

SAN JUAN COUNTY FAIR BOARD MINUTES

Parks and Fair Admin Conference Room

San Juan County Fairgrounds

Friday, November 8, 2024

CONVENE MEETING

9:01AM

Attendance: Terri Brown, Brandon Andrews, Josephine Bangs, Amanda Smith, Barbara Bevens, Milene Henley, Becky Shanks, Christine Minney. Remote: Lynnette Cabrera, Justin Platts, Jessica Hudson, Clinton Gauthier, Kevin Roth.

Approval of Agenda: Becky moves. Josephine seconded. Agenda approved.

Approval of Minutes: October 2024. Becky moved to approve. Milene noted that Lynnette's name is misspelled. Minutes have been approved pending corrections.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COUNCIL LIAISON MESSAGE: Christine Minney

- Not a lot to report, mostly housekeeping.
- Council is in the process of checking in on the budget with the mid-biennium and implementing code changes.
- Participated in LTAC process for the 1st time, distributing around \$2 million.
- \$365k awarded to the Parks & Fair Department with \$70k earmarked for equipment upgrades. Brandon shared that the plan to replace mowers across the department and purchase pipe & drape, large tents and tables & chairs for the Fairgrounds to cut down on rental costs associated with Fair.
- Christine noted that the LTAC Committee was enthusiastic in their giving to the Fair.

COUNTY MANAGER: Jessica Hudson attended remotely to listen in and offer support as needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

WSFA Convention Update:

- San Juan County Fair won several awards in the photo contest and poster contests. The Fair poster won 1st place in our attendance division and the Music poster won the Director's Choice award across divisions! In addition, we were awarded the Best Group Costume award at the Denim & Diamonds banquet. Amanda to email the photo evidence to remote participants.
- All 3 staff members reported that it was valuable use of time.
 - Nolan made connections within the maintenance community
 - Brandon gained insight regarding sponsorship and presented a workshop about effective signage.
 - Amanda made good connections with Fair Entry for further help digitizing the registration process for Fair.
- San Juan County Fairgrounds will host the 2026 Manager's Meeting & Super School the last weekend in March 2026.
- There will be a Grounds tour along with several workshops.

- Brandon has reached out to Lynnette about doing a Zucchini 500 workshop.

Fair Board Advertisement Updates:

- We can begin advertising 45 days from when the term would begin which brings us to 11/18 as a start date.
- Cannot appoint anyone until the 45 days has ended.
- Board members whose terms are expiring are encouraged to reapply, if eligible.
- Members whose terms are up: Barbara, Milene, Becky & Lynette. Continued open positions: Lopez (#5), Shaw (#3)

Fair Scrapbook:

- Becky will do take on the task again this year!

Mission, Vision, Core Values:

- Barbara has asked the Board to look at our current Mission, Vision and Core Values and note any edits or updates that may be needed. Amanda will forward what we have currently, and we will revisit at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Capital Improvements Update:

- Reaching the end of phase 1 of work. Concrete work is almost finished as is grading for drainage.
- Flagpole is being installed.
- Filling in and transitioning dirt to avoid drop-offs.
- Park & Skate Park should be re-opening this weekend.
- Crushed gravel through winter, chip seal in the spring.

Artwork for Fair Theme Update:

- No submissions yet.
- Amanda to forward information local art teachers on all islands (i.e. Dan Lobue, Andy Anderson, Orcas, Lopez, Spring Street schools, Mullis Center Senior Center, Karen on Orcas).

Water Update:

- Waiting for court decision which should be soon. Expectation is 4-6 weeks, around beginning of December.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 4-H Coordinator has been hired after an extensive hiring process and will begin 12/2/24. Clinton Gauthier has been hired from a pool of 6 applicants. Clinton spent 13 years in 4-H and has extensive knowledge. He plans to begin attending Fair Board meetings in person beginning in December.
- Angelica is moving on to the Treasurer's Office which is a good fit for her 20 years of banking experience. It may be possible for her to come back and help train her replacement for Fair operations as well as coming in on Fridays to help with the

transition. We will miss her very much! Job posting is forthcoming, hopefully will be posted next week. Her new position officially begins November 18th.

- New 4-H group is being formed and led by Leslie Neal. The group will teach middle & high schoolers practical cooking skills. Baking Club will remain for elementary aged kids led by Terri Brown. Both groups are looking for speakers and volunteer opportunities for their members.
- Becky suggested bringing back Fair Queen/Royalty. Milene suggested a Fair Marshal instead to be more inclusive. Should we attempt to bring back a Fair Parade?
- Terri requested an agenda item to discuss Fair Judges. Currently no standard is set. Board would like input from 4-H to begin the process.
- **Next meeting December 13th @ 9am**

ADJOURN: 9:50am