

Jefferson County - Fair Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 8, 2024

1. **Call to order:**
Chair Blane Poulson called the meeting to order at 8:30am.
2. **Roll call (establish a quorum):**
Members Present: Curt Backlund, Mark Groose, Blane Poulson, Libby Hafften, Brandon White, Gary Skalitzky
Members Absent: Georgia McWilliam
Others Present: Becky Roberts, Ben Wehmeier, Abby Schopen, Michael Luckey, Meghan Splinter (zoom), Lindsay Baneck (zoom), Neil Matthes, Ed Bielinski
3. **Certification of compliance with Open Meetings Law:**
Wehmeier certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law.
4. **Review of Agenda:**
No changes
5. **Public Comment:**
Backlund shared the positive feedback he received regarding the 2024 Fair.
6. **Approval of June 13, 2024, committee meeting minutes:**
A motion made by Backlund, seconded by Hafften to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.
7. **Communications:**
No communications.
8. **Review of the 2024 County Fair**
Roberts gave a review of several post fair de-brief meetings that were held with staff members, superintendents, EMS & Sherriff, and the Auction Coordinator. A survey was sent out to Judges and still need to de-brief with Advisory Board & key sponsors. Roberts reported on revenue numbers up to date of Fair Park Committee meeting. Auction total was reported as just over \$500,000, beating the budget goal
9. **Discussion on 2025 Fair:**
The dates July 9 -13, 2025 were given as the dates for 2025 County Fair. Suggestions made for 2025 Fair included establishing an Entertainment Committee, grandstand & track safety issues as well as handicap parking. There was a discussion on redrafting the sponsorship program. Roberts reported that a request of departmental edits to the 2025 Fair Book was given to the Superintendents as well as invites to return in 2025.
10. **Discussion and possible action on Fair Advisory Board membership and meeting schedule:**
Luckey delivered information on Fair Advisory Board member termination dates and the next calendar year was discussed. A motion was made by White and seconded by Skalitzky to refill the six spots that will be left vacant as of 8/31/2024. The date of 8/28/2024 was provided for the next Fair Advisory Board meeting.
11. **Discussion and possible action on use of Roger Kylmanen donation funds:**
Roberts met with Roger Kylmanen's family to discuss a physical tribute to be created with funds donated in Kylmanen's name. A motion was made by Groose and seconded by Skalitzky to rename "Food Row" something appropriate to Kylmanen's memory. There will be further information regarding the naming rights processes and qualifications as County leadership takes a look at possibly recommending updates to the present-day ordinance.
12. **Discussion on 2024 Fair Appreciation Event**
Roberts announced there will be a dinner on August 20, 2024, to honor those who were essential in helping with the 2024 Fair.
13. **Discussion and possible action on tentative future meeting schedule and agenda items:**
Roberts informed the committee of the tentative Fairest of the Fair schedule, future updates to the website, the need for event & camping software, and an extensive list of repairs needed throughout the Fair Park. Roberts also gave a staffing report and an update on interviews for the Fair Coordinator position.
14. **Adjourn**
Motion made by Poulson seconded by White to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:57am.