

Minutes
Washington County Fair Board
Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Convened: 4:30 pm

FAIR BOARD:

Chairman Rich Vial
Vice Chairman Herb Hirst
Board Member W. Rafe Flagg
Board Member Kathy Christy
Board Member Ken Madden
Board Member Dan Logan
Board Member Mike Steward

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 opened Public Oral Communication time for comments not on the regular agenda.

Merle Eakin – Stated that he is shocked at how the board meetings are run; it's like a courtroom. The meetings need to be run in a friendlier manner. The airport is the biggest neighbor; the fair board member that was kicked off the Air Show Board should be reprimanded for a job not well done. Upset that one board member made a motion for all board members to wear t-shirts during the County Fair was voted down. Called other county fairs and their board members are proud to be board members, not ashamed like ours. The Boosters have had five clean-up days and the only board members that showed up were Board Members Logan and Steward and former Board Member Kathy Schmidkofer. The rest of the Board Members and the Fair Manager should have been helping.

Judy Marsh – Unhappy that there is no monthly update about the development plan on the Fair Complex website. Reported that she attended the County Budget Hearings and had submitted a list of questions that were never answered. Stated that the Implement Dealers have not been told that they could or could not be at the fair and if they are not allowed to display at the fair, they won't participate at all and the youth auction will lose 50% of its sales. Don Hillman and his staff have ruined the fair. FFA needs to have the dealers on-site in order to have their tractor driving competition.

Kathy Noraski – Asked questions at the County Budget meeting. Have not received any answers yet.

Jim Clymore – Heard rumors that the people that donated shavings for the fair last year have not been contacted and wants to know what bedding will be used at the fair for livestock. Executive Director Hillman reported that shavings had been secured.

Sue Willhoite – Heard rumors that staff will be blocking off access to the wash rack, how will this work.

1. **Consent Agenda**

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 a letter has been drafted (handout) and is needs to be approved. Reported that his position as liaison to the Fair Board will continue at the request of the Airshow Board and will also continue as head of Airshow Security.

Chair Vial stated that unless there is an objection, he would execute the letter on Friday.

B. Fair Visioning Committee Report – Deferred.

C. Boosters/Coalition Liaison Report – Board Member Logan reported that the Boosters minutes are in the packet. There have been five weekend work parties and they are not quite done yet. A large work party of Windermere employees will be doing some volunteer work on June 16th.

Motion by Board Member Logan to spend no more than \$250 on the meal for volunteers in connection with the project scheduled for June 16th. Second by Board Member Madden. Motion carried 6-0.

Board Member Steward encouraged the entire board to attend the work parties and thanked the Boosters and non-Boosters for their help.

Board Member Hirst explained why he would not be able to attend the work parties.

Chair Vial noted that not everyone will be able to help for whatever reason, thanked those who have, but noted that helping in this manner is not a way to measure a Board Member's commitment.

D. Treasurer Report – Board Member Flagg reported that the financials are included in the Board packet. Cash balance looks good. BiMart payments have been collected except for interest.

E. Operations Report – Executive Director Hillman referred to the Board packet, and noted that the Board of Commissioners approved the Fair Complex budget supplement on Tuesday of this week.

Contractors have already begun working on the Main Exhibit Hall modifications. The Fire Alarm contract is under permit review and should be done by June 30th.

Moving forward with the Livestock Restroom upgrades and should also be done by the end of the fiscal year.

Reported that the lost income from the Dog Show may be made up with the addition of a new event.

Board Member Logan asked about the Implement Dealers, wondering what the policy will be. Hillman reported that he would be confirming with them on available space by the end of June.

Board Member Steward stated that he would like to hear the maintenance report from the maintenance staff and would like to be involved in the decisions on those matter. Executive Director Hillman stated that the maintenance staff reports to him, that the day-to-day activities are his responsibility, and to have additional staff at Board meeting would require them to be held over and paid overtime.

Board Member Flagg made reference to the comment made about 50% of the auction items were procured by the implement dealers and would like to see the auction list.

F. Other, if any – None

3. Old Business

A. Redevelopment Update – Chair Vial stated that there is nothing to report at this time, staff is continuing to meeting with entities such as Tri-Met and the City of Hillsboro. The next thing that will happen is getting on the schedule of the City Planning Commission.

B. Organization of the Board Policy Resolution – Executive Director Hillman provided a copy of what was deleted and a clean copy with the recommended adjustments.

Chair Vial voiced concerns that the policy does not deal with the issue of not meeting in August. Discussion ensued among Board Members.

Board Member Christy joined meeting in progress at 5:10 p.m.

Chair Vial asked staff to take another look at this policy and any other related policies and distribute via e-mail to board members.

Board Member Hirst excused at 5:17 p.m.

C. County Fair Summit – Chair Vial suggested that Board Members Christy and Steward form an ad hoc committee and work with staff to generate a proposal on who would be invited and the objectives of the Summit.

D. Other, if any – None

4. New Business.

A. Booster's Phase 1 Implementation Plan – Executive Director Hillman reported that the original contract had been modified. Lyle Spiesschaert reported that Tom Black and a lot of other people have been working really hard. The painting is mostly done. They are working with staff on the addendums, such as the doors. Suggested that staff look at the gutters after the summer.

Windermere will be volunteering on June 16th and the Cloverleaf Gate will be deconstructed. A water feature is being started.

Chair Vial deferred to staff the ability to coordinate the volunteers and issues as necessary.

Board Member Logan stated that the Blue Ribbon Award would be perfect for Tom Black, Booster Member.

Chair Vial asked for volunteers to form an ad hoc Blue Ribbon Award Committee. Board Members Steward, Logan and Flagg volunteered.

B. Board Meeting Dates Policy Resolution – Discussion occurred under Old Business

C. Rodeo Update – Executive Director Hillman reported that John Growney could not make it tonight, but asked that if a Board Member needed to call him, he would be happy to answer any questions.

Hillman also reported that after last year's experience with cowboys not showing up, securing sponsors have been difficult. Hillman gave a brief history of when the rodeo was NPRA and switched to PRCA, also talked about the rodeo results when our rodeo dates did not overlap with the Chief Joseph Days in 2004.

Hillman also reported that John Growney suggests that we switch to an NPRA rodeo, like Deschutes, Tillamook and Columbia Counties have. Hillman also suggested that if we do not want to switch to NPRA, that US Smokeless Tobacco would be a sponsor to subsidize a PRCA rodeo, but further stated that there is already a policy in place against accepting sponsorship money from tobacco companies.

Terry Amato explained to the Board that he has been in the event business for 27 years and with that experience, he has seen certain trends, tastes, and passions change. PRCA Rodeos are not currently enjoying the high popularity with the advent of the PBR Bull Riders Circuit. Amato reported that rodeo sponsors are much different than the average sponsor and last year's rodeo product did not impress them.

On another note, Amato reported that last years sponsorships dollars were at a record high and this year's Fair portion will exceed those of last year.

Board Member Flagg asked if he would have to re-negotiate with the rodeo sponsors that were already onboard. Amato reported that he would. Flagg also voiced his concern that he feels distrustful of John Growney as the producer of this rodeo.

Chair Vial asked if there are other contractors that could produce the rodeo. Hillman reported that there are.

Board Member Steward stated that John Growney influences rodeo and without his stock, he is concerned that the rodeo will go down further.

Flagg asked if we should consider shortening rodeo and putting other styles of events or activities such as motor sports in the arena.

Hillman reported that there are motor sport options.

Amato explained that for this year, fair sponsors have been signed up with having a rodeo for two nights.

Board Member Christy reported that she has researched this topic and there is not that much of a difference in the two sanctions.

Chair Vial noted that his impression is that NPRA will draw more local cowboys, the ones that are not part of PRCA.

Board Member Steward indicated that he would like to see more statistics, but thinks that NPRA, with its more community style flavor, is better suited for us.

Chair Vial asked about the rodeo volunteers. Hillman reported that they are aware of the possible changes.

Board Member Madden asked about sponsors, how many are there signed up. Terry Amato reported that there are seven so far with four pending, but if we accept the tobacco sponsorship, it would make up for the lack of sponsor dollars. Discussion ensued regarding tobacco sponsorships.

Motion by Board Member Flagg to authorize staff to negotiate an NPRA sanctioned rodeo contract. Staff will be given authority to make decisions as needed and as reflected by this discussion. Second by Board Member Christy. Motion carried 4-2. Board Member Steward abstained; Board Member Madden abstained due to the fact that he is a rodeo sponsor.

Motion by Board Member Flagg to authorize Terry Amato to engage in conversations that may lead to tobacco sponsorship at this year's rodeo. No Second, motion died.

D. Other, if any –Board Member Christy reported that long-time fair supporter and former Board Member, Jeannie Leason, has passed away. Asked for a Committee to help find a way to remember her.

Chair Vial appointed Board Member Christy to work with staff of this item.

Board Member Logan reported that he had e-mailed a county fair/Airshow combo in St. Louis. Will forward the e-mail to Board Members and asked permission to investigate this matter further. Chair Vial encouraged Logan to proceed.

5. **Announcements** – None.
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**
9. **Oral Communications – Second Session -**

Kathy Schmidlkofer - Reported that the new 4-H Extension Agent is in the audience and asked that she be allowed to introduce herself.

Terry Palmer, OSU Extension Agent – Reported that she has been on the job for a couple of weeks. Asked what the Board would like to see. Chair Vial explained if she has something to communicate, to take it to the staff or the Board.

Sue Willhoite – Asked how the public could find out about the Fair Complex Calendar of Events. Asked what the maintenance staff does, in that while they have been working at the Boosters work parties, they did not see them doing anything. Executive Director Hillman explained what the maintenance staff does. Willhoite also reported that during the Airshow, the Blue Angels fly over her barns and they do not bother her cattle at all.

Merle Eakin – Asked what is needed for sponsorship for the rodeo. Executive Director Hillman reported that \$48,000 is needed for PRCA and 28,000 for an NPRA rodeo. Eakin thanked Board Member Madden for supporting the rodeo as a sponsor.

With no further business before the Board, Chair Vial adjourned the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Motion by Board Member Christy to adjourn. Second by Board Member Flagg. Motion carried 6-0.

Don G. Hillman
Recording Secretary

Rich Vial
Board Chair