

Jefferson County - Fair Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 13, 2024

1. **Call to order:**
Chair Blane Poulson called the meeting to order at 8:31am.
2. **Roll call (establish a quorum):**
Members Present: Curt Backlund, Mark Groose, Blane Poulson
Members Absent: Libby Hafften, Brandon White (two public member positions vacant)
Others Present: Becky Roberts, Ben Wehmeier, Abby Schopen, Michael Luckey, Joy Brattlie (zoom), Cindy J (zoom), Danielle Thompson (zoom)
3. **Certification of compliance with Open Meetings Law:**
Wehmeier certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law.
4. **Review of Agenda:**
Motion made by Backlund, seconded by Groose, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 3-0.
5. **Public Comment:**
Backlund notified the Committee that he has been investigating the use of a camera for time-lapse footage of Fair setup.
6. **Approval of May 9, 2024 committee meeting minutes:**
Motion made by Backlund, seconded by Groose, to approve the minutes. Motion carried 3-0.
7. **Communications:**
No communications.
8. **Review of Community Feedback & Suggestions on Fair Operations:**
None.
9. **Report from Fair Advisory Board:**
Luckey delivered a report from the May 15th Fair Advisory Board meeting. Roberts had asked the group for assistance in filling volunteer positions and members said they'd take this back to their networks. There were additional details finalized for many Fair Week needs such as layout and ordering tents. The Advisory Board also offered additional guidance on Heart of the Park daily events. The Advisory Board suggested that if they were to meet prior to the 2024 Fair, it would be done through a brief virtual meeting.
10. **Update on Fair Park staffing:**
Roberts informed the Committee of the staffing updates. Mike Miers accepted a maintenance lead role. Jeb Hemenway was hired in a maintenance role to eventually fill the position that Dave Zimmerman will be retiring from in July. Cassidy Hege is working three days in the office and Samantha Garvey was hired to supplement that position to make it a 0.5 FTE. Connor Sharlow was hired as a part time year round Maintenance person. The Fair Coordinator position is yet to be filled.
11. **Discussion on Fair Park operations:**
In May, 3,405 people entered through the Fair Park gates. Roberts discussed some minor and long-term maintenance needs and facility improvements throughout the Park. Schopen discussed need to standardize rates for rentals. Schopen and Roberts both discussed the need for a better campground inventory management system, a project they will attempt to implement post-Fair. Roberts discussed the need for changes to sponsorship levels. Roberts gave a fiber installation update. System should be up and running prior to 2024 County Fair.
12. **Discussion on 2024 Jefferson County Fair:**
Roberts gave an update on preparations. Dumpsters, tents, cellular towers, portable toilets have all been ordered. Sponsorship are delayed but trickling in. Vendors selection and layout is in progress. Entertainment schedule, Animal events and Heart of the Park have all been published. There will be a meeting of Superintendents June 18. The Fair is still in need of staff and volunteers.
13. **Discussion and possible action on amending the 2024 Fair Rules related to dairy cattle:**
H5N1 is a concern and DATCAP is requiring all lactating dairy cows to be tested prior to moving. The Fair Park met with several members of the Dairy community prior to the announcement and came up with a solution that would better serve everyone involved. The exhibitors will be given the option to substitute a Heifer, provide a virtual presentation or get a full

refund. Long term effects of this will impact all Dairy events. Motion made to amend the 2024 Fair Rules as it relates to Lactating Dairy Cattle made by Backlund, seconded by Goose, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 3-0.

14. Discussion and possible action on Fairest of the Fair:

One application was received. Due to short timelines, and the desire to give that one applicant an experience that shows the full value of the Fairest of the Fair, Roberts recommended that the reigning Fairest continue for the 2024 Fair with the one applicant joining as Fair Royalty. Motion made by Backlund, seconded by Goose, to move forward with this plan. Motion carried 3-0.

15. Discussion and possible action on filling vacancy on Fair Advisory Board:

Roberts recommended that the Committee wait to fill vacancies on the Advisory Board until after the 2024 Fair. Was there a motion on this? No, there was a nods of agreement but no actual motion

16. Discussion and possible action on tentative future meeting schedule and agenda items

Motion made by Goose, seconded by Backlund, to hold open meeting times at 8:00am each day of the Fair. Motion carried 3-0.

17. Adjourn

Motion made by Backlund, seconded by Goose, to adjourn. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:39am.