

SAN JUAN COUNTY FAIR BOARD AGENDA

Parks and Fair Admin Conference Room

San Juan County Fairgrounds

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Call in (audio only) 1.360.726.3293

Phone Conference ID: 563286376#

CONVENE MEETING

9:07AM

Attendance: Christy Desermeaux, Becky Shanks, Jennifer Krembs, Milene Henley, Terri Brown, Angelica Hadeen, Josephine Bangs, Justin Platts, Brandon Andrews, Kevin Roth, Mike Scott, Gabrielle Conway.

Approval of Agenda: Approved

Approval of Minutes: February 2024, Becky approved. Justin seconded.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Rules: Comments may pertain to items on or off the agenda. Comments will be 2-3 minutes and at the discretion of the Board Chair. Comments will be heard but no response will be made at this time. Topics raised in Public Comments are not up for discussion. It is likely, however, that some concerns will be addressed within the regular Board meeting.

Kevin Roth inquired about water issue and asked if drilling well(s) was an option or if a well existed already onsite. Brandon asked to come back to the questions when the issue was addressed on the agenda (later in the meeting.)

Terri Brown gave an update on Dog 4H. They are currently fundraising for dog arena & building equipment with an Open Class Dog Show at the Fairgrounds on June 2nd. Meetings are held weekly with Open/4H every other week in the Jim Crook and membership is growing. Lumber is needed for an agility course. Kevin asked for specifics and offered to provide materials. 4-H members will build & paint as a project. They are currently researching size requirements.

COUNCIL LIAISON MESSAGE:

Christine Minney : scheduled vacation

4-H DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Jennifer Krembs: Currently working on Fair Entry integration. There are 143 4-H members. Also mentioned the June 2nd dog show. Cat club is also fundraising. In May Performing Arts will be renting the Marie Boe to put on a play. Current livestock count: 1 beef, 4-6 hogs, 8-12 goats. Spring weigh-ins times and dates are TBD. Perhaps weighing in on each island. No quorum for last meeting to make a final decision. There will be a horse show on Lopez 6/1 & 6/2 open for county.

NEW BUSINESS:

Disability Access at Fair:

Brandon shared YAAS groups letter regarding accessibility asks after last year's Fair:

Reserve specific vendor sites (117/120) for people with disabilities. Both sites reserved.

Released 10 days from Fair. Entrance fees for people with disabilities & their caretakers:

Expand definition of discounted tickets to include disabled. Some members of the board expressed concerns of abuse of Abuse concerns? Brandon will begin crafting a policy that details what is required to benefit using WA State general policy as a starting point along with what other fairs are implementing. Brandon's recommendations: sell and ask no further questions? Milene asked if there were ways to differentiate tickets to track sales? *ADA companions, no charge:* Align with WA State laws and incorporate into training. *Limited Parking:* 13 spaces are currently available including 3-4 wheelchair spaces. Can we recommend to that fundraising parking lot offer the front row of the lot to those with disability placards? In front of skatepark is where we have historically offered accessible parking, but it fills up fast and people often abuse it. Parking spaces must have placards. Ask the sheriff to come by and ticket folks who abuse. We will cone out and mark van spaces (9ft on each side/16 ft on one side). We offer golf cart pick-up for folks with limited mobility. Can we add chairs and/or benches and offer additional accessible parking under covered play shed at FHES? Then people could wait in the shade for golf carts. *Consider paving paths:* on the agenda! Should be done by 2025 Fair. Storm water & Grade- Fall, Chip Seal – Spring. YAAS offers disability training services. Brandon to explore the length of training and potential sign up for board, staff and volunteers.

Centennial Celebration Ideas:

Buttons have been given historically. Should we bring those back? Should the imagery/programming be focused on the cabin? We need to be clear that it is 100 years Fairgrounds, not of the Fair. Gray's Harbor Fairgrounds idea: historic photo banners in main building that would be put up every Fair. Historical museum and Andy Zall may be a resource. Becky would love to be involved in that. Jen Riggs may be another great option to help with this project. Terri thinks it is important that each building do something to celebrate 100 years. Examples: something with a 100 on it, cork board with newspaper clippings and photos, etc. Justin mentioned that we should prioritize documentation and archiving for future. Brandon shared that Chase Anderson will be back this year taking photos of very specific points of the fair for that purpose. A "100 Years of Fair" Trivia Night at the Community Stage was an idea. Additional ideas: old-fashioned kids games, photo booth with old-time clothes, High-Striker (Mike Adams made one, it's out there! Annie would know where it went), different photo boards by era, Silver dollars/\$.50 cent pieces as prizes for kids, needle in a haystack, fancy tickets.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fairgrounds Water Update:

Timeline: April & June 2023 Brandon brought this to the board. At that time there was no ask from the Town. September (9/18/23 – Brandon to provide link) meeting Brandon's presentation wasn't used. Town then asked the County to cease allowing water hauling/vacation rentals, but we have a broader county to think about along with Statewide mandates. County offered to provide a list of county residents using town water and have vacation rental permits. County was denied. We believe we have been operating within customer class and only moved existing fixtures rather than creating new ones. Camping changes were submitted 2010 for review from the Town with no response. November 2023 received shut off notice. Appealed with 156 pages of historical documentation to show our side regarding multi-use/wide scope of programming and that there has always been

year-round use of water at the fairgrounds. Personal relationships have made the conversation tense. The Town denied appeal. The options given were to drill a well, annex fairgrounds to town, only use water at Fair/for the month of August, ask permission to maintain our current water usage. The County was told if they asked for permission, they would forfeit the right to appeal. In early March the County distributed a press release about the programming that would cease if the water was shut off because WAC requires public building to have toilets and water. Town asserts that programming won't change. Thursday (3/21) there will be a Town Council meeting that will likely determine whether the County will have to move forward with lawsuit. Also, Holly Walk meeting so it will be a long day with a lot of public comment. Town is also using transfer station lease as leverage for turning off water at fairgrounds. A decision will be made by next meeting. Please note that the Board is not required to engage in the public. Brandon has requested that the Board not engage without verified information. County has been asked not to argue this over social media.

Board Positions: Openings advertised across all islands. Two submissions have been received for re-consideration (Kevin Roth & Lynette Cabrera). Still have open positions. April meeting to go over all applications.

2024 Theme Artwork:

3 submissions were reviewed and the submission from Eliza Habegger was chosen by the board. Edits that need to be made:

- SJC Fair top left corner
- Title darker (no yellow)
- Theme in field
- Date & website at the bottom

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

April meeting 4/12 @ 9AM

ADJOURN: Milene moved to adjourn, Becky seconded. 11:00AM