



## *Southwest Washington Fair Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes*

September 5, 2018

### **I. Call to order**

Tom Larson called to order the regular meeting of the Southwest Washington Fair Advisory Commission at 5:02 PM on September 5, 2018 in the Historical Building.

### **II. Roll call**

The following Commission members were present: Linda Tomasheck, George Dodd, Tom Larson, Sybil Kuhn, Kendra Meek, Todd Mason.

Others Present: Kelly Sneed, Doug Carey, Steve Walton, Tamara Hayes, and Isaac Freeman.

### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

The July minutes are approved as written by first motion Linda Tomasheck second by George Dodd. Motion Passed.

### **IV. Public Comment**

No public in attendance.

### **V. Announcements**

- a) Fair Association Meeting September 11, 2018 6PM, Historical Building.
- b) Rodeo Committee Meeting September 20, 5:30PM, Historical Building.

### **VI. Business Items**

#### **a.) Post Fair & Garlic Fest Chat – Good, Bad, Lessons Learned & 2019 Fair**

- a. Garlic Fest went well
  - i. Friday load in was a bit rough, but there were only a few “loud” people out of the 78 vendors.
  - ii. George asked what the main complaints were:
    - 1. People were complaining about the new layout (we completely changed it from previous years)
    - 2. The name was new this year – Washington State Garlic Fest instead of Chehalis Garlic Fest & Craft Show

# **SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON FAIRGROUNDS**

YEAR-ROUND EVENT AND FACILITY RENTALS



- b. Pat would like people to start participating in the Fair with the mindset as ‘You are the Fair’. No ½ commitments.
- c. Attendance was up this year for the Fair 6,000
- d. Kendra said she saw people come this year and stay versus coming and going like previous years.
- e. The rodeo had 1900 seats sold (this includes comp tickets)
  - i. Things to think about for next year’s rodeo:
    - 1. Grandstands not staffed well enough
    - 2. Should have had volunteer ushers
    - 3. Linda only heard 1 negative comment about the rodeo – the ground was not prepared well enough – the horses kept slipping during the barrel races
    - 4. Maybe next year try something else besides barrel racing like team roping
    - 5. Better communication throughout the day – maybe use the sound system throughout the grounds to let people know what’s going on during the day
- f. Some highlights about the Fair:
  - i. The rodeo was well received
  - ii. Great marketing this year
  - iii. The tents for the entertainment was a huge hit
    - 1. We received a lot of thank-you letters for them
    - 2. People will stay if they’re comfortable – and it was proven with the tents
  - iv. We took a step forward as far as the quality of entertainment
  - v. Edgewater Trio got a good attendance
  - vi. It was more active at the Saloon Stage & the South Stage with music playing there at all times

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- vii. There was more traffic in the Expo Hall this year.
- viii. Hobbies & Crafts was moved into the Expo Hall this year and it worked well
- ix. Judging information is almost done
- x. Financial information is almost done and premium checks are close to being ready to be printed and mailed
- g. Some things to think about for 2019 Fair:
  - i. The South Stage could use some lights – maybe string lights or tree lights?
  - ii. Put a fan in the Expo Hall to help improve the air quality – it gets stagnant in there during the summer.
    - 1. Does the county have fans we can use during Fair week?
    - 2. Per Doug – there are fans mounted up in the Expo Hall, we'll have to see if we can turn them on
- h. Complaints about the Fair this year:
  - i. Art and Hobbies & Crafts entries were down this year because of the online entry requirements
  - ii. Floral ran into some issues getting their flowers in as well
  - iii. There were some complaints about vendors & credit cards
    - 1. We need more proof – we don't require them (vendors) to take/accept credit cards or use specific systems.
  - iv. Food prices seemed high this year – had a few complaints. Prices are equivalent to the Puyallup Fair
    - 1. Some people were leaving to have lunch elsewhere and coming back to enjoy the Fair
    - 2. Possible Family Day reduced cost food item to help lower the food prices? Maybe food vendors would participate
  - v. It was a rough start to the Fair this year – it was too hot and too smoky



- vi. The carnival was expensive if you didn't buy a wristband
- i. Miscellaneous Topics we discussed:
  - i. Were expectations met?
    - 1. Yes
    - 2. There were a lot of positives – they outweighed the negatives
    - 3. The Fair was pleasant to walk through this year
    - 4. We heard less 'You didn't have good entertainment'
    - 5. We did a lot of Facebook giveaways this year, which the Public responds really well to
  - ii. Entertainment Committee will begin meeting again soon – 4 o'clock meetings. Dates to be announced.
  - iii. The December meeting might be cancelled. This is to be discussed at the next meeting.

## **VII. Adjournment:**

George Dodd motioned to adjourn the meeting, Linda Tomasheck seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Minutes submitted by: Kelly Sneed

Minutes approved by: [Name]