

Deschutes County Fair Board Meeting

April 17, 2025

In attendance: Fair Board members David Bishop, Steve Curley, Arron Curtis, Wendie Every, Carrie Novick and Libby Richie.

Fair & Expo team members in attendance: Geoff Hinds, Director; and Brandi Ebner, Sales & Marketing Coordinator (until 4:45pm)
Guests included Scott Brees.

The meeting was available via Zoom.

Guest Scott Brees noted he had not received returning notice regarding his application to the Fair Board recruitment.

David Bishop called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Wendie Every moved to approve the March 13, 2025, Fair Board meeting minutes.
Libby Richie seconded the approval. All present were in favor. Minutes approved.

Directors Report/ Facility & Events Update/Fair Update

Geoff noted the event successes of March, with 15 unique events held over the month. The local economic impact generated by DCFE in March was \$5,842,100. The economic impact calculator utilized has not yet been updated. Arron noted the data and calculators across the state and region are not consistent.

Brandi shared upcoming returning events including Sanctuary Barrel Race and Spring Home & Garden Show. The off-road track has been utilized more by Happy Moto arenacross practices and upcoming Steel Stampede event. Blippi Live and Three Dog Night/Ambrosia concerts are upcoming, as Fair & Expo's first self-produced events.

Libby asked about the recent Oregon Storm football game's success.

Geoff confirmed the attendance saw an increase and it was televised.

Libby shared that the recent USA BMX event was well attended and the full RV Park was successful support for the participants.

Geoff shared that the 2025 Fair concerts will be announced at General Duffy's on May 22nd.

Libby asked if the major entertainment acts were more expensive this year.

Geoff replied that cost comparison depends on the genre – some were higher in cost due to popularity.

Geoff shared that the declining activity of festival events continues to be seen across the industry.

He confirmed efforts to establish MOU's with Buckaroo Breakfast and OSU Extension office are ongoing.

Business & Finance Reports/Legislative Report/Building & Grounds

Geoff shared reviewed the draft FY26 budget documents and confirmed the Budget & Finance committee reviewed them. He noted the budget looks similar to FY25, with increases in ISF

(Internal Service Fund) fees and Personnel costs. The Event Production budget amounts have also increased in hopes of generating new revenue. He noted that this budget again does not generate revenue to support expenses, so TLT funds have more involvement and the reserve fund will receive no funding. He reviewed the proposed Fee Schedule which summarized user fee increases.

Arron noted the importance of educating the budget team about the significance of not contributing to the reserve.

Steve asked if the goal of the self-produced events is to generate money or create a successful event concept model.

Geoff replied that both are goals, with short-term focus on financial generation.

Geoff noted that efforts are ongoing to capitalize RV Park revenue.

Arron shared that lodging industry trends are showing airfare is being chosen again over road travel.

Steve shared that he, Bill and Geoff met to review the report. The revenue is trending down from last year but is expected to build in the upcoming busy event months. The Committee plans to provide a FY26 budget summary to the Fair Board at the May 8th meeting – during which the Fair Board would offer their approval prior to the following week's budget presentation. The Fair Board is invited to attend the presentation.

DSL Update/ Facility Master & Strategic Planning

Geoff noted no updates to the DSL land trade. He shared that Populous offered to present a project update in May or a future Fair Board meeting.

Steve shared the County and City of Redmond's MOU is still in process, supporting the land trade effort.

Election of Officers

Election of officers was performed. David Bishop confirmed he was stepping out of the Chair position. He opened nominations. Arron Curtis received nomination from Steve Curley which was seconded by Libby Richie. Arron accepted the nomination. Steve Curley confirmed he was willing to remain in the Vice Chair position. David closed the nominations. The Fair Board voted and all present were in favor of the officers' nominations: Arron Curtis, Fair Board Chair; and Steve Curly, Fair Board Vice Chair.

Steve invited other Fair Board members to join the Budget & Finance Committee.

Arron Curtis adjourned the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

Next board meeting will be held on May 8, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes were transcribed from audio recording.

Respectfully submitted,
Elyse Ballinger



***Deschutes County Fair & Expo Board Meeting Agenda
May 8th 2025 3:30pm
Deschutes County Fair & Expo
3800 SW Airport Way Redmond OR 97756***

Virtual Meeting Access available: contact DCFE office for dial or web log-in info

Call to order	3:30pm
Roll call	3:31pm
Introduction of visitors	
• Public Comments on items not listed on the agenda	3:32pm
Minutes from Prior Meeting	
• April 17th, 2025 Meeting Minutes	3:33pm
Business & Finance Reports	
• Directors Report	3:34pm
○ Facility/Events Update	
• Facility Update	
• 2025 Events	
• Fair Update	
• Finance report	3:55pm
○ FY26 Budget Submission	
• Legislative Report	4:05pm
Old Business	
• DSL Update	4:10pm
• Long Range/Master Planning	4:15pm
• Facility Use Discussion	4:40pm
New Business	
Correspondence	
• If Applicable	4:50pm
Agenda items for future meetings	
Director's Comments	4:55pm
Approval to adjourn to subsequent Meeting	5:00pm

ORS 192.630 Meetings of governing body to be open to public; location of meetings; accommodation for person with disability; interpreters. (1) All meetings of the governing body of a public body shall be open to the public and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting except as otherwise provided by ORS 192.610 to 192.690.

At any time during the meeting, an executive session could be called to address permissible issues, as per ORS 192.660(2). Executive sessions are closed to the public, however with few exceptions and under specific guidelines, are open to the media.