

7THURSTON COUNTY FAIR BOARD

February 1, 2023 @ 7:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Fair Board members present: Kathie McWaid, Kya Ramirez, Heidi Thomsen, Theresa Reid, Mike Rendon, Larry Mahan, Don Wadsen, and Peggy Zimmerman.

Excused: Larry Stamp

Unexcused: Jedidiah Haney, Paul Longwell

Guests: Teresa Scott – co-superintendent of home arts

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF: January 4, 2023

Motion by Peggy and seconded by Don to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

3. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Agriculture – Committee didn't meet.

b. Promotions – Members met. Opening ceremony discussion. Ring toss onto goat horns is the game at the open ceremony. Ann put together a brochure for old time games. It will be available in the office. Fair theme ideas presented –

“No kidding: Come to Thurston County Fair”.

“Whatever floats your goat”.

“Goat to the Thurston County Fair”.

“The Thurston County Fair blows my horns away”.

“No Kidding – Come to the Thurston County Fair” was agreed upon.

Discussion on ag displays ensued. The hallway (Heritage Hall) display is being worked on.

Animal costume display at the fair.

Lifetime achievement awards – Kari will get nomination forms emailed to Board members.

c. Facilities/Safety – Don and Mike met. Need to get with Hans to develop protocols and work orders. One issue is electrical and plumbing. The plumbing issue in rabbit/poultry barn was discussed. Need to do some building surveys to determine what we need money for. Then we need to send the identified needs to the Board of County Commissioners for them to consider inclusion in the next biennium budget.

d. Scrapbook/History – Have not met. There is not a whole lot to do right now other than taking pictures as we attend events. Group Fair Board pictures to be taken at the next Board meeting.

e. Commercial – Committee met on sending applications out. There were small adjustments to the pricing. Max adjustment was \$50.

f. Still Life – We are looking for a superintendent for hobbies and crafts.

g. Entertainment – We would like to have the chainsaw folks back. Reptile show is pretty expensive -- \$8,000 + hotel, sawdust, etc. Another option --- \$4,000 for a circus group (interaction with kids), including stilt walkers. Tractor pull vendor may be an option too.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Other old business – Raffles – deadline is March 1st. Limit of 4 for 4H, 4 for open class, and 4 for FFA.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Welcome new board member** – Larry Mahan. Welcome! Larry introduced himself. He has been around the fair since 1975 and has a ranch in Rainier. He has 200+ cow/calf pairs and show sheep for the 4H kids.
- b. **2023 Fair Theme** – This was discussed above in the minutes.
- c. **Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination** – This was already discussed above. Kari will send out the nomination form.
- d. **Teresa Scott** – Home Arts department is interested in doing additional raffles in Heritage Hall. The opportunity to raffle more things would help to engage more people. Teresa's main concern is the website. New website is not conducive to what we need it to do. Theresa Reid will send letter of concern to Josh.

7. FAIR FOUNDATION REPORT

- a. Foundation has another grant - \$1500 for renovation of the gazebo from the Squaxin Tribe. Now they have a total of \$4500 for this project.
- b. Information booth was removed.
- c. April 21-22 – Secondhand Safari. Applications on the website.

8. EVENT COORDINATOR REPORT: Theresa Reid

Advertising that has been purchased --- Grays Harbor, Lewis, Thurston, and Pierce County (i.e. Thurston County Talks, Grays Harbor Talks, etc.). Newspaper inserts and ads. Discussion on advertising. Going to go with Sapphire for ticketing. We have a carnival. There will be no discount and no armbands. No other available carnivals.

Beer Garden – The fair having one is yet to be decided.

There was a suggestion to apply for LTAC (Lodging Tax Advisory Committee) funds in Olympia and Lacey. Theresa will look into this.

Adjourned at 8:06pm

Next Fair Board Meeting: March 1, 2023