

SAN JUAN COUNTY FAIR BOARD MINUTES

Parks and Fair Admin Conference Room

San Juan County Fairgrounds

Friday, May 10, 2024

Call in (audio only) 1.360.726.3293

Phone Conference ID: 806809619#

CONVENE MEETING

9:00AM

Attendance: Josephine Bangs, Brandon Andrews, Terri Brown, Leslie Neal, Becky Shanks, Barbara Bevens, Milene Henley, Amanda Smith & Justin Platts

Approval of Agenda: Approved

Approval of Minutes: April 2024, Justin motioned to approve, seconded by Josephine, approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COUNCIL LIAISON MESSAGE: Christine Minney (not in attendance)

NEW BUSINESS:

Staff Updates:

- Nolan Fike joined the team as Fairground Manager with architecture and electrical background. Warm, team player and a great addition to the team.
- Mike Scott accepted a job in Tacoma and has moved on.
- Full-time seasonal position is open, looking to hire immediately.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Barbara suggested that the Board look for folks in their circle who may be willing to volunteer at the Fairgrounds. Terri mentioned that a new class of Master Gardeners will need volunteer hours. Leslie offered to make the connection and CC Brandon on all correspondence.
- Making a list of things that need to be accomplished would be helpful.

Sponsorship Packets:

- The updated sponsorship packet was handed out for review.
- Giving levels are more defined and targets reflect a limited availability to peak interest/suggest scarcity.
- Brandon's hope is that greater Fair participation from other islands will allow off-island sponsorship to grow.
- Sponsorship possibilities/suggestions include: Sunset Builders, Brown Bear Bakery, Outlook Inn, Rosario, Roche Harbor, Browne's (new ownership), PeaceHealth, Amaro Farms, Chamber of Commerce, Realtors, Insurance agencies, new restaurants?
- Banners on the arena fence? Outside of the arena/well attached?
- Costs are up, every sponsorship matters.

Grounds Layout:

- Dog Arena (60x80 footprint) will be added in RV Field/split with Carnival. Cats in Marie Boe or in Dog Tent? Brandon will defer to 4-H for a decision.
- Store hay/shavings in exterior stalls of cattle barn.
- Community Stage: 20x20 tent for stage, 20x40 tent for audience in triangle. Beer garden also gets shade tent.
- Zucchini 500 to be fully contained in Skate Park with 2-10x20 tents. Long-term home. Movies will go on Community Stage in the evening. (make sure permits are there for films that aren't hers).
- Trash to Treasures to the Argyle Awning. How do we draw people over there during the day.
- Lining road with historic farm equipment (Craig Starr). Perhaps staging can be found closer to the cabin?
- Family Games in lawn where Boy Scout cabin was.
- Talked about whether to move Alchemy Art tent down there as well or moving them closer to the Junior Arts & Crafts? They aren't wanting to move to lawn. Need to find out the footprint of their tent to make a decision.
- Sunday PM schedule: Trashion Fashion will be at 4pm Sunday to help get people to stay at the fair longer. Then 5pm Zucchini 500, dinner time, Latin music focus in the evening. Francie not thrilled but will try it.
- Brandon is currently working on finalizing the Mainstage entertainment schedule and then will begin to work on Community Stage schedule
- Brandon working with WSF to add a boat in between the current offerings at 5:30pm & 10pm. An option may exist to add a stop in Friday Harbor to 8:15pm inter-island boat to get livestock home.
- Poultry/Rabbit, barn plus 50x30 tent, potentially additional 20x20 if needed.
- Pathway from Livestock to Marie Boe will remain.

County Manager Hiring Update:

- Interviews this week. Monday three candidates (1. City Manager of Carnation, WA. 2. Director of Finance, Kirkland, WA. 3. Library Director of Fairfax County {DC Metro Library System}) went through questioning from hiring panels from each island. All panels had the same 14 questions.
- Tuesday all candidates went to tour each island and face public comment.
- Council will make their decision on Tuesday while in Executive session. Start date up in the air.
- Based on current candidates there is no reason to believe that another call for applicants will be needed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Entertainment Update:

- Mainstage schedule should be set by this afternoon.
- Two out of town acts and a local band each night. A band from each island will be represented.
- When mainstage is set then Brandon will begin offers for Community Stage.

Capital Improvements Update:

- *Argyle Picnic Shelter & Lawn*: Electric work cost more than expected, but ticket booth now has power & internet. Shelter is original from 1971. Posts rotting and need replacing. Was a mud pit all winter so there was not enough time to do concrete work. Built deck to accommodate summer events. Decision needs to be made about how temporary this fix is. Nolan has concrete experience. Fall re-evaluate. Posts to be replaced no matter what. Wood will be harder to maintain, but it looks really lovely thanks to the hard work of County Park staff!
- *Main bathroom renovation*: will begin next week. The hope is that men's room is done by July 4th for Pig War Picnic.
- *Walkways*: Brandon showed Board the site plan. Sidewalk will extend from ticket booth to office. Sidewalk to skatepark (does this serve a purpose? Might get removed)/playground. Striped parking added. Will give access around the entire perimeter of the Main Building. Walkway added to Marie Boe from Main Building. Showed drainage plan. Stormwater will be collected and drained away from Town. Showed grading plan. Design is almost finished. Go out to bid early summer, begin work as soon as possible after Fair. Six weeks for stormwater & concrete work to allow Island Rec programming to continue. Public Works. Chipseal plan. Topcoat all existing chip seal. Extended up to Wool Shed & Tractor Shed. Estimate from Public works and should be covered by our existing budget. Other projects if leftovers? Improvements are exciting for our accessibility efforts. Should be ready for 2025 Fair! Press release? Grand Opening?

Fairgrounds Water Update: Thursday Town signed their decision; our legal team has reviewed. No further updates at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Amanda will add a standing agenda item about calendar updates.
- The plan is to bring back Drive In movies in 2025 after Amanda and Nolan have a Fair under their belt!
- Noxious weeds called for something growing nearby the Horse Arena
- Car show update: Only 10 cars registered. There has been a steep decline (85 cars 1st year, 35 2nd year), should we continue? Rotary is interested in bringing their car show to the fairgrounds next year. That would mean we can get out of producing the car show. Barbara mentioned that it might be fun to reach out to specialty car groups off-island if we produce another car show next year.
- Terri has requested additional signage for golf cart transport at Fair.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, June 14, 2024 @ 9AM

ADJOURN: 10:28am