

**Jefferson County - Fair Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 10, 2024**

1. Call to order:

Chair Blane Poulson called the meeting to order at 10:31am.

2. Roll call (establish a quorum):

Members Present: Curt Backlund, Mark Groose, Blane Poulson, Brandon White, Gary Skalitzky, Libby Hafften (via zoom); Georgia McWilliam

Others Present: Becky Roberts, Ben Wehmeier, Abby Schopen, Michael Luckey, Sammy Garvey, Cassidy Hege

3. Certification of compliance with Open Meetings Law:

Wehmeier certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

4. Review of Agenda:

A motion made by Backlund, seconded by Groose to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

5. Public Comment:

Mark Groose reported that he has received positive comments about the Fair Staff.

6. Approval of September 12, 2024, committee meeting minutes:

It was noted that Gary Skalitzky made the motion to nominate Tracy Brandl for the Fair Advisory Board. A motion to approve the corrected minutes was made by Backlund and seconded by White. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Communications:

There were none.

8. Discussion and action on planning for 2025 Fair:

Roberts introduced Sammy Garvey, Fair Coordinator, and Cassidy Hege, Fair Administrative Assistant, who have been collaborating with superintendents on required updates. Garvey presented key updates to the 2025 Premium Book, including the addition of a Junior Draft department and Open Dairy. The "Future Exhibitor" category will be renamed to "Sprouts." Additionally, the Fair Office has launched new software, FairEntry, which will have a soft-launch on November 11 and then fully accessible to the public on November 18. Upcoming dates include a Beef Weigh-in on December 14. Roberts introduced ideas, budget, and location planning for the entertainment schedule and locations of such events for 2025's Fair. Garvey reviewed proposed adjustments to exhibitor areas and the judging schedule.

9. Discussion and action on Fair Park Operational updates:

Garvey provided updates on the Winter Storage program, while Roberts outlined the timeline for implementing new software for events and camping management. Additionally, the Fair Park is developing a second website to differentiate between Fair-related information and broader Fair Park activities, creating a dedicated platform for each. Roberts also noted that a facility master plan is in progress, which will outline immediate needs versus long-term priorities for the Fair Park.

It was reported that the Fair Park has some grant money available and would like to use it to upgrade the sound system in the park. Upgrading the Activity Center system, arenas, grandstand and sound connection between buildings.

- Backlund moved, seconded by White, to approve using the remaining grant funds to improve the sound structure, with costs not to exceed the balance of funds. Motion Carried.

10. Discussion on Fair Advisory Board membership and next meeting:

The newly appointed members of the Fair Advisory Board will meet on October 23, 2024 at which time they will select the new Chair and Vice-Chair.

11. Discussion and action on tentative future meeting schedule & agenda items:

Roberts gave a limited update on Fair Park needs. A full report will be available in the next few upcoming meetings.

12. Adjourn

Motion made by Backlund seconded by White to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:52am.

Respectfully submitted,
Abby Schopen
Fair Park Events Manager