



Southwest Washington Fair Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2017

I. Call to order

Interim Chair Tom Larson called to order the regular meeting of the Southwest Washington Fair Advisory Commission at 6:00 PM on October 3, 2017 in the Historical Building.

II. Roll call

The following Commission members were present: Linda Tomasheck, Kendra Meek, George Dodd, Sybil Kuhn, CJ Neer, and Tom Larson.

Commission Members Absent: Todd Mason

Others Present: Tamara Hayes, Steve Walton, Patrick Slusher, and Doug Carey.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Linda Tomasheck made a motion to approve September minutes after suggested changes have been made, **Motion Passed.**

IV. Public Comment

V. Announcements

- a) Fair Association Meeting: 10/10/17
- b) Country Chicks, 10/6/17 – 10/7/17
- c.) WA State Fair Convention – 10/19/17 - 10/21/17
- d.) Community Garage Sale – 10/28/17 - FAC booth/ table at sale?
- e.) New Commission members – CJ Neer, Sybil Kuhn, George Dodd



VI. Business Items

a.) Entertainment Committee Update:

- a. Texas State Fair – Tom will be looking into a group there.
- b. 4-5 Shows with 10-12 performances: Pirate Show, Clowns, Banana Derby, Reptile Show, Edgewater Trio.
- c. Other acts to consider: Beach Boy Tribute, Rail, Pearl Jam Tribute, John Davidson, Fourth & Main, Wilson Fairchild, Kreskin, Amy Clawson, Jackie Lee, Pam Tillis, Darci Carlson. (Country acts to be on Fri & Sat of Fair)
- d. Hunter Hayes – Romeo Entertainment Finances it, we do not fund it.
- e. Tents by Saloon stage to increase show attendance, \$3K quote – Peaked top style tents so no visual impairments.
- f. Bodybuilding show – Dale Pullin, Sanctioned event \$1200 fee (Fair would have to pay some of this fee), held on South Stage in the past.
- g. Mitch Townsend – Bigfoot investigator show, hold in Expo Hall to increase foot traffic.

b.) Interim Events Update:

- a. 80+ Events this year, estimated 85K attendance, 20K attendance to fairgrounds events(Garage Sales, Garlic Fest, etc.)
- b. 2017 Rental fees raised by 10%, these fees had not been raised for 9 years, would like to raise fees another 2-3% for 2018.
- c. Events paying for refuse removal, staff labor & service fees, etc.
- d. Goal is to have interim events pay for upkeep of Fairgrounds.



- e. Too soon for increase in rental rates? Every other year raise fees to keep client base stable.
- f. Option to lock clients into lower rates, incentive to sign contracts early.
- g. Motion to recommend to the BOCC that existing Interim clients be locked into 2017 pricing for 2018, But new 2018 clients pay higher 2018 fee. Motion Passed
- h.) Community Events Building not being used as much as it could.
- i.) New Fairgrounds website will be launched soon.
- j.) Post Rental Rates all over Fairgrounds. Restrooms, buildings, etc.
- k.) No Free Events! With the exception of Kindergarten Dairy Days, Next Level Hog Camp, & Safety City (No Safety City for 2017) these are “In Kind Events.”

VII. Manager’s Report

- a.) Long term planning to bring in revenue – 5 yr strategic plan?
- b.) Working with other organizations to get things built on the grounds.
- c.) Public Facilities District relationship?
- d.) How to get ourselves out there in the community.
- e.) Thinking outside of the box – No event center.
- f.) Multi-use facility, for example Grays Harbor has multi use facility with indoor horse arena, but can be used for many different things.
- g.) Option to bring Facility staff in to get projects done quicker on grounds.
- h.) Sponsor for a new Grandstand sound system.
- i.) New Garlic Fest website as well.
- j.) No one to take on the Garlic Fest, Uncle Jims Smokehouse is interested.



- k.) 50% of Garlic vendors not interested in moving the date.
- l.) Financially the GF did great, possibly reinvest money into marketing.
- m.) Sponsorship packages, list of potential sponsors, how we can be more proactive in obtaining sponsors.
- n.) Goal of 60K-100K in sponsorships
- o.) 2017 Fair premium checks printed & mailed
- p.) 1045 exhibitors total
- q.) Raised premiums \$00.15 a point.

VIII. Facility Report

- a.) Leak detection service in partnership with City of Centralia
- b.) PUD Project “archaeological dig” new service feed from other side of street making the new primary feeds easier to replace in the long run.
- c.) 30% higher sewer rate from City of Centralia because outside of city limits.
- d.) JJ Sauter trucking quote on sawdust & manure removal
- e.) Small projects, leaks around grounds, let the Fair or Facility staff know.
- f.) Beginning of shutting down water lines that aren’t in use during the cold months.
- g.) 4-H Building roof next to be replaced.
- h.) Paving of Swine Barn needs to be done as well.
- i.) Health & Safety Grant for 2018, TransAlta, Etc.

Interim Chair Tom Larson adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM

Minutes submitted by: Aimee Cook



Minutes approved by: [Name]