

BAKER COUNTY FAIR BOARD
Minutes of February 9, 2005
Board Meeting

Members Present: Chair Ron Rowan, Vice Chair Dean Defrees, Mark Johnson, Rob Ellingson, Bob Borgen, Ann Kniesel, Andy Barr

Members Not Present: all present

Advisory Board Members Present: Janice Cowan, Mary Ellen Anderson, Dan Peters

AB Members Not Present: Nellie Forrester, due to weather

Others in Attendance: Andi Sexton (staff), Commissioner Dr. Carl Stiff, Mike Ferguson of the Baker City Herald.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Ron Rowan

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Rob Ellingson and 2nd by Dean Defrees to accept the January 5 minutes as submitted. Motion passed with all in favor.

Financial Reports:

A motion was made by Andy Barr and 2nd by Ann Kniesel to approve the bills as submitted. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Grant Updates: Previous to this meeting, Julie Paxton of Amerititle, came to meet with board members present in regard to the Fair Board's grant application to the Jeld-Wen Foundation. Dean, Mark and Andi presented portions of the Master Plan and the Old Armory project. Julie said she thinks the project is important to the youth and is needed, and she is recommending the full amount to the deciding board. Still no word from Ash Grove. Andi has left messages that have not been returned. Oregon Community Foundation grant was submitted by Andi in January – decision made in May. Consensus is we still need to be submitting grants for the project.

Oregon Military Department/Armory Issues: Mark shared with everyone the latest discussions regarding the rodeo grounds blue gate and parking lot. National Guard is not in agreement with our idea of where to relocate the gate, and they don't want to pay the fees to fix the problem they created. Armory lease being drafted. Mark will be the contact. All agreements need to be in writing. Mark shared discussion w/ another OMD employee who stated 'so called agreements' that the Military Dept. is operating under, regarding leases, yet, there is no documentation of any of the agreements.

Recap of Master Plan Presentation to BCU: Went very well – Andi, Mark, Ron and Dean made presentation to full-house. Had lots of comments that not very many people attend the meetings and this was the best turn out in a long time. Follow up press by Baker City Herald was excellent. Follow up press by Record Courier not favorable – personal editorial was printed, not an article. We rec'd a letter from Alvin Ward. Rob Ellingson will follow-up with Alvin.

Recap of Removal of Materials in 5 Acre Field – Rob said he can not tell which of the piles is 'the good one' vs. to be dumped. Andi is to call Marcus Gray and have him point out which one he wants to keep.

Recap of 2/2 and 2/9 Budget Workshops: On Feb. 2 those present worked through the 251 budget. Does not look good for 2005/2006. The Old Armory building has been quite the undertaking and dates have changed so many times that the figures and timelines become 'best guess' scenarios. Loosing income by not having new facility, and still paying high utility bills. Have turned away competing rents (RV/Boat storage, over night horses, and RV rents) in order to not compete with local private businesses that offer these services. Worked on 351 budget earlier today. Andi is to give documents to Chrisena Cook.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Alvin Ward regarding Old Armory project. Concerns: wants to be sure we do not become another Pine Valley scenario – loose building(s) and grounds. Thinks the cement floor should not be covered (no plans to cover floor in event hall – only in offices). As mentioned in Old Business, Rob Ellingson will call Alvin to address his concerns.

NEW BUSINESS

Selection of Architecture and Engineering Qualifications: Prior to this meeting those present reviewed the A&E RFQs and ranked them. The outcome was BBT with the highest score. **Dean made the motion and Rob 2nd to award the A&E contract to BBT. Motion passed with all in favor.**

Friends of the Fair: General consensus that we need to get the ball rolling on organizing the 501c3, yet no leadership has come forth. Suggest having some sort of social in March.

Summer Fundraising Ideas: 1. Catie Owens will be assisting in the office on Tuesdays. She will be organizing a jackpot steer event as suggested by Ron. The goal is for this to be an annual event. 2. For Miner's Jubilee idea of dinner and dance Andi is to contact Dale Curtis and arrange tour of Show Barn so their board and staff have an idea of what is available for events.

Fair 2005: 1. Andi made an arrangement with Marilyn's Music in regard to Fair Entertainment. Marilyn's Music will provide all sound equipment and entertainment during the fair, in exchange for using the Big Room each Friday night for their Jam Sessions. Board endorsed the agreement. The written agreement will put a value on the entertainment package at \$1,000 and will be worked out in trade with the usage of the big room at a value of \$60 per use. 2. Tent has been arranged by Andi for small animals. 3. Pony Ride vendor coming to the fair.

Next Board Meeting: 6:00 pm March 2nd
The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Andi Sexton, Fair Grounds Manager