

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee
October 1, 2015

The Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee met in regular session on October 1, 2015, with Chairman, Mike Egerton, Kris Sims, Kathleen Maltais Trampas Stucker, Jill Scott, Wanda McFarland, Jill Scott, Erin White, and Tracey Reagles present. Clerk Kathleen Descoteaux was also present.

Not present were: Ali Thomas, Sam Buchert, Ila Hall

Call to Order

Meeting came to order at 6:07pm.

1. Public Comment

Anyone wishing to comment needs to state their name and address for the record. They will be given up to 3 minutes to speak.
Note: This is not a time for discussion. It is an opportunity for the Fair Advisory Committee to listen to the public's comments.

Mike Egerton announced that the purpose of this meeting would be to hear public comment. He then read paper comments (attached). He read them word for word.

Denice Hires stated that she paid for a full hookup but didn't get one. #35. The hookup was obscured by wood chips and bark. Her camper was also too close to a tipout that only gave her a couple inches to get into and out of her own camper. Kris Sims said that they have trouble with that area every year and they are going to put in single campers in that area.

Carol Sivak said her regular problem was people coming in. It was a combination of both sides. The people coming in get treated very badly. They get their backs up and start bothering the gates. The people bringing the trucks in were yelled at by Joe (?) Kris Sims said that one of the Spokane racers was 10 minutes late and the horse racers would not let him into the arena. He kicked up dust in anger until the race was over. Kris said the gate keepers are hard, but they are paid to be hard. Erin White said that they have to figure out how to make it work better because the gates were asked to be hard.

Many people at the meeting called the gate workers the Gate Nazis.

Mike Egerton said there is a lack of internal control and the FAC will spend the next several months finding a better way.

Erin White said they as a committee have to find a way that will work best. Erin White said we tried the "you get in free" and it didn't work. Another way needs to be found. Trampas Stucker said that what you're asking them to do to pay to entertain the crowds. Trampas Stucker said the real problem was how poorly the racers were treated

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at the gates. Many people agreed that the gates were very hard on the people at the gate.

Mike Egerton interrupted to remind the FAC that this meeting was only to hear the public out.

Carol Sivak suggested that maybe finding a way to produce a list earlier would be better and then trying to get someone into the gates booth to identify racers.

Kathleen Maltais said she had a comment. She says she uses her walker because of her eyesight. When you come into the south gate at the corner where the grass starts, but there is quite a large area where it's very sandy and people in wheelchairs and using walkers can't get through the sand.

She also suggested that people who volunteer to help put on the fair should not have to also have to pay for tickets. She believes that some consideration should be given to the people who entertain other people at the fair.

The wristbands are a nightmare for the sheriffs. A stamp would be better.

Carol Sivak also said the participant wristbands prevented the racers, etc, from even getting food at the fair. Those with pink wristbands on the main fairgrounds were literally escorted off the grounds.

Kris Sims said here's what we have to overcome. He said our fair is one of the only fairs where one ticket gives someone access to everything. He reminded people that ticket sales help fund the fair. The more we give away, the less we get to put on next year's show. And since the gates were down this year, the loss will be felt in entertainment. He said no one should be hassled at the gate, but something needs to figure something out.

Trampas Stucker said almost all of the competitors brought people with them that paid to get in. In most rodeos, you get two passes.

Kathleen Maltais asked if there is a chain of command. Erin suggested that she was in charge of the pink bands, so she started the chain of command.

Preregistration was discussed as a possible solution for the North End problems.

Karen Koschmeier asked why tickets aren't sold at the south end. Handicapped people have a hard time entering the fair because the main gate is too far away.

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A suggestion was made that when you are online entering, you can indicate how many tickets you need on your camping application and why can't they do that? A discussion about credit cards and why people can't use their cards online to buy tickets.

Shelby Hendershot said that her new department went well. There were a lot of people asking how to be able to do more. There was a lot of miscommunication with the Chronicle that led to the ads sounding like the department was full of only Shelby's displays. Some issues about how animals and the people who harvested them are identified were discussed. Shelby said that to get the entries and to get the interest, the entries needed to be kept open until the interest grew enough to fill the barn.

Shelby Hendershot also said that she paid for her ticket and would continue to pay for herself and her helpers in order to support the fair.

Kathleen Maltais said there was a fellow who was there to entertain people and one of the things he was doing was that he would blow fire. The children enjoyed it very much, but it made Kathleen very uncomfortable. She also thought that if fire isn't allowed on the grounds, no fire should be allowed on the grounds.

Ali Thomas suggested that the travel fees paid by Clint Peterson, the original Swine judge, be reimbursed. The FAC agreed that they should make that reimbursement, since his travel money was not reimbursable and he had lost the money when the Fair dates had been changed. It was something out of his control. Their consensus was that the lost money should be reimbursed out of the travel budget.

A budget meeting was scheduled for October 15 so that the FAC could develop a potential budget plan to provide to the Commissioners. The next meeting will be on October 15 at 6pm in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
- 4. Correspondence**
- 5. New Business**
- 6. Reports**
 - a. Queen
 - b. Commissioners
 - c. Team
 - i. Executive

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- ii. Finance
- iii. Rules
 - Livestock
- iv. Vending
- v. Entertainment
- vi. Camping
- vii. Advertising
- viii. Parking
- ix. Exhibitor

7. Old Business

8. Announcements

- a. Next Meeting: Nov 5, 2015.
- b.

9. Adjournment at 7:17 pm.

Dated at Okanogan, Washington this ____ day of _____ 2015.

Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

Mike Egerton, Member

FAC Clerk, Kathleen Descoteaux

Wanda McFarland, Member