

THURSTON COUNTY FAIR BOARD

March 1, 2023 @ 7:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Meeting was called to order by Kathie McWaid at 7:01 pm.

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

Excused: Paul Longwell, Heidi Thomsen, Larry Stamp

Unexcused: Jedidiah Haney

Guest: Ann Shipley, Emily Killeen and Jim Staton

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF: February 1, 2023

Motion by Kya Ramirez and seconded by Larry Mahan to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

3. CORRESPONDENCE: None

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Agriculture – Did not meet. Just determined the Chairperson will be Larry Mahan.

b. Promotions – Opening ceremony trophy is being determined. The Committee decided to develop a poster which Kya is creating that will be distributed to a variety of community facilities. We have three agricultural static displays confirmed: Cadillac Meat Shop, Bountiful Byways, and Beekeepers. Emails have been sent to local schools asking for students displays in the Hobbies and Crafts division. Theresa has met with a representative from North Thurston and it looks like a good possibility that they will participate. Peggy reminded everyone that the Board will be voting on the Lifetime Achievement Award at the April board meeting. Please get your nominations into the office.

c. Facilities/Safety - Mike Rendon did a walk around of the fairgrounds with some of the Thurston County staff and bidders for the AgPlex. The staff was interested in the type of lighting and what it would take to dispose of the old lights. Mike found some rot in the logs in Heritage and Hans Funk will follow up to make repairs. Couple of safety issues, tripping and falling issues have been identified that Mike will write up. Theresa Reid reminded Mike that she has asked all members to bring issues to her before they go to the other county staff. Theresa needs to be the main contact and any communication related to safety or facilities should go through her. She is happy to work with the committee and will then work with the county to resolve problems.

d. Scrapbook/History – Kya reported that her and Kathie are still taking photos for the 2023 scrapbook.

e. Commercial – applications are coming in at a good pace. Nothing exceptional but seeing most of the usual vendors.

f. Still Life - no report

g. Entertainment – Theresa asked for a quote from a sound system. She is also looking for stilt walkers. Kya will follow up with a contact she has for stilt walkers.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Other old business –

Kathie reminded everyone how important it is to record your volunteer hours.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Lifetime Achievement Award Nominations-

So far we have received only one nomination so members should get their nominations in before the April meeting. We will be voting on the notations at that time.

B. Raffles

Black Hills District Garden Club

Thurston County Horse 4-H
4-H Beef Barn
Open Class Home Arts
Thurston County Youth Market Animal Support
Quiltmakers of Olympia

Peggy moved to approve the requests for raffles as a whole. Seconded by Larry. Motion passed.

7. FAIR FOUNDATION REPORT

- a. **Secondhand Safari -Garage Sale** -April 21 and 22nd. We currently have 13 or 14 booths sold.
- B. Grange Building is down and all the materials are cleaned up. The bone yard is also being cleaned up. The McWaids and Don Wadsen have done the lions share of the work. Thank you.
- C. The Foundation has received two grants to renovate the gazebo. One grant is from the Nisqually Tribe and the other is from the Squaxin Tribe. It will be totally redone.

8. EVENT COORDINATOR REPORT: Theresa Reid reported that she has been working a lot on advertising. There is a contract for social media advertising. Radio stations are on board. She will be meeting with a group interested in hosting the beer garden. She meet with North Thurston Football team representatives, to talk about doing the work at the gates. Parking lot is done by the Explorers. Garbage will be done by the wrestling team. Still searching for port-a-potties vendor. The new county website is being redone. Same vendor for saw dust. Theresa needs to know the number of entries expected so she can size the tent to ensure it will cover all the animals.

Guests Reports:

Jim Staton asked if we need displays for the fair? Theresa said yes, especially since we lost the State Farm interactive unit in the Deck barn. Jim also asked what talent we need on the board? Theresa said people that are willing to work hard and fill in where needed. Is avian flu still a problem? (Emily said yes, it is still a problem, hard to know how widespread.).

4-H Update: Emily Killeen reported that special events have been held which include robotics, knitting and crocheting, as well as service days on Martin Luther King day, among others. She said the focus is on still life projects to fill the display space. Just trained 3 Jr Master Gardeners and will work on the beds – hanging baskets from seed with the idea of then displaying the baskets at the fair. They have also held small animal and livestock meetings to help 4-Hers prepare for the fair. They are looking for more educational opportunities for the kids and through a survey determined the interests are very widespread. They are planning on archery on either Tuesday or Wednesday during the fair (evening). Emily had a report that the Peterson Barn had some rot on the north side of the building. Some of the outreach activities are starting to see some new volunteers.

Rabbit hemoratic disease is here to stay. They are encouraging rabbit owners to get their rabbits vaccinated. Wild rabbits are carriers and if domestic rabbits go in the same areas as wild rabbits, they are likely to get infected. Theresa said we will probably need to reinstate the barriers. Judges, exhibitors will have to decide about showing.

Adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Next Fair Board Meeting: April 4, 2023
2023 Fair – July 26th through July 30th