

THURSTON COUNTY FAIR BOARD
October 5, 2022 @ 7:00 pm
MEETING MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Meeting was called to order by President Kathie McWaid at 7:03pm.

Fair Board members present: Kathie McWaid, Paul Longwell, Kya Ramirez, Theresa Reid, Larry Stamp, Don Wadsen, Peggy Zimmerman, and Heidi Thomsen.

Excused: None.

Unexcused: Jedidiah Haney and Mike Rendon

Guests present: Emily Killen and Ann Shipley

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF: September 7, 2022

Peggy moved and Kya seconded the approval of the September 7, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. **Agriculture** – Committee did not meet.

b. **Promotions** – Peggy reported that most items on the good/bad/ugly list will need to be handled by the Facilities/Safety committee. The committee is planning a costume contest and costume parade at the welcoming ceremony for the 2023 Fair. Superintendents may want to have costume contests in their areas. The committee is planning on using a billy goat in the welcoming ceremony. Lifetime achievement award will be presented in 2023. Ann will take the lead in getting nominations. Any ideas for promotions? The committee is planning on attending parades and using a goat with a blanket for promoting the Fair. Yelm chamber of commerce will hold a Xmas parade. The committee talked about banners, but we need fair dates for banners and brochures.

c. **Facilities/Safety** – Committee did not meet.

d. **Scrapbook/History** - Committee is meeting weekly. Putting finishing touches on scrapbook for convention. Committee will need Theresa to bring the scrapbook to state convention.

e. **Commercial** – Committee hasn't met. Theresa is meeting with Andy to remove equipment and perhaps store in the Benny cages.

f. **Still Life** – Committee did not meet.

g. **Entertainment** – Theresa will be looking for entertainment at convention.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. **Other old business** -

b. **Recruiting new Fair Board Members** – Larry Mahan application. Peggy recommended the Fair Board endorse his application. Kathie will send an email to Josh for recommending that the Board of County Commissioners appoint Larry to the Fair Board.

c. **Williweit Project Information** - maps that were sent out are drafts. We are going out to bid to clear the area (going to down to the dirt). We may want to keep the cement under info booth. Completion date for the leveling will be finished by April 30th (tentative). Formal date will be in the bid documents. The design, clearing, and utilities will cost around \$350K. The slab for Andy's will have to go but slab for info booth will most likely stay.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Good, Bad and Ugly** – Board talked about this already. Most of what is on the list will need to be addressed by the facilities committee.
- b. **Fair Commissioner Report** - Kari sent out the scorecard to Board members. Exhibits were down. No open dairy goat show. We didn't have exhibits to score additional points. Overall, it was a good report. We received partial points for Ag display that we didn't do. Consensus was that it was a fair report.
- c. **Committee Assignments** - Everyone has a committee assignment. Kari will update the list and send out to Board members.
- d. **Fair Dates** – Dates are dependent on which carnival we go with. We will look for another carnival at convention. We prefer to return to the original fair dates, but it depends on which carnival we can get. Rainier Shows is not available. Davis Cascadia has shutdown.
- e. **Fair evaluation changes** – Many changes were discussed. Some of those changes include: staffing knowledge of emergency procedures, cultural diversity of community, double points for Ag displays (needs to be focused on local products), and computer graphics was added. Nothing concerning for the changes.
Fair commission grades fairs every other year. The Department Agriculture uses the average of the last three years to distribute funding from the fair fund. We usually receive about \$40K. This year we received \$5K.
Board discussed ways to improve exhibits: possibly have a Taylor Shellfish display, need to come up with displays to update every 5 years. We didn't receive full points in all departments because we did not have enough exhibits.
- f. **Lifetime achievement award** – Ann requested that everyone fill out the nomination form that was presented to fair board members.

7. FAIR FOUNDATION REPORT

- a. **Secondhand Safari -Garage Sale** - Oct 21st and 22nd – is the sale.
Kathie has submitted a grant application to the Nisqually Tribe for improvements/refurbishments of the gazebo. Amount requested: \$3,000.

8. **EVENT COORDINATOR REPORT** - Event coordinator report – We were down in attendance. The weather did not cooperate - too hot. We were concerned about where we would end up with the bottom line. Theresa indicated that the fair is in the black by \$33K. The carnival was about the same in revenue.

The North Thurston High School football team will be taking care of the food court area at next year's fair. They will do garbage detail if the Olympia High School wrestlers do not do it.

Emily Killen reported that there is nonstop interest in families wanting to join 4H. One new club in Yelm. New countywide shooting sports (archery) project. Emily does not see the horse project growing in the next few years. We may be able to fill the arena with an archery competition. 4H is starting to look at a countywide format for clubs that may not have certain projects like rabbits, sewing, etc. They are trying to grow the program as we have lost a lot of older kids. They are also looking at doing a robotics competition. There are two catchall countywide clubs who meet at the two granges. Emily may have a connection for two wethers that are use to wearing packs. Emily will talk to superintendents about highlighting Ag in the barns. We need to have a common theme and bring that into every group. Then

we need to communicate that theme out to groups. The 4-H Council is discussing having an alumni group. The idea is to have alumni classes follow the 4-H classes - similar to open classes.

The Fair will have more closures of the office as Kari is taking more time off to use comp time.

The next Fair Board meeting is November 2, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Winter party will be in January instead of Xmas party in December.

Adjourned the meeting at 8:03pm.