

SAN JUAN COUNTY FAIR BOARD MINUTES

Parks and Fair Admin Conference Room

San Juan County Fairgrounds

Friday, February 7, 2025

CONVENE MEETING

9:00AM

Attendance: Milene Henley, Terri Brown, Clinton Gauthier, Amanda Smith, Brandon Andrews, Josephine Bangs, Kevin Roth, Steve Judson, Helen Machin-Smith, Kari McVeigh

Approval of Agenda: Josephine moved to approve with amendments; Terri seconded. All approved.

Approval of Minutes: January 2025. Josephine moved to approve, all approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Started with introductions around the table as a refresher.

- Helen Machin-Smith from Island Stage Left would like to ask for consideration in renting space at the Fairgrounds. Would like to move the bulk of programming indoors. Historically, used the Marie Boe and is concerned about scheduling. Would like to use the space for 4 weeks, twice a year. Willing to share and are no longer using risers to make things easier. Stage will be about 20 ft. Looking for Spring/Fall on an annual basis.
- Jennifer Rigg: Running the t-shirt booth for 20 years and would like to take a break. Would like to see someone in the community take it on. Elian Bayas is interested in doing it. Wants approval before solidifying with Elian. Would the County prefer to take it? County may make more money with 12% then hiring staff to run the booth.

4-H DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Clinton Gauthier (see Clinton's notes)

- 4-H Arena tent frame takedown this afternoon
- 4-H Fair book being revised, proposals submitted to leaders and will be voted on February 20th. Hope to have ready to publish by April
- Proposal to add a piece about early removal for 4-H exhibits. After checking other fairs, it seems most common for those pulling exhibits early to forfeit premium points and/or be barred from exhibiting in the future (likely repeat offenses). I have told leaders that removing exhibits early will be enforced by the fair this year and this is our opportunity to provide input on the punishment. Hope to have final language figured out by March FB meeting since we will vote and discuss at LC meeting on 2/20
- SJ 4-H will host a Youth Fair on April 26th to take the place of the postponed Whatcom County Youth Fair. We plan to have multiple workshops on project areas including baking, cooking, small and large animal. Formal proposal to come working out the details with volunteers. We have placed a hold on the weekend and will submit paperwork for approval once we have an idea of all the resources we will need.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Kari McVeigh

- Looking at Ferry RFPs, confirmed that emergency funds are allocated for when ferries go down not the addition of ferries.
- Beginning to address concerns over federal funding at the county level.

NEW BUSINESS:

Island Stage Left:

- Talked through general availability with the Fairgrounds & the ability to share the space.
- Brandon - Marie Boe renovations has created more competition for scheduling. Communication from both parties has been ongoing post-Covid/post-renovations. Fairgrounds staff would prefer to speak with other renters regarding any changes in their rental agreements. Hold on the calendar for September/October.
- Terri has suggested a reduced rate. Brandon pointed out that current renters pay full fee and fees are set to be accessible for all users. Brandon has volunteered to write an LTAC grant for Island Stage Left to help cover the costs. Perhaps additional discounts can be added to fee schedule based on extended use.
- Helen and Brandon are happy to forward email chains if the board would like to view them.
- Steve has asked if the non-profit status qualifies ISL for a discount, but due to the nature of space use there is no existing discount.
- Fee goals are to make the spaces affordable for all users not based on cause/non-profit status.
- Board leaves the decision to Brandon.

Fair T-Shirt Booth:

- Better off with 12% commission then having to staff the booth.
- Would prefer to pass the baton to another community member with strong ties to 4-H and Fair.
- Jenn to talk through the technical/legal requirements of the job with Elian. If he is unable to do so, then the Fair could take on the booth. Would need to talk through location with Jenn/Fair.

OLD BUSINESS:

2025 Theme Artwork:

- Brandon gave an update on the original selection and the conversations surrounding the use of AI. Expected pushback but it was more than we could have imagined. Original artist has since pulled their submission and the board must choose a replacement. Wednesday's paper will highlight this, likely on the front page.
- RE: Compensation of artists. The fair is a volunteer endeavor, and the poster contest reflects that. It is a way to help the community showcase their art. If we were to compensate the contest winner Brandon's understanding is that the artists would have to go out to bid like any other contractors. Do not have the freedom to give cash prizes as a non-profit fair might. Could eliminate the contest portion by commissioning the art directly. Could keep the poster would be free but give a stipend for converting the art to line art for t-shirts.
- Original submissions have been revisited. A new submission has been chosen and Brandon will relay edit suggestions to the artist with the goal of a final version for March meeting and t-shirt line art by April meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Fair Board Meeting

Friday, March 14th, 2025

ADJOURN: 10:44AM