



Minutes of the Oregon State Fair Council Regular Meeting

March 16, 2017

Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center – Cascade Hall-McKenzie Room

Audio Recorded: Yes

I. Call to Order: The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Chair Craig Smith presiding.

II. Roll Call: The attendance, both in person and by phone, was recorded as shown below:

Present:

Craig Smith, Chair
Jon Chandler, Vice Chair
Vicki Berger, Council Member
Loyal Burns, Council Member
Kevin Cameron, Council Member
Gene Derfler, Council Member
Leah Perkins-Hagele, Council Member
Austin McGuigan, Council Member
Kerry Tymchuk, Council Member
Steve Powers, Advisory Council Member
Don Hillman, Fair Manager

Non-Present:

George Jennings, Council Member
Rep. Mike Nearman, Advisory Council Member
Sen. Arnie Roblan, Advisory Council Member
Mike Paluszak, CEO

III. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was made by all parties present.

IV. Presentations: None

V. Approval of Minutes: Chair Smith asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes presented for approval. Hearing none, a motion was made by Council Member McGuigan and seconded by Council Member Derfler to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2017 Council meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

VII. Council Chair's Report:

Chair Smith explained that CEO Paluszak is excused from this meeting, and Don Hillman is sitting in for him.

Chair Smith reported that Council Member Cameron, he and Mr. Paluszak have been meeting with the State Fair Foundation as they reorganize. They have elected new officers and have been recruiting new members. Mr. Paluszak is developing a list of priorities from which they may choose projects they want to undertake.

VIII. CEO's Report:

Don Hillman, sitting in for Mr. Paluszak, reported that we will be hosting the Oregon Fairs Association (OFA) Spring Conference at the State Fairgrounds next week. This conference is being held in conjunction with OFA's Legislative Day, when they will spend the day at the Capital meeting with Legislators. That evening OFA is inviting Legislators to a BBQ. Any Council Members wishing to participate in the conference or attend the BBQ are encouraged to do so.

Mr. Hillman also reported that Oregon State Fair was recently awarded “2016 Festival of the Year” by the Oregon Festival and Events Association.

IX. Information Items:

- a. **State Fair Report:** Mr. Hillman stating that we are having some challenges due to increase in minimum wage, and we are working with service groups to backfill our labor needs. We have been reaching out to non-profit and service groups with a fundraising opportunity selling tickets, focusing on the tri-counties area. Planning for the Fair is almost finished. Concerts will be announced soon, grounds entertainment is being finalized, layout is being refined, and we continue to focus on our guests’ experience. Fairtime attendance has grown by about 90,000 people since 2013.

X. Action Items

a. **State Fair Council**

- I. **Financial Statement 1/1/16 – 12/31/16:** Mr. Hillman pointed out that Expo revenue is up in 2016 by approximately 50% due to increase in events booked, accomplished by a small hard-working staff.

A motion was made by Council Member Berger and seconded by Council Member Cameron to accept the financial statement 1/1/16- 12/31/16 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- II. **Financial Statement 1/1/17-2/28/17:** A motion was made by Council Member McGuigan and seconded by Council Member Cameron to accept the financial statement 1/1/17- 2/28/17 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

b. **Committee Reports and Action Thereon**

- I. **Executive Committee:** Deferred to Executive Session.

III. **Governmental Affairs Committee:**

Committee Chair Berger reported that Sen. Roblan, Council Member Chandler, she, and CEO Paluszak appeared before the Senate Committee on General Government and Accountability to testify on SB 384, Sen. Roblan’s bill regarding the State Fair. The Committee Members had no questions or issues regarding the bill, and understand what the bill is intended to do. She feels that the bill would have moved out of Committee quickly, except that the Military Department requested an amendment regarding the Armory. DAS has no issue with the amendment, nor do we. Sen. Roblan is working on the amendment now. The only other testimony was by a professor from Willamette University regarding Camas plants that grow on the Fairgrounds, and was concerned that something in the bill would impact those plants. She was assured that nothing in the bill that in any way threatened the Camas plants.

Vice Chair Chandler reported that there are a few other bills in the both the House and the Senate that we are monitoring, and we will provide our input if necessary.

XI. Public Comments on Non-Agenda items: None

XII. Council Members' Comments: None

XIII. Executive Session:

- a. Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a) to consider terms of the employment agreement between the Oregon State Fair Council and the Director/CEO.
- b. Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

Upon reconvening into public session, Chair Smith reported that the Council received information and had discussion, but no action was taken.

XIV. Adjourn: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting Materials:

Agenda

Financial Statement 1/1/16 – 12/31/16

Financial Statement 1/1/17-2/28/17