

FAIR BOARD MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 6, 1995

FAIR BOARD

John Thomas
George Otten
David Lintz
Linda Gray
Ken Leahy

STAFF

Cal Wade
Earl Bemis
Sue Oxendine

GUESTS

Bonnie Hays
Eric Apalategui
Dave Russell
Fred Boyles

CONSENT AGENDA

The latest report showing year-to-date expenses was passed out to the board. Wade explained that \$200,000 needs to be kept in reserve for cash fluctuations. He submitted pages detailing the Fair Complex's cash position.

MOTION: MOVED BY DAVID LINTZ, SECONDED BY GEORGE OTTEN, TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RODEO BOARD

The rodeo was a big success both in terms of the performances and the VIP seating area. Very few complaints were heard regarding the extra charge for the grandstand seating. The grandstand sold out Saturday night, was probably 98% full Friday, and 80% full on Thursday and Sunday.

\$75,000 was paid out for prizes. The cowboys commented that this was one of the best rodeos on the circuit. The arena maintenance was great according to the judge's report.

Plans are underway for 1996. The rodeo committee would like to move the VIP tent adjacent to the rodeo office and serve soft drinks and food to the cowboys. Additional bull pens are needed and Boyles mentioned adding on to the existing pens approximately 900 feet. A subcontractor may have to be brought in with additional stock due to the increasing number of quality cowboys the rodeo is drawing. Cancelling the wild horse race is also under consideration. The committee might be able to salvage old lumber from a barn to re-side the rodeo office.

John Thomas asked Boyles if projects could be worked on this fall instead of waiting until spring. Boyles said yes it would be possible and he is trying to have pipe for fencing donated to get started on the new pens.

Otten said Boyles and his crew deserve a round of thanks for a great show.

BOOSTERS

The boosters have not met since fair. The food booth was a success. By Friday night all expenses were paid so that Saturday and Sunday were pure profit days. There were a lot of problems with the ice machines.

The boosters had enough help during the fair. The events throughout the year are a major problem to get the help needed to adequately staff the concession.

Fair board members gave the boosters a big thank you for their assistance and efforts.

MARKETING

Patti Lamborn is back part-time. The weekend of September 2 & 3 there were three major events. Upcoming events include the Hardy Plant Sale, car swap, DJ's Motorcycle Swap Meet, and the Gem & Mineral Show.

MAINTENANCE

Earl Bemis reported the team mainly focused on fair clean-up in August. Current projects include 50 additional small animal livestock panels manufactured by Earl Bisbee, vehicle maintenance by Jordan and Bisbee, and landscaping, grounds recovery, and mowing by the Green Thumb worker and Mike Wold. In addition, Wold has been readying the barns for boat/RV storage. The west horse barn will be converted this year to storage. As mentioned earlier, interim events are picking up and Albert Flanagan and Jerry Wood have been very busy readying the various facilities. Bemis reported that he has been updating information on the ME, doing miscellaneous painting projects, and waterlines.

Bemis will have a report at the October meeting on the specifics of the ME building. He has received a fax from the engineers who want to stand on their previous report. They suggested getting cost analysis from various contractors. Van Domlen, the engineers, will not come up with costs. Lintz offered to contact M. Stearns who is a contractor recommended by Van Domlen.

Wade stated the maintenance team had not had a day off between July 4 and after the fair. They need to be commended for their cool heads, great attitudes, and working long hours without a complaint.

BONNIE HAYS

Hays thanked everyone for a great fair and rodeo. The special legislative session in Salem concluded with promises that the Fair Complex would not be on the trading block. The governor's office has also pledged protection for the five special projects as outlined in an earlier meeting by Hays.

Hays has met with Rep. Tom Brian and the Washington County caucus to affirm with the leadership what the scope of the January session will be.

She has also had a conversation with Howard Slusher of NIKE who will be making a presentation to Phil Knight. Hays said she has asked for two things: 1) direct cash contribution and 2) a consideration to be the location of "NIKE Land", a family amusement center.

Hays has a list of thirty-three foundations and trust funds who donate funds. She has submitted three proposals so far. The Childes Foundation is the only one who has responded back and they are holding to their present commitments.

The lottery income is behind in projections to-date. This would be the funding source for the five special projects of which the Fair Complex is one. Brian told Hays that more money is being made but less than projected.

HAPPY DAYS

Due to the new grass in the carnival area, the Happy Days carnival was moved to the Friendship Plaza and interior. The event seemed to go well although Wade has not had a chance to discuss it with Ron Burback who was the promoter. The event has turned into more of an Hispanic celebration of the 4th of July.

Burback did share with Wade that he believes 10% of attendance was lost due to lack of exposure from Cornell Rd. The Mexican Rodeo was a failure. Burback could not find a producer for the event. He battled the contractor and damage was done to the arena.

Approximately \$10,000 was earned by the Fair Complex from Happy Days.

AIR SHOW

Parking revenue is down from the previous year. The staff had a recap and talked about the traffic problems. One of the problems is due to the people wanting to leave prior to the Blue Angels finishing their act. The road is closed until the planes have landed and the people get stuck in the parking lot. The lots do empty quickly once the roadways are cleared. Once Brookwood is completed the traffic will be lessened and exiting should be very easy.

Lintz suggested getting a traffic engineer to study the disbursement of autos from the parking lot. This will help in the traffic impact studies when the amphitheater is enlarged. Leahy estimated \$3,000 to study the issue.

COUNTY FAIR

Oxendine reported the fair was a success in most of the new areas. The Showcase of Horses was very well received, both by spectators and participants. Those wanting to take part in it next year have already been contacting Lucille Robbie and Punky Benson. The rented portable box stalls were a definite asset to the show and to the 4-H Horse Fair. Linda Gray added that the stalls decreased the number of problems associated with stalling horses in limited space. Both Gray and Oxendine commented on the amount of work required to set-up and take down the stalls. Gray has heard rumors that the horse fair will be taken to Yamhill County. She is meeting with the Horse Advisory Board on Tuesday, Sept. 12 and will find out more information there. She asked that another fair board member attend with her. George Otten will go.

The dog show on Saturday was especially popular. A local animal training school put on the demonstrations much to the delight of the crowd.

Favorable comments were heard from the public and visiting fair managers regarding the Market Place. It was moved to the old arts & crafts location for better exposure. Vendors have already indicated an interest in returning.

Arts & Crafts was in the armory. The only complaint was the distance, especially on Senior Day.

Oxendine gave Colleen McNally credit for keeping the office running smoothly during the fair. McNally is the primary person in the office and handles crisis, problems, and day-to-day questions with courtesy, promptness, efficiency, and with a great sense of humor.

Attendance was about the same as 1995. Paid attendance was up but gross income down. The amphitheater was a disappointment because the expected attendance for the cost of the artists was not there.

Wade said the board and staff will have to take a new look at how the artists are booked. High priced artists do not pencil out because no one can predict who will draw in Washington County. There are too many competing events plus different activities going on in the Portland Metro area.

Lintz asked if it would be possible to get a private promoter to take the risk on the big names. He suggested getting three promoters to give the fair bids. Wade said this was being done in Deschutes County but in that geographical area the fair is often the only thing going on for entertainment.

If the amphitheater was enlarged bigger name acts could be booked and Wade feels that they would be a draw. A larger amphitheater would also be better for interim events and also would work well for those artists who only will do one show. This is becoming more and more of a problem in booking the entertainment.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

A priority for spending on capital improvements should be made after the fair board has a chance to study the revised budget as presented by Wade. Work on the ME is committed and the 34th Street parking lot upgrade is needed.

Lintz suggested additional seating in the carnival area. Oxendine agreed and said additional benches are needed everywhere.

The board was asked to be prepared to discuss the budget and capital improvements for the next meeting.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

The annual appreciation night will be October 4 following the fair board meeting. The fair board meeting will start a half hour earlier to accommodate the dessert.

Individual awards are to be presented to Bonnie Hays and others who the staff would like to honor. The 4-H Rabbit Superintendents were mentioned.

MOTION: MOVED TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION BY DAVE LINTZ, SECONDED BY GEORGE OTTEN. MOVED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PER ORS 192.610 - 192.690.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was held to discuss rodeo personnel. Wade requested the board take some form of action to deal with certain issues regarding the fair staff and the rodeo committee. Leahy and Thomas will attend the September 11 rodeo board meeting.

Moved from Executive Session back into regular session. Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Oxendine
Secretary