

THURSTON COUNTY FAIR BOARD

June 4, 2025 @ 7:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Meeting was called to order by Paul Longwell at 7:00 pm.

Fair Board members present: Mikhail Cherniske, Oscar Hernandez, Paul Longwell, Lance McElroy, Kathie McWaid, John Murphy, Kya Ramirez, Mike Rendon, Heidi Thomsen, Don Wadsen, Justin Wikoff, and Kolton Nash.

Excused: Lindsey Lyons, Meren Gadman

Unexcused: Theresa Reid and Trinity Short

Guests: None

APPROVE MINUTES OF: May 7, 2025

Motion by Don Wadsen and seconded by Kathie McWaid to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

FAIR FOUNDATION REPORT: The Foundation is working on projects. The stage is starting to look nice and pressure-treated boards are being replaced.

FAIR MANAGER REPORT:

- 1) Reminder of upcoming work party: Sunday June 8 – 11am-3pm. Thomasina discussed work that needs to be done.
- 2) Update on Registration, ticket sales, camping reservations – Electrical and generator camping are sold out. Registrations are coming in.
- 3) Campground update- changes -
- 4) Update on Swine Spa – Fair staff are working on setting posts and getting panels set up to keep the swine in.
- 5) Extra help – bringing on extra help staff. These staff will start in the middle of June/1st of July.
- 6) Thomasina is working on some revisions of policies within the office.
- 7) Disco Dave – presentation to the Board of County Commissioners was done on June 3, 2025. Raffle tickets will be sold during the fair at the information booth. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.
- 8) Library display case at the city of Lacey – Board discussed this display.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 1) Agriculture – A concern was discussed about the swine spa – would the tank in the ground be enough to support the wash. The Fair Board thinks this will be ok as it will be better than last year. The veterinarian has been contacted and confirmed for the fair. New panels for next year are being requested.
- 2) Promotions –
 - a. Parade participation (June 14th – Yelm Prairie Days, July 4th and July 19 – Lakefair) – The Fair Board will not be participating in the Yelm parade as Board members not available to attend.
 - b. Opening Ceremony Dignitaries – Dignitaries have been invited. Invitations will also be mailed out.

c. Lifetime Achievement Award – We have two completed nominees – Celeste Winther and Matt Mounts.

d. Rising Star Award – We did not receive any recommendations.

3) Facilities/Safety – Committee did not have an official meeting. We now have toilets bolted to the cement. Handles are now on the doors. Mike Rendon has been painting the building and working with Hans on an electrical outlet for the beer garden.

4) Scrapbook/History – Committee is saving pictures online.

5) Commercial –

a. Food vendors – The fair will have coffee vendors.

b. Commercial vendors – We need more vendors. Contact Mikhail Cherniske if you have vendors that are interested in being at the fair. The committee is working on creative approaches to fill spaces.

6) Still Life – The committee is actively working on superintendents on entries.

7) Entertainment – The committee is filling up the stages. We will be asking fairgoers what they want to see for entertainment for next year. This is expected to be done using QR codes.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1) New FB applicants

a. Baylee Ahrens – Applicant for the youth At Large position

b. Kari Ahrens – Applicant for a Fair Board position

A motion moved by Kya Ramirez and seconded by Heidi Thomsen to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners for these two applications to be appointed to the respective Fair Board positions.

The Fair Board participated in the tie dye party following the meeting to tie dye their fair shirts.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Heidi Thomsen, Fair Board Director/Secretary.

Next Fair Board Meeting: July 2, 2025