

SAN JUAN COUNTY FAIR BOARD
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2023

Opening: Meeting called to order at 9:02am

Approval of the agenda– approved with no objections.

October Meeting Minutes: Approved

Public Comment: Terri Brown spoke during Public Comment to share about the establishment of a Dog Club in the community and beginning an Open Class dog section of the Fair. The Dog Club will start working on monthly meeting at the Fairgrounds for event preparation and training. For the needed space for agility, carnival trucks that are used for transport and not logistically during the week might need to be asked to be moved off property.

No Council Liaison Message, Councilmember Minney was at the Weed Control Board

4-H Director Meeting: Cat club has doubled in participants and leaders for this year. Enrollment in 4-H programs is strong and healthy, ahead of 2022 at this time last year. Baking has met capacity and Country Critters is nearing capacity. 4-H will start a new Sailing program this year with leaders having signed up to lead the effort.

NEW BUSINESS

Thursday through Sunday Fair Schedule Discussion – Brandon and Jennifer will be going to Lopez to meet with 4-H families to talk about this potential change. At the WSFA conference, Skagit shared that they are moving from Wednesday thru Saturday to a Thursday thru Sunday schedule. The Paradise Carnival has informed us that we will need to make the same change in days to have the carnival come due to travel and mandatory days off. Discussion continued around livestock scheduling difficulties and what the mitigations will need to be. Fair Board has asked for staff to explore other carnival availability during our dates (West Coast Amusements, BC; Rainier Amusements; Davis Amusements).

Fair Convention Recap – 4-H early entry dates around the state; look at certain departments (baking, food preservation) using stickers instead of ribbons; fair contest results, fair entry.

Shane/Carlene – The Carlene position is sitting in HR and waiting to be posted. Shane's position needs to go through the classification committee within the county and will be prolonged before it is sent out for advertisement.

Auction Tent – Needs to come down, jacks have been moved over to the site to assist in getting the tent down.

Jenn R History Ideas – Jennifer is working on researching Fair history to put together a Fair timeline associated with the Historic Cabin to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Fairgrounds.

Historical Museum / Community Stage Positioning – A letter was written by the Historical Museum, requesting the movement of the Community Stage from the area between the Cabin and the Legion Booth. They asked it to be moved due to planning increased programming at the Cabin with 2024 being 100 years of the Fairgrounds and the Cabin. The stage is frequently too loud for its proximity to the cabin to successfully conduct programming. They're requesting the movement of the stage, since the cabin is less mobile.

Brandon shared his strong preference to keep the stage in its current location and work with the Museum to block stage windows to accommodate Museum programming. Additionally, by moving the stage to the "triangle" and relocating the Ag Tent and Green Village to the community stage location, they'll see significantly less traffic and have a worse fair experience across about a dozen organizations.

The Fair Board discussed and were concerned about the appearance of a lack of traffic through the Green Village 2023 space that was in the center of the Fairgrounds and that it might be more appropriate to put a bigger draw in the prime real estate of the Fairgrounds. The Board voted on the matter and recommended in a 6-1-1 vote that the Community Stage move to the "triangle" and the Green Village and Ag Tent be relocated.

OLD BUSINESS

Events – Kiwanis is interested in moving the Pig War picnic to Fairgrounds.

2024 Ideas Discussion: History – Did you know? – In the 19** Fair, baby pigs were born at the Fair? etc.

Board Sub Committees Discussion / Possible Action

- Gift Bags – Jennifer
- Board Awards – Justin, Milene
- Ribbons – Lynette, Christy
- Super Box – Christy, Becky
- Judges – research for who gets paid and criteria - Milene

Adjourn at 10:35