

**Baker County Fair Board
Minutes of January 4, 2009
Board Meeting**

Members Present: Chairman Ron Rowan, Vice Chair Dean Defrees, Rob Ellingson, Mark Johnson, Dan Morris, Ann Kniesel, Tony Britt

Members not present: none

Advisory Board Members Present: none

Advisory Board Members Not Present: Janice Cowan, Donna Lowry, Cory Parsons

Guest: Andrew Bryant, Marna & Dutch Fahrney, Don McClure, Mike Campbell

Staff: Colleen Taylor

Chair Ron Rowan called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

Public Comment Period: Eastern Oregon Celtic representatives: Marna & Dutch Fahrney, Don McClure, and Mike Campbell presented minutes to the Baker Valley Highland Games Assc for 8/27/08, 9/23/08, 10/7/08, and misc documentation of change in controls of the Baker Valley Highland Games Assc. After review of minutes, documentation, and lengthy discussion was held on the Baker Valley Highland Games request to use the fair grounds on the weekend of August 21st & 22nd, 2009. Mark moved that the weekend of 8/21 and 22 be reserved for the Baker Valley Highland Games with facilitation completed by the Eastern Oregon Celtic Society. The board requested that Colleen send a letter to Ryc Reinks informing him of the board's decision. All documentation presented will be filed at Fair Office for further reference.

Andrew Bryant, Baker County Economic Development discussed the county's marketing focus. Andrew also shared the TRTC funds collected in 08 was \$411,000 which \$45,000 of it was made available to events in the community in the form of grants. The marketing area focus will be in the Treasure Valley, Tri Cities, and Central Oregon regions. The Baker County Community Event Center is not on the county's agenda for marketing at this time, however, is in the scope for the future.

Minutes: Mark moved and Dean seconded to approve the minutes for the November and December meetings. Board members passed the motion.

Financials: Financials were reviewed. Mark moved to approve and Rob seconded, motion passed by members.

Correspondence: Notice was received from Oregon Fairs Association that our annual report was completed correctly and on time.

Old Business:

'D' Street Easement: The Baker County Commissioners adopted Option 1 for the D Street Improvements. This option would pay an amount of \$20,700 to the Baker County Fair Board for the easement needed on along 'D' Street.

Community Center Construction: Colleen reported a balance of \$56,786.78 in the 351 account to begin completion of the meeting rooms in the Event Center. Mark will be contacting the subs for a meeting the first of February to begin work with an estimated completion time of five to six weeks.

New Business:

OFA Conference: Colleen reported on the OFA Conference held January 7 thru the 11th. Lots of great workshops were available and attended. Colleen was elected as alternate District Representative and will be attending the Spring Conference in Coos Bay, May 1st and 2nd. Colleen also shared that discussion was held at the OFA Board of Directors Meeting about Lane County's Commissioners taking control of Fair Grounds during the year and Fair Board Members only being responsible for the Fair Event. Concern was shared that this was in violation of Oregon Ordinance 565.230 (1) and (2). At this time the OFA Board has taken a wait and see approach, however, wanted other Fair Boards be aware of the discussion.

Fair Ground Needs: Colleen requested that the plywood purchased for the Show Barn be taken to the Powder River Corrections where they could be painted by inmates and then we could install. An inmate work crew would be able to bring the plywood back to the fair grounds and install. Plywood to be painted off-white, board approved painting a farm scene on the boards to be mounted on the south wall for a kids play area. Rob would want to be available to supervise installation. Colleen also inquired into moving the water pipes on the sheep/pig to a center run. Discussion was held, no decisions made. Sunscreen for the barns discussed, Colleen requested to order additional sunscreen this spring to protect both barns.

The next public board meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2009, 6 pm.

Ann moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 PM; Mark seconded and passed by the vote.

Respectively Submitted,

Colleen Taylor