

FAIR BOARD MEETING
March 7, 2024
Meeting Room 2, 7:30 a.m.

Speer	Moulton	Voorhees	Cunningham	Webber	Crofoot
Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent
		Called In			

Others Present:

Corey Buller – Fair Manager/Division Manager, Lane Events Center
 Kelly Mason – Sales & Events Program Supervisor
 Becky Kirsch – Office Assistant, Lane Events Center
 Vicki Van Patten – Events Coordinator, Lane Events Center
 Alyssa Loban – Events Coordinator, Lane Events Center
 Jeff True – Sales Associate, Lane Events Center
 Elizabeth Gangwer – Program Coordinator, OSU Extension Office

1. ITEMS FROM THE COMMUNITY:

None

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Staff announced that the grant application has been successfully submitted for relief funding from the State. Staff will let the Fair Board know once the grant has been confirmed or awarded. At that time there can be a discussion to decide where to allocate those funds.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 1, 2024 – ACTION ITEM

MOTION: Rene' Speer		COMMENTS: Rene' Speer motioned to approve the February 1, 2024 minutes as written. Debra Moulton seconds. No discussion. All in favor.
SECOND: Debra Moulton		
VOTE		
Name	Vote	
Wendee Crofoot	Yes	
Richard Cunningham	Yes	
Debra Moulton	Yes	
René Speer	Yes	
Sid Voorhees	Yes	
Bruce Webber	Yes	
Laurie Trieger	Absent	

4. BYLAWS DISCUSSION

Staff presented the current Bylaws. It was last updated in May of 2019. Staff suggested that it be gone through briefly and identify any areas that need to be changed or updated. It was also suggested that we hold off from making any final version of the Bylaws until the Master Plan project can be restarted. During that process or a potential retreat we may want to make some changes to our mission or vision and incorporate that information into the bylaws. This would be a working document that we can come back to later in the year and finalize at that time.

5. BUDGET UPDATE

Review of the Fair budget is scheduled for March 21st by the County Administrator. Once that is completed the Lane County Budget Committee will be reviewing and making recommendations for final adoption.

6. Fair Planning Update

- a) Staff shared that mainstage entertainment lineup is almost complete. So far it is a good lineup that will hit a lot of different interests and is also right on budget. Once it is finalized, staff will bring back an update.
- b) Staff said they had a good meeting with the Carnival provider Funtastic. The industry is just now kicking off in Florida and will move west in the next couple of months. Early reports are that spending and attendance are good so hopefully that trend will continue. Funtastic said they were successful in getting their work visa program back up and running so they are anticipating full staffing levels for the entire summer, which has been an issue since Covid. Ride bracelet prices will increase due to labor, fuel and maintenance costs increasing. They have not raised their prices in 3 years but need to make the change this year. The cost of the ride bracelet will go from \$49.95 to \$54.95 and will only be sold online prior to Fair, just like last year.
- c) Elizabeth Gangwer from the OSU Extension office joined the meeting and gave updates on 4H & FFA. Registration for 4H closed at the end of January. Youth enrollment for 4H is above 300. She will have more updates about Fair enrollment by the June meeting. There is one new chapter for FFA from Creswell which makes for a total of 5 chapters altogether for FFA. Elizabeth also shared that there 31 cattle at weigh-in recently. Swine, sheep, and goat weigh-in will be in April.

7. MASTER PLAN/PROJECTS UPDATE

- a) Staff talked about the BCC work session on Tuesday to talk about the Master Plan and how we are planning to move forward.
- b) The outdoor multi-use stadium project is front & center again. The City of Eugene is planning to refer it to the voters for a Bond Measure to raise 15M. The Board of County Commissioners is being asked to formally commit funds and a plan to move it forward, but staff has not been made aware of that date or when that decision will be made.
- c) Staff presented a draft letter addressed to the Board of County Commissioners that states the position of the Fair Board based upon what has been discussed. Staff have asked the Board to finalize the letter and have it sent out immediately following today’s meeting so that they can be heard. Staff are recommending that the letter also be sent to the City Council since they have the final say on the Bond Measure.

MOTION: Sid Voorhees		COMMENTS: Sid Voorhees motions to approve the letter addressed to the Board of County Commissioners. Rene’ Speer seconds. No discussion. All in favor.
SECOND: Rene’ Speer		
VOTE		
Name	Vote	
Wendee Crofoot	Yes	
Richard Cunningham	Yes	
Debra Moulton	Yes	
René Speer	Yes	
Sid Voorhees	Yes	
Bruce Webber	Yes	

- d) The Wheeler restroom renovation is under way and scheduled to be completed by end of May, funded by a grant that was received from the State of Oregon.
- e) Wayfinding signage has been added to the grounds and buildings.
- f) Major projects scheduled for next year include planning/preparation to improve the bridges across the Amazon which would allow us better and safer access and flow during the Fair.

8. RETREAT DISCUSSION

Staff said that they want to keep the retreat on a schedule/plan but may need to wait until the process is identified for the Master Plan. It is hard to envision the future and what we want to offer if there are major proposals to change the facilities or even move the Fairgrounds. Staff is hoping that once the Master Plan process gets started again, the Fair Board has a seat at the table so that we can use that process to advocate for Fair programs. Then we can use a retreat to focus or fine tune what we want to provide the community.

9. **JUNE MEETING DATE DISCUSSION**

Due to some conflicts, it was discussed to make a few changes to the meeting schedule for the rest of this year. Specifically, the April, June and July dates have been pushed out one week later. Staff will send out a calendar with the new meeting dates to the Fair Board soon.

10. **OTHER**

None.

11. **MEETING ADJOURNED:**

Bruce Webber adjourned the meeting at 8:09a.m.

Meeting adjourned.

X _____
Bruce Webber, President

MINUTES ARE DRAFT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL APPROVED BY THE FAIR BOARD AT THE NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING.