

FAIR BOARD MEETING
March 6, 2025
Meeting Room 2, 7:30 a.m.

Speer	Moulton	Voorhees	Cunningham	Webber	Crofoot
Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present

Others Present:

Corey Buller – Fair Manager/Division Manager, Lane Events Center
 Kelly Mason – Sales & Events Supervisor, Lane Events Center
 Becky Kirsch – Office Assistant, Lane Events Center
 Jeff True – Sales Associate, Lane Events Center
 Vicki Van Patten – Events Coordinator, Lane Events Center
 Alyssa Loban – Events Coordinator, Lane Events Center
 Laurie Trieger – Lane County Commissioner
 Dan Hurley – Director, Lane County Public Works
 Elizabeth Gangwer – Program Coordinator, OSU Extension Office
 Keith Lohse – Director, Lane County History Museum

1. ITEMS FROM THE COMMUNITY

None.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 6, 2025 – ACTION ITEM

MOTION: Sid Voorhees		COMMENTS: Sid Voorhees motioned to approve the February 6, 2025 minutes as written. Rich Cunningham seconds. No discussion. All in favor.
SECOND: Rich Cunningham		
VOTE		
Name	Vote	
Wendee Crofoot	Yes	
Richard Cunningham	Yes	
Debra Moulton	Yes	
René Speer	Yes	
Sid Voorhees	Yes	
Bruce Webber	Yes	
Laurie Trieger	Abstain	

4. LEC/EVENTS UPDATE

Corey talked about this being our busy season and shared some of the activities happening around campus. We just had the 86th Annual Oregon Logging Conference and were told it was the largest they have had in a long time. Almost all of the grounds were utilized. Good attendance with only minor issues and damage. The major issue was still available parking. We fence off the grass field to prevent damage to the grass and this limits the available parking which then pushes vehicles into neighborhoods. We had reports of blocked driveways & illegal parking. Corey said we need to improve that area in some way to accommodate overflow parking in the winter. We will explore the idea of possibly adding 20-30 feet of gravel so we can get another row or two of available parking spaces when the ground is wet. Corey mentioned some of the upcoming shows such as the Home & Garden Show, dog show, Tattoo Expo, gun show, cat show, Super Smash Bros tournament, Picc-a-dilly, Gem Faire, World’s Largest Indoor Garage Sale, volleyball tournament and Faerie Market. These events are scheduled here during the month of March.

5. MASTER PLAN – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Corey spoke about how the long-range plan is continuing. A workgroup meeting was held last week, and they started to look at the survey results, prioritizing visions along with a discussion of what is working/not working with the facilities and layout of grounds. Not all results and comments have been summarized yet, but some similar themes appear to come up consistently. Over 600 people filled out the survey. There is a work session in the Board of County Commissioners conference room at 10:00 a.m. on March 12 and the survey results will be presented. Corey said they will be looking for feedback from the County Commissioners.

6. PROJECTS UPDATE

- a) The lobby project bidding window is now closed and Corey said we hope to have the results summarized and reviewed soon. This project includes removing the old brick which can be slippery when wet. Adding a set of ADA doors at North & South entrances. Taking the old wood benches out and replacing them with newer benches and bar spaces. We will be painting the walls, adding charging stations, refacing concessions, and adding digital displays.
- b) The Wheeler Pavilion HVAC project has been delayed while the architects and engineers work through some options to find the best solution since the equipment is very dated and the building is unique in design. Corey said that he expects to have some information back soon and we still plan to get this work done later this spring/early summer before the Fair.
- c) We have just received approval/confirmation that we are receiving the \$1.5M HUD Grant for the Ice Arena roof. This will include a seismic analysis and any potential upgrades to improve the resiliency of the structure. Analysis and process may start as early as this spring, but the funding is allocated through 2031 for completion.

7. FAIR PLANNING UPDATE

- a) Corey spoke about the design of the main stage seating area. This includes a “thrust stage” in front of the main stage. It will create a party pit/standing room only area that will allow people to stand & dance during the concerts. To keep them from blocking the view of the seated patrons, we created a pit and left space behind before placing rows of chairs. In addition, we will be raising the stage height slightly to make sure there are sight lines for seated patrons to enjoy the show. The total capacity of the venue is almost the same as before, just less chairs and adding the pit. It is a bit more interactive with the artists as well. We just started the process of ticket pricing, and it looks like it will meet or exceed last year’s prices.
- b) Elizabeth Gangwer gave an update on 4H. Market cattle prices are up. The market registration was in February, which is how they were able to get that info. She said they will have some good activity for Sunday. Elizabeth said they are moving forward with a Buyer’s lunch. Cattle weigh-in is next week. Sheep, goat & swine will be in May. No updates about avian flu but they will hopefully have an update by May. Fair registration for that doesn’t open until May.
- c) Corey talked about the community stage being moved down by Willamette Bar due to complaints about noise level. Alyssa spoke about working on the grounds entertainment. Exploring the idea of getting entertainment to the West end of the grounds so that we can spread it out a little bit. Looking to add more covered seating.
- d) The creative exhibits area is going well. Vicki spoke about hiring a new photography coordinator and still looking for a food preservation coordinator. She spoke about land products and adding more categories. They are changing the number of entries so that more people can participate.
- e) Jeff gave an update on food vendors – have 26 returning and hoping to get to 28. Vendor reclaims are currently in process.
- f) Corey spoke about Security and that it is going well. He said we have found an opportunity to purchase scanners rather than rent them. It will have a 2-year ROI. It will also provide an opportunity to be rented out for events.
- g) Corey & Kelly had a meeting with LTD last week about providing rides. LTD is pulling some numbers and will get back to us with an answer.

8. **POLICY UPDATES – CAMPING, COMMERCIAL & FOOD VENDORS, CLEAR BAGS**

Corey spoke about how every year we go through the policies to see if there are any changes. We have gone over the clear bag policy to try and make it easier to read/follow and match what other local venues are doing. EPD and our partners looked at the policy as well and gave their approval. This clear bag policy will be posted in several areas before patrons reach the ticket booths so that everyone is aware. Corey said that we have also gone through the camping rules and updated a couple of areas.

9. **RETREAT FOLLOW UP – VISION STATEMENT REVIEW**

Corey talked about the vision statement that was worked on at the retreat. Everyone had agreed that the mission Statement was still appropriate, but we wanted to work on a vision statement to support it. There were some key words and phrases that seemed to resonate with everyone. Kelly worked on the first draft of this new vision statement which Corey read aloud. The vision statement reads as follows:

“To provide a vibrant, inclusive, and family-friendly experience that the Lane County community looks forward to each year, creating lasting memories and traditions. We are committed to offering affordable entertainment that celebrates diversity, vitality, and the legacy for future generations.”

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

MOTION: Sid Voorhees		COMMENTS: Sid Voorhees motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 a.m. René Speer seconds. No discussion. All in favor.
SECOND: René Speer		
VOTE		
Name	Vote	
Wendee Crofoot	Yes	
Richard Cunningham	Yes	
Debra Moulton	Yes	
René Speer	Yes	
Sid Voorhees	Yes	
Bruce Webber	Yes	
Laurie Trieger	Abstain	

Meeting adjourned.

X _____
Bruce Webber, President

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