

OKANOGAN COUNTY FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

11-05-15

The Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee met in regular session on November 5, 2015, with Commissioner Ray Campbell, Chair Mike Egerton, Kathleen Maltais, Jill Scott, Wanda McFarland, Erin White, Ila Hall, and Tracey Reagles present. Clerk Kathleen Descoteaux was also present.

Not present were: Mike Egerton, Kathleen Maltais, Trampas Stucker and Ila Hall Kris Sims, Trampas Stucker,

Erin and Tracey spoke about their trip to the WSFA Convention and told the committee that they thought the same people should go every year.

They think the theme for next year's fair should be: A Slice of Life: From Farm to Fork. They discussed how to gear demonstrations and exhibits to feed the concept.

They were very excited about what they envision for next year. They also said that they want to go to the Rocky Mountain convention instead of the Yakima one.

Commissioner Campbell was present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10.

The agenda was approved.

Tracey moved to approve the agenda. Ali seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The FAC reviewed the 2015 attendance and gate revenues. Total attendance was around 15K and the total revenue was around \$69k.

Ali Thomas provided a spreadsheet of 2013's numbers. The secretary will use it to create a chart for 2014 and 2015.

Wanda said that better electricity was needed at the south end for the bouncy house. When the power goes out, the bouncy house immediately begins to deflate and can be a huge liability. The bouncy house should have a dedicated circuit for future fairs.

Old Business:

OKANOGAN COUNTY FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Budget: Wanda said that between Erin and herself and Sam, they had come up with some numbers. They will report later down the line.

Queen: Mike said that Kathleen had a great idea. What about a coloring contest throughout the county? Erin and Tracey declined the idea because the poster is the thing that pulls people into your fair and that they went to a class that showed them exactly what the poster should look like.

Posters should be more than two colors, have bold colors, have where the fair is, and they have more notes.

Tracey said she also went to a marketing class at the convention. The first thing she learned was that reluctance to change equals failure. This was in response to the clerk/secretary saying that it might require a policy change for the FAC to take over creating the theme and the poster in the place of the queen doing it.

Ila said that she agreed with Mike that things needed to be done earlier than later. Mike said maybe they should get together with the queen to let her know what direction the FAC is thinking about going.

Nothing against the queen or anything.

Tracey Reagles moved to make “A Slice of Life: From Farm to Fork” the theme for next year’s fair. Erin White seconded. No one wanted to have a discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried

Mike Egerton began a new discussion to name the new team chairs:

Livestock: Ali Thomas

Entertainment: Erin White and Tracey Reagles

Finance: Sam Buchert

Vending: Mike Egerton

Parking: Kris Sims

Superintendent Coordinator: Tracey Reagles

Camping: Jill Scott and Wanda McFarland

Advertising: Ila Hall

Admissions & Rule: Unfilled

Kathleen Maltais said she was thinking about quitting the FAC. She said she didn’t believe the FAC understood her value. The FAC disagreed, but she reminded them of all the skills offered by herself and her husband that were not utilized when offered. She also was mortified by the previous budget

OKANOGAN COUNTY FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

meeting because such high money amounts were inserted into the budget without any solid research into what was actually needed.

Mike Egerton asked Kathleen to consider being the “Community Resource Coordinator,” a previously non-existent team, and to think about it until the time of the next meeting before resigning.

Tracey suggested that election nominations be made. Mike wondered if elections could be held at that moment for the following year, but the policy clearly states that elections have to be held in December.

Wanda McFarland passed out a rough draft of the budget as discussed by the finance team. She explained that the discussed raising the budget by 20% because of overall prices having risen over the last few years.

Erin interjected that the wristbands and charging for every person who got into the Fair was the smallest consideration in making money for the Fairgrounds and that perhaps giving some out to encourage others to come (For instance, one pass given to an adult may, in turn, bring ticket sales for that person’s whole family).

Carol Sivak (who was the person that contracted to run the horse races this year) handed out a price breakdown for the races. She discussed that what she was paid was only 1/5th of the price she was paid and that some of the donations that they were given this year would not be available next year.

Erin explained that the entertainment budget had to be expanded. She said that people want more roaming entertainment among other considerations. She would like the overall entertainment budget to be raised from \$30k to \$69k.

Wanda said the new budget request would be around \$130k.

The FAC asked Kathleen Descoteaux to provide them with a complete list of all expenditures from the Fair, both from the Fair budget and the Facilities budget in order to put the finishing touches on their new budget request.

Kathleen Maltais asked her husband to look into the Winthrop Rodeo and how much locals rent sheep for (in reference to the Mutton Busting organization the Fair hires every year). She doesn’t agree with how the money is spent for Mutton Busting because they also charge for pictures to be taken on their big longhorns even though they are already being paid to be there by the Fair.

Tracey Reagles asked Kathleen Descoteaux to create a budget worksheet for the FAC to use in finalizing their budget request for the Commissioners.

Kathleen Descoteaux said she thought the auditor’s office may require the gate staff to be paid from the Fair budget last year because of the way the budgets were reorganized. They have previously been paid from the Facilities budget (formerly called Agriplex). FAC suggested opening another entry gate.

OKANOGAN COUNTY FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Commissioner Campbell said the FAC would have to create income to support any budget hikes and if they kept that in mind, anything was possible.

Ali gave the first reading of a policy change:

The FAC proposed to change when the Executive Team would be elected for a regular 12-month term from December to the second meeting after the Fair. Wanda seconded. The proposed policy change will be read at the next two meetings before the change goes into effect.

Kathleen Descoteaux said she would send Mike Egerton the necessary proposal forms to make a purchase of Spider Boxes for the Facilities.

The meeting ended at 8:15pm.

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