

FAIR BOARD MEETING
April 11, 2024
Meeting Room 2, 7:30 a.m.

Speer	Moulton	Voorhees	Cunningham	Webber	Crofoot
Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present
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
 Jeff True – Sales Associate, Lane Events Center

1. ITEMS FROM THE COMMUNITY:

None

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 7, 2024 – ACTION ITEM

MOTION: Sid Voorhees		COMMENTS: Sid Voorhees motioned to approve the March 7, 2024 minutes as written. Rene’ Speer seconds. No discussion. All in favor.
SECOND: Rene’ Speer		
VOTE		
Name	Vote	
Wendee Crofoot	Yes	
Richard Cunningham	Absent	
Debra Moulton	Yes	
René Speer	Yes	
Sid Voorhees	Yes	
Bruce Webber	Yes	
Laurie Trieger	Abstain	

4. FAIR PLANNING UPDATE

- a) Staff said that after the 2023 Fair debrief, County Legal has requested to look at all of the contracts and make a few changes to the process and to the documents that we use. A part of the plan was to go back out to RFQ (Request for Quotes) for security services during the Fair. The process was completed and staff along with Fair Board President, Bruce Webber, reviewed the proposals. Based upon several factors, a decision was made to go with Starplex/CMS for the 2024 Fair. They have been the primary security company for large events such as UO sports and concerts and they were also the lowest proposal for cost. They are also well trained in using metal detectors.
- b) This year staff plans to implement the use of metal detectors and wands. The metal detectors will be at the three main ticket gates and wands at all the other gates. The staff is still working on the policy part of this plan and will bring it back once it is complete.
- c) Staff gave an update on some new code changes to the Emergency Plan for Fair. The Fire Marshal has notified us that there are several areas that will have changes. One new item is the Fire Marshal is going to require us to have an Assistant Fire Marshal on site or on call all evenings of the Fair during concert times. This is a paid position, so staff are expecting to see around a \$3000 increase to the public safety line item. Another requirement is an increase in the number of crowd control people (security) that are on site at times when we have maximum attendance (afternoon/evenings). For this reason, the lower cost of CMS will help offset the increased number of security personnel we will be required to have. They are also asking us to have standby EMT services in the evenings, which could cost an additional \$8400.
- d) The Eugene Police Department (EPD) will be committing to a different model for working the Fair. In previous years our staff did not know when EPD would be on site as their staff would only participate in an overtime type of model and only those officers interested in overtime would sign up. It was an inconsistent plan, and the Fair staff did not know how many officers would be on site at any given time.

This year they are assigning the Mobile Response Team (MRT) to the Fair ahead of time. This will include a Lieutenant, Sergeant, and up to eight officers on site at any time. They will also be setting up a Unified Command Post that will be staffed by EPD, Dispatch, SAR (Search and Rescue), Fire Department and will have their own Communication and Operations Plan to deal with any issues that may come up. This is great news, and the staff appreciates that they are taking public safety seriously and proactively. The downside is costs will go up due to paying for all the personnel. Based upon last year's hourly rate this could increase our costs from \$17,000-\$90,000, which we did not budget for. Staff has asked EPD to get creative and find a way to hopefully bring that cost down without impacting services. Staff said we could be looking at \$100,000 or more in increased costs for Public Safety for this year, for which we did not budget. This is one of the reasons we selected CMS as they were the lowest bidder in terms of cost for proposed services.

- e) Kelly Mason gave updates on areas of the Fair:
 - a. The Main Stage lineup has been confirmed. Staff are waiting for all contracts to be signed. The concert lineup will be announced on May 1 with tickets going on sale June 7.
 - b. The Budweiser Bar will be reimagined to become the Rum Jungle. Staff said they will be adding festive décor to make it fun & inviting for Fair patrons.
 - c. The Fair Book was handed out to the Fair Board members. Entries for Creatives will open on May 3. There are fun new contests to look forward to and there is also a new Floral Coordinator, Sharon Wilson, this year.
 - d. Horse stalls have all been filled.
 - e. All but one food vendor will be back this year. There are 3 new vendors joining: Slush Puppie, PNW Kettle Corn & Monster Cookie Co.
 - f. The Outdoor Commercial Vendor area is now full, and the indoor area is continuing to grow. Staff said we will be partnering with the Lane County Museum this year. We will be offering them an indoor 20x20 booth space to showcase some of their historic exhibits.
 - g. Sponsorships are going well. Staff said we have secured \$82,000 in cash sponsorships, which is close to our \$90,000 goal.
 - h. Senior Social planning is going well. Staff have secured the MLK Culinary School to bring the desserts again this year.
 - i. A few new acts have been added to the grounds entertainment this year along with several returning as well.
 - j. All camping reservations for Livestock have been filled. There is also a short waitlist for those that did not get a spot. 4-H/FFA registration opens in May. Staff said they are working on ideas for patrons to interact with animals more, including longer barn hours.

5. FAIR CONTRACTS UPDATE

Staff mentioned previously that we are contracting Starplex/CMS for security services this year. There will be a one-year contract with two single-year extensions if the Fair Board chooses. This allows us to change after each year if we do not receive the services we expect. The other two large contracts are both good. The carnival contract with Funtastic is good for 2023, 2024 and 2025 Fairs. The Marketing contract with Constellation is good for 2023, 2024 and 2025 Fairs as well. Staff said they will be working on the recurring contracts for each year soon and those are parking services with the Lane County Sheriff's Posse, first aid services with Lane County Search and Rescue, armored car service, etc.

6. MASTER PLAN/PROJECTS UPDATE

- a) Staff talked about the BCC work session on March 5th to discuss the Master Plan. Staff said we have received instruction to reimagine or restart the Master Plan process from a different direction. The commissioners are looking for a more robust community wide vision and input. Staff are in the process of identifying a consultant to lead a task force of stakeholders in a vision/planning process like the Parks Task Force that recently completed their work. Staff assumes there will be representation from the Fair Board on that committee or task force, the President and maybe one other member. Staff will keep the Fair Board updated as more details are developed.
- b) The multi-use stadium project is still on hold while we wait for the public's decision on the May ballot measure put forth from the City of Eugene. They are asking the public to vote on a 15 million bond measure for funding to be used in construction of the facility. Staff are a part of a work group that is working on the Operating Agreement, along with various other agreements, which may be a part of the overall agreement for the facility if it moves forward. No details are available at this time, but it is work that is being done in the background so that negotiations with the owner can begin if the project continues

to move forward. Staff said we are also working with County staff on the Federal 1.5 million that was allocated for this project. If this project does not move forward, we are identifying other options to keep and use this money for upgrades to other facilities to provide immediate shelter in case of major disasters.

7. **BUSINESS OREGON AWARD**

Staff received a notification that we were successful in our application to the State for County Fairgrounds Operational Support that was allocated through the legislature. We are being awarded \$94,112.00 which is a one-time funding allocation. Based upon our unknown expenses for public safety this year we are suggesting that we not allocate these funds to any specific project at this time but wait until later to see if we need to offset any expenses that were not planned.

8. **OTHER**

None.

9. **MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Sid Voorhees		COMMENTS: Sid Voorhees motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 am. Debra Moulton seconds. No discussion. All in favor.
SECOND: Debra Moulton		
VOTE		
Name	Vote	
Wendee Crofoot	Yes	
Richard Cunningham	Absent	
Debra Moulton	Yes	
René Speer	Yes	
Sid Voorhees	Yes	
Bruce Webber	Yes	
Laurie Trieger	Abstain	

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.