

Minutes
Washington County Fair Board
Wednesday, January 4, 2006

Convened: 4:30 pm

FAIR BOARD:

Chair Rich Vial
Vice Chair Herb Hirst
Board Member W. Rafe Flagg
Board Member Kathy Christy
Board Member Kathy Schmidlkofer
Board Member Ken Madden - Excused
Board Member Dan Logan

STAFF:

Don Hillman, Executive Director
Lisa DuPre, Marketing/Events Director
Leah Perkins, Fair Coordinator

Chair Vial called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., and welcomed the audience. Chair Vial reported that Board Members Christy and Schmidlkofer's term had expired. Chair Vial explained that in the past when a board member's term had expired and a successor had not yet been named, that the member retains full voting privileges until the successor is named. Chair Vial asked if the board had any objection to this. There were none.

Chair Vial called for audience time for people wishing to address to board on items not on the agenda. There were none.

Chair Vial called for audience time for people wishing to address to board on items on the agenda.

Irene Barnes – Stated that comments made at last month's board meeting created a lot of talk. She feels that the exhibitor portion of the fair should be handled by fair staff and out of the fair office. The staff is knowledgeable and experienced. However, the Boosters can and are willing to be helpful.

1. Consent Agenda

Chair Vial asked the board and the public if any items were requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion. There were none.

Motion by Board Member Hirst to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Board Member Flagg. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Special Reports

A. Airshow & Airport Report – Board Member Hirst reported that he has limited information regarding the upcoming Airshow. Airshow representatives went to the recent ICAS Convention and they initially thought a jet team would be available for the 2006 Airshow. Apparently no jet team was available, but they did line up other acts for the Airshow. Airshow representatives, Judy Wiley and Lila Ashenbrenner, indicated to Board Member Hirst that they had made a phone calls to someone to find out what events were on the Fair Complex calendar for July 14 through the 16th, but added that these dates might change if a jet team comes along by the end of January 2006.

Chair Vial asked Marketing Director DuPre', how long the Dog Show ran. DuPre' reported that it's contracted for seven days.

Board Member Christy asked if staff had received calls from Airshow members. Staff reported that they had not received any phone calls and they obviously didn't check the Fair Complex website since the Dog Show dates have been on the calendar since September.

Chair Vial asked Marketing Director DuPre' to describe what the facility looks like when the Dog Show is on the grounds. DuPre' explained that the Dog Show uses the majority of Fair Complex facilities except the Livestock area and is the highest paying client that the Fair Complex has at pays over \$28,000. Vial asked DuPre' if the proposed new facilities would work for the Dog Show in the future. DuPre' reported that the Dog Show is interested in signing a multi-year contract for the new facilities.

Board Member Christy asked Marketing Director DuPre' what the impact would be if the Airshow was held during the Dog Show. DuPre' reported that noise, traffic and parking were the concerns.

Chair Vial opened public time for those members of the audience who had signed up to speak on this subject.

Denise Luckins – Attorney representing the Dog Show – Explained to the board that the Dog Show does not have the flexibility to change it's dates. The club applies to the AKC 24 weeks in advance. Judge contracts have already been signed. Dogs with their handlers travel on a circuit. This dog show is very prestigious; people come from 34 states and Canada. The economic impact to the local area is significant for hotel rooms, restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, etc.

Chair Vial asked if local participation was large for people who don't travel on the circuit. Luckins reported that due to specialty breed shows, local participation is high. Vial explained that the board is very sympathetic and will do what they can to help.

Kathy Hamilton – Tualatin Kennel Club Treasurer & Specialty Breed Club Member – Provided a brochure from the AKC describing the economic impact that a dog show has on a community. AKC reports that for a 2-day show, \$344,000 is brought into the local economy. Ms Hamilton also indicated that it is too late to move the show dates. The dog

show books up all the local hotel rooms and they donate money to local charities such as purchasing bulletproof vests for local police dogs and providing scholarships to students.

Board Member Hirst stated that the Airshow Board and Fair Board are two different entities and any decision about dates will come from the Airshow; the Fair Complex Board does not have the ability to tell the Airshow what to do.

Board Member Flagg asked if it would be possible for the Dog Show people to speak to the Airshow Board. Board Member Hirst stated that unlike the Fair Complex Board, the Airshow Board is not required to allow the public to attend their board meetings.

Mr. Williams – AKC Dog Show Judge – Was contracted to be a judge for this dog show several months ago and as a result has turned down other judging jobs. Disappointed that airshow officials decided not to attend the Fair Complex Board meeting and that they claim that they didn't know about the dog show dates.

Chair Vial asked if he agreed that the Airshow is a conflict for the Dog Show. Williams reported that noise and traffic was a significant problem.

Thea Robinson – Understands that the Fair Complex Board does not have control over the Airshow, but the dog show will have to find a new facility and the Fair Complex will lose the money.

Board Member Flagg asked if the dates could squeeze down or be combined. Marketing Director DuPre' explained that the dog show schedule is dictated by AKC requirements to get 2000 dogs judged. DuPre' explained that this dog show has been held on these dates for over 20 years and the AKC regulates the circuit.

Denise Luckins – Asked Vice Chair Hirst if road closures would occur because of a sterile corridor. Hirst explained that it depends on the acts and that Cornell Road usually has some closures. Luckins stated that they appreciate the Fair Complex Boards' support.

Kathy Corbet – Portland Kennel Club Member – Explained that the reason the specialty breed clubs hold their show during this dog show is because of the entry draw. They already have over \$40,000 in signed contracts for their shows.

Debbie VanRoekle – Booster Member – Does not show dogs, but visited the show in July and was impressed with the enormity of the amount of cars and RV's that were covering the grounds, including the Rodeo grounds.

Dave Rohrer – Booster President – Does not believe that this dog show will work in the new facility; there won't be enough parking.

Board Member Schmidkofer thanked the Dog Show representatives for coming and speaking today.

Chair Vial asked them to understand that the Fair Complex Board will continue this conversation with the Airshow Board.

Board Member Christy stated that she was very disappointed that July Willey did not call the staff. This type of situation is what the board and staff have been dreading for years and knew it would come one day. Would like to encourage the Airshow Board to choose another date and asked that the Fair Complex Board do everything that they can to facilitate this.

Motion by Board Member Hirst for the Fair Board to support the Dog Show to use the Fair Complex on contracted dates without conflict from the Airshow and encourage the Airshow to find an alternative date for 2006 and a future permanent date. Second by Board Member Christy. Motion carried 6-0.

B. Fair Visioning Committee Report – Board Member Christy reported that the committee will be meeting again in two weeks and she will ask them to make their recommendations to the Fair Complex Board. Christy also mentioned that there was an article in the paper about the committee.

C. Boosters/Coalition Liaison Report – Board Member Schmidlkofer had nothing to add to the Boosters minutes included in the Board packet.

D. Treasurer Report – Board Member Flagg had no additional information other than what was included in the Board packet.

E. Operations Report – Executive Director Hillman reported that last month, the Fair Complex donated space in the Main Exhibit Hall for the Oregon Food Bank to hand out food baskets to the needy. Also reported the presence of high water levels under the Floral Building and that a sump pump was currently attempting to drain the water. To correct this situation in the future, staff will install a permanent automatic sump pump.

F. Other, if any – None

3. Old Business

A. Redevelopment Update – Chair Vial reported that development remains at a stand still due to the City's text amendment deferral. Continue to have discussions with the Port of Portland. They have identified property that they would like to acquire and trade for if funds are available. Also continuing conversations with the City of Hillsboro on the future lease of the Ball Fields. They indicated that by the middle of January they would have a proposal regarding how much property they will want and the terms for the exchanged.

B. Booster Competitive Exhibits MOU Recommendations – Staff - Executive Director Hillman stated that the staff recommendation remains the same. Hillman reported that in December, Board Members Madden and Christy and the staff met with Booster representatives.

Board Member Christy believes that the Boosters did what they said they were going to, but some unfortunate situations did arise.

Dave Rohrer – Read aloud a prepared statement from the Boosters.

Board Member Christy noted that staff has stated that they will coordinate volunteer opportunities with the Boosters and would welcome their involvement under staff direction.

Motion by Board Member Flagg to accept staff recommendations regarding the Booster Competitive Exhibits MOU. Second by Board Member Hirst. Motion carried 4-2. Board Members Schmidlkofer and Logan voted against the motion.

Board Member Schmidlkofer states that if the staff recommendation is accepted then it means that the Boosters did a bad job.

Board Member Logan asked who would be doing the job that the Boosters did. Executive Director Hillman reported that the staff would do it like they did before.

Chair Vial asked if there would be a financial impact. Executive Director Hillman reported only if they could not get the shavings and manure removal donated.

Schmidlkofer asked if the Clerks positions would cost more.

Board Member Logan asked the Boosters if they even wanted the Competitive Exhibits Program. Booster Chair Rohrer said it was on their agenda to discuss later that evening.

Judy Marsh – Stated that when staff was handling the Open Class Competitive Exhibits that the Milk Checks were wrong.

C. Booster Amphitheater MOU Recommendation – Chair Vial informed the Board that unless they are willing to eliminate the Tuality Healthcare Stage the Boosters no longer want to produce concerts in the Amphitheater.

Motion by Board Member Christy to accept staff recommendations that the Amphitheater continue to operate under special consideration with the Boosters, outside the Fair Complex budget and with food and beverage concessions to be managed by fair staff. Second by Board Member Hirst. Motion carried 6-0.

D. Other, if any – None

4. New Business

A. Proposed 2006/2007 Budget – Chair Vial asked if the proposed budget has been made public yet. Executive Director Hillman stated that not yet, but will after this meeting.

Motion by Board Member Hirst to instruct staff to make available to the public, the 2006/2007 proposed budget as generated on the January 4, 2006 document with an amendment to change the narrative to up the amount on the Fire Hydrant project. Second by Board Member Christy. Motion carried 6-0.

B. Executive Director Evaluation - Discussion – Chair Vial asked to defer the evaluation until new board appointments have been made.

Board Member Flagg asked if it would be better to have the current board do the evaluation since it's for the last 12 months.

Board Member Hirst noted that the evaluation clearly states that it is for the past year performance ending December 31, 2005.

C. Other, if any – None

5. **Announcements** – None other than what was in the packet.

6. **Correspondence** - None other than what was in the packet.

7. **Board Oral Communications** - None.

8. **Other Matters of Information** -

A. **Newspaper Articles, if any**

B. **Website Activity**

C. **Other, if Any**

At 6:10 pm, and with no further business before the Board, Chair Vial asked for a motion to recess the regular meeting and to move into Executive Session.

Motion by Board Member Christy to recess and move in to Executive Session for the purpose of conducting the Executive Director's annual evaluation. Second by Board Member Flagg. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Board Member Hirst to adjourn the Executive Session and move back in to regular session. Second by Board Member Flagg. Motion carried 6-0.

Chair Vial indicated that no action was taken by the Board during Executive Session and with no further business before the Board, Chair Vial adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.

Motion by Board Member Christy to Adjourn. Second by Board Member Hirst. Motion carried 6-0.

Don G. Hillman
Recording Secretary

Rich Vial
Board Chair