

THURSTON COUNTY FAIR BOARD

May 3, 2023 @ 7:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Kathie McWaid at 7:04pm.

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

Excused: None

Unexcused: None

Guests: Ann Shipley, Jason Jones (Kozy's South Bay), Commissioner Gary Edwards

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF: April 5, 2023

Motion by Peggy Zimmerman and Kya Ramirez seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

3. CORRESPONDENCE: Received letter from Jedidiah Haney to resign from the Fair Board.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Agriculture – The committee met. They discussed haul in/out. They need a safety fence/panels for vet check. Theresa needs a diagram showing what the plan looks like. Discussion ensued on how to set up haul in to ensure safety of the animals, the vet, and exhibitors.

b. Promotions - Committee took off the adopt the garden awards from the opening ceremony. They will award this individually. Kya made a poster that we will use for distribution to businesses. Board members will take posters to businesses around town. Ag displays --- Members will approach TESC to do an Ag display. Parades – We need more people that can drive the cow van. Board members talked about promoting old time games. We are not going to have a program this year. We will have posters at the gates for events for the day. Schoolhouse – window on backside of building has a broken seal. We need plywood to go over the sandbox.

c. Facilities/Safety – Committee did not meet. Two concerns --- water to rabbit barn (per Theresa, this has been taken care of) and electrical.

d. Scrapbook/History – Committee did not meet.

e. Commercial – New food vendors – Original House of Donuts and Kozy's South Bay. We have continued to receive a few applications from the usual vendors.

f. Still Life – Committee did not meet.

g. Entertainment – We have most of the entertainment booked but are still taking free acts.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Other old business – Thurston County Youth Market Animal Support raffle application – The bylaws allow for raffles for 4-H, open class, FFA, the Foundation and the Market Sale. In the March Board meeting, the Board approved the Thurston County Youth Market Animal Support's request for a raffle which is not affiliated with these entities that are in the bylaws. Theresa moved to suspend this approval for further discussion, Peggy seconded. The vote was 7 yay, 2 nay, and one abstained. Motion carried.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination – Discussed requests for nominations.

Discussion on evaluation of the fair. This will need to be done during the fair. It will take most of the day.

Discussion on the Board getting together for a half day on a Saturday. We need to have a plan on how we set up pens under the tent. We also need to talk about Still Life as a committee to reinvigorate it. The Board set June 7th at 5pm to have these discussions and develop a plan.

7. FAIR FOUNDATION REPORT

The Foundation held the Secondhand Safari. The crowds were a little low but the Foundation did ok. There were a few vendors that left early. Funds will be used to renovate the gazebo.

Don – requested that Kari send out a calendar of events going on.

8. EVENT COORDINATOR REPORT: Theresa Reid

The superintendent meeting was held. There was a good turnout. They discussed the Willuweit pavilion and how we are going to have animals under the tents. There were concerns about having power so the Fair is going to buy two more spider boxes. There were also discussions about the need for wash racks. We received really good input from those that attended the meeting. We will need to share the plan for pen set up once it is developed. We will need to make sure that tents are set up early. The North Thurston softball team will set up the tents. We have one 40'X60' tent, three 20' by 20' tents and one 16' by 20' tent.

We received a check for \$51,000 from the Wa. State Department of Agriculture. This is the highest check received so far. However, our costs have gone up due to inflation. The Fair will need to upgrade the premium program and that will cost \$5,000 next year. The software also offers online entries.

Heritage Hall repair- There is water and bug damage. The Fair needs to replace eight logs on Heritage Hall and a broken window. We are getting bids to do an assessment of the building. Once we have bids, we will bring this information to the Historic Commission and see if we can get funding.

Adjourned at 8:15pm

Next Fair Board Meeting: June 7, 2023