

Deschutes County Fair Board Meeting

February 21, 2025

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

Fair & Expo team members in attendance: Geoff Hinds, Director; Brandi Ebner, Sales & Marketing Coordinator; and Elyse Ballinger, Management Analyst.
Guests included Steve Curley, Arron Curtis, and Bill Kuhn.

The meeting was available via Zoom.

David Bishop called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Wendie Every moved to approve the December 12, 2024, Fair Board meeting minutes. Carrie Novick seconded the approval. All present were in favor. Minutes approved.

Directors Report/ Facility & Events Update/Fair Update

Geoff noted the event successes of January, with 12 unique events held over the month. The local economic impact generated by DCFE in January was \$4,825,100. He reviewed the event successes of 2024.

IAFE will be including Fair & Expo on a regional economic impact calculation; and the master planning effort will also create a custom Economic Impact calculator.

The Food & Beverage department has updated menus and concession offerings. The facility's new fencing project has been completed by Fair & Expo Operations staff, offering additional control across the property. Offices in the corridor of the FIB Event Center were updated. New grants being pursued include an electrical generator behind the conference center for emergency backup power. The well grant remains pending.

Brandi shared upcoming returning events, including Oregon Hunters' Association Banquet and Best of Beer Awards. Oregon Guns and More purchased the Wes Knodel Gun Show and will continue seasonal gun shows. Fair & Expo's recent production agency partnership has led to the upcoming Blippi youth show. A third music festival this summer was announced: Reggae Rise Up festival. Efforts are being made to host a winter event to offer a holiday community experience.

Geoff noted several recent meetings Fair & Expo staff held with Mt. Bachelor Kennel Club, resulting in the plan to combine their dog shows on one date range in August 2025. Future years' dog shows are planned to be held at Clackamas County.

Steve asked if there are discussions for Fairwell Festival's contract extension.

Geoff said the conversation is limited at this point and will likely begin after this year's event. The festival industry as a whole is seeing financial challenges.

Business & Finance Reports/Legislative Report/Building & Grounds

Geoff shared that the Committee did not have a chance to meet to review the reports, due to

the Fair Board recruitment process that recently concluded. The fiscal year is now 58.3% complete, and no significant changes are seen across the funds.

Several Fair-focused bills with potential effect on Fair & Expo are pending in the legislature, including emergency funding for fairs. TLT adjustment bills are also pending, focusing on new funding as well as expanded use of TLT funding. Some concern has arisen regarding subsequent reduction to Fair & Expo's allocated TLT. Geoff will alert the Fair Board about legislative reports and future work sessions related to the topics.

DSL Update/ Facility Master & Strategic Planning

Geoff noted there was no update regarding the DSL Land Trade topic.

The March 11 Joint Board of County Commissioners meeting with City of Redmond will discuss both the master plan and local houselessness efforts.

David noted that Commissioner DeBone is eager to move forward with the land trade and encouraged the Fair Board to be active in supporting this action.

Steve shared that DSL leadership will be changing this summer. He also noted the upcoming solar project nearby could lead to extension of 19th street, adjacent to Fair & Expo.

Geoff noted efforts to schedule the next visit with Populous in March, which includes a work session and a presentation. He confirmed fiscal year budgets 25, 26, and 27 will be impacted by the project and video lottery funds will continue to be pursued.

Steve recommended connecting the Populous team with the study surrounding the upcoming waste treatment plant, and Geoff confirmed the parties were aligned alongside County groups. Arron noted the secondary Pronghorn exit route could also be impactful.

Election of officers will be held at the March meeting.

David adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Next board meeting will be held on March 13, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elyse Ballinger



***Deschutes County Fair & Expo Board Meeting Agenda
March 13th 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	
• February 21, 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
• Legislative Report	4:05pm
Old Business	
• DSL Update	4:10pm
• Long Range/Master Planning	4:15pm
• Facility Use Discussion	4:40pm
New Business	
• Election of Officers	4:45pm
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.