becomes available, the Fair Board will be informed.

We will have a Fair Evaluation from the State Department of Ag this year. Our evaluator will be Greg Steward from Clark County.

We will have a new ticketing system this year. Our contractor will be Sasquatch and will be available on-line.

Camping reservations for the fairgrounds will open this Sunday at 7pm on-line. Major changes will be made including size limits and the fact that only one reservation can be made at a time-no group reservations. All information is available on-line.

The Fair budget is not receiving the basic support it has in the past. The State Dept of Ag allocates funds based on the attendance from the previous years fair. Since the fair we held last year was 4-H and FFA families only, our revenue is \$5,000 instead of the usual \$30 to \$35K. In addition, the Lodging Tax Assessment Committee funds will be \$15K instead of the \$30K we were hoping for. In addition, we have been unable to secure "free" gators this year. We will have to rent them for trash pickup and one for movement around the fairgrounds. The fair budget has not had an increase from the County in over 10 years and with the increase in minimum wage and all other expenses increasing, the fair budget is straining.

Hiring temporary staff for fairgrounds preparation and fair staff has been difficult.

We will continue to work on finding sponsorships.

The ice cream social for Superintendents will be held on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

With no further business, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peggy Zimmerman  
Substitute Secretary.