

Minutes
Fairgrounds Advisory Committee
Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Convened: 2:00 pm

FAIRGROUNDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chair: Terry Goldman

Vice Chair Nicole Berg

Jerry Willey, Mayor of Hillsboro

Andy Duyck, Board of Commissioners

Don McCoun, Fair Board President

Cindy Phillips

David Villalpando

Larry Pedersen

Jonathan Schlueter

STAFF:

Rob Massar, Assistant County Administrator

Rod Rice, Deputy County Administrator

Leah Perkins-Hagele, Fair Complex Manager

Nancy Karnas, Fair Assistant

1) Call to Order

a) Vice Chair Nicole Berg called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

i) Introductions of present members and staff. Note members David Villalpando, Jonathan Schlueter and Chair Terry Goldman were absent.

2) Facilities Update

a) Deputy County Administrator Rod Rice provided an update to several facility projects.

i) Amphitheater- The berm has been removed and the ground seeded. This will allow for expansion of the Carnival during fair and provide additional rental opportunities as it is now level ground.

ii) National Guard- The readiness center plan is close to being finalized. Administrator Rice stated that the guard would be providing much of the labor for the many improvements on the grounds and more information would be available at a later date.

iii) Barns- Administrator Rice stated as part of the master plan several of the barns need upgrades or repairs. The first up will be the poultry barn that currently houses much of the storage equipment for fair which will need some repairs and the addition of shutters to the windows for protection from weather. An additional safety concern with the eave in between the 4H barn will need to be addressed.

iv) Floral Building- While not part of the master plan Administrator Rice stated that due to the damage in the building then next step would be removal of the entire facility. After removal the Master Gardeners would help facilitate landscaping improvements which would make the area a new rental opportunity in the future.

3) County Fair Update

a) Fair Manager Leah Perkins-Hagele informed the committee that record attendance was reached for fair which brought up a challenge for parking facilities. Attendance was up 22% on Friday and Saturday setting new records, the new carnival was also up 79%. Mayor Jerry Willey asked what caused the increase in attendance. Manager Perkins- Hagele stated that the advertising and carnival promotions were a big help in reaching the patrons which is more than likely what caused the parking issues. Fair Board President Don McCoun also stated that the free admission in this economy also helped with attendance. Committee member Larry Pedersen asked if the light rail option was promoted at all. Fair

Manager Perkins- Hagele stated that yes, the fair is advertised on buses and on the light rail cars themselves with free shuttles offered from the light rail station. Perkins-Hagele stated that more shuttles would be needed in the future and also Commissioner Duyck would be working with the Port to acquire access to the adjacent property. Discussion ensued regarding all the existing parking options. Fair Manager Perkins-Hagele also informed the committee that the dirt from the road construction has been used to crown the quadrant parking property which will allow better use of the area. Deputy County Administrator Rice also stated that once the upgrade is completed to the quadrant it would be an additional interim rental facility opportunity.

4) Planning Update

- a) Assistant County Administrator Rob Massar provided a history of the failed attempts to revitalize the Fairgrounds over the past 3 decades. Assistant County Administrator Massar continued with the current status of the County Master Plan for the facility including the next steps in the Armory trade and future fundraising plans for the new exhibit hall.

5) Consider Future Meeting Dates

- a) Deputy County Administrator Rice suggested the committee set a timeline of quarterly meetings for the future. He stated that the ability to adjust the dates can be discussed at a later date or canceled due to no new business. Rice also stated that the chair may review this item at a later date if needed.

Motion by Member Larry Perderson to adopt quarterly meetings. 2nd by Member Andy Duyck. Motion Carried 6-0.

6) Other Business: Oral Communications

- a) **Tom Black, Booster Vice President** – Mr. Black expressed concern regarding the removal of change to the barns as they are a historic feature to the fairgrounds. He also stated the City no longer has a current lease for the ball fields and that needed to be addresses. Mr. Black further went on to comment on the lack of utilization of the facility during the fall and winter and that other users are interested in a covered Rodeo venue. Lastly Mr. Black stated that the future date of meetings should be adjusted due to the fact four committee member’s terms will be expiring in December.
- b) **Glenna Dryden- Booster Member-** Ms. Dryden asked how the public would be involved in the decision making process. Deputy County Administrator Rice stated that there have been 4 public sessions and that input has been considered in addition to the input received during Board meetings. A brief discussion ensued regarding involving various community groups in the fundraising process. Committee Member Larry Perderson stressed the importance of those groups wanting to get involved to come to the meetings with a concrete plan to present for Facility Improvements.

7) Adjourn

- a) Member Don McCoun moved to adjourn the meeting as all topics were covered, second by Member Andy Duyck

Motion by Member McCoun to adjourn early. 2nd by Board Member Duyck. Motion Carried 6-0.

- b) With no further business before the Board, Vice Chair Berg adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Leah Perkins-Hagele
Recording Secretary

Terry Goldman
Committee Chair