

**THURSTON COUNTY FAIR BOARD**  
**September 6, 2023 @ 7:00 pm**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Meeting was called to order by Kathie McWaid at 7:00pm.

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

Excused: Larry Stamp

Unexcused: None

Guests: Commissioner Gary Edwards, Teresa Scott, Ann Shipley, Michael Carney, Mihail Cherniske, Oscar Hernandez, Lance McElroy, and Justin Wikoff.

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF: July 26-30, 2023 (Fair Board meetings during the 2023 Fair)

Kathie McWaid indicated that the Board could not approve these meeting minutes because not all of the minutes have been compiled yet. Discussion ensued about if the meeting minutes had been sent out. Meeting minutes were sent out on July 31<sup>st</sup> by Heidi Thomsen and again sent out by Kari Bodnar on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Heidi Thomsen sent the meeting minutes out again on September 7<sup>th</sup> at Board members' request.

3. CORRESPONDENCE: There was a letter from Peggy Zimmerman who resigned from the Fair Board, effective August 24, 2023.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**a. Agriculture** - Nothing to report. Paul handed out print out of vehicle/trailer count during vet check. This will help determine optimal hours for having veterinarians available for vet check.

**b. Promotions** - Committee did meet. We need to find a new committee chair. We may need to restructure the committee. "Betty the Bee" is the mascot for next year.

**c. Facilities/Safety** – We need to continue to work on hoop barn to stabilize it. Power lines energized that needs to be fixed as soon as possible.

**d. Scrapbook/History** – Committee had a meeting. Members went through pictures and putting them together for the scrapbook. The Committee has until October 18<sup>th</sup> to complete the scrapbook.

**e. Commercial** – Committee members went through commercial vendors and found that we had a few where booths were manned for the day(s) or not here at all. These vendors may not be invited back.

**f. Still Life** – We have no committee chair for Still Life. We have a superintendent for Hobbies and Craft next year.

**g. Entertainment** - Committee members have not met.

5. OLD BUSINESS

**a. Other old business** - The Board briefly discussed the Good, Bad, and Ugly lists.

Theresa Reid reported that a little over 20,000 people were in attendance this year at the fair.

6. NEW BUSINESS

**a. Potential new board members introduced themselves:**

**Justin Wikoff** – Yelm area. Part of FFA. Family is involved with the fair.

**Michael Carney** – Yelm area. Part of FFA alumni. Looking to help out

**Oscar Hernandez** – wife is 5<sup>th</sup> generation farmer. Kids involved in goats and want to do cattle. Wife is superintendent in 4h. Passionate about ag and focused on safety issues. Improve fairgrounds. Works for WSP and part of their safety committee.

**Lance McElroy** – kids are involved in cattle, sheep, goats. Doing 4H. Fair needs more kids stuff to do. Bring more stuff in, businesses to support it. Gear media to millennial generation.

**Mikhail Cherniske** – from Olympia, have toddler and two month old. Get kids into 4H, works for state agency and relations, interested in getting the fair out there/communications.

**b. Teresa Scott – Home Arts Superintendent** – Teresa Scott distributed the report of the good, bad, and ugly for the Home Arts Department. She also advocated for a new software program for fair entries. She also stated that we need better security for Heritage Hall during the fair. Mike Rendon suggested having a pulley system for hanging quilts as this will improve safety.

**c. Election of President and Sergeant of Arms** - The elections committee proposed Paul Longwell as President and Theresa Reid as Sergeant of Arms. Don Wadsen motioned, and Larry Mahan seconded the motion to elect Paul Longwell as President and Theresa Reid as Sergeant of Arms. Motion carried.

**d. Letter to Commissioners, Ramiro Chavez, and Robin Campbell in Support of Re-establishing the Fair Manager position** - Heidi Thomsen briefed the Fair Board on the status of the county's budget development for the upcoming biennium (2024-2025) and the request to reinstate the fair manager/coordinator position. She also briefed the Board on the meeting with Josh Cummings, Jennifer Smith, and Summer Miller regarding the budget request to reinstate the position. Josh inquired if the Board would write a letter of support for the position and Heidi presented this to Board. Don Wadsen made a motion for the Board to send a letter of support to Robin Campbell and the Board of County Commissioners to reinstate the position. Mike Rendon seconded the motion. Seven yeas, one nay. Motion carried. Heidi will draft the letter for Paul to sign.

A Board member requested a copy of the position description for the fair manager. Heidi Thomsen will follow up to see if a copy can be obtained. A copy was sent to Board members on September 7, 2023.

## 7. FAIR FOUNDATION REPORT

**a. Secondhand Safari** – Kathie McWaid reported that the Second Hand Safari will be September 8<sup>th</sup>. She also reported that the Squaxin and Nisqually tribes gave money to finish gazebo.

The WA. State fair convention will be held in Pasco this year on October 19<sup>th</sup>-October 21<sup>st</sup>. Registration is due September 29<sup>th</sup>.

## 8. EVENT COORDINATOR REPORT: Theresa Reid

Theresa thanked everyone for their assistance during the fair. The weather was great, and attendance was up. 144 people attended the pancake breakfast. She will report on all of the fair numbers at the October Board meeting. Theresa also reported concerns with the \$2.00 surcharge when using credit cards. Our goal is to work on addressing this issue for next year.

Commissioner Edwards thanked the Board for their work during the fair. He also thanked the new applicants for their interest in becoming a Board member.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

**Next Fair Board Meeting: October 4, 2023**