



Minutes of the Oregon State Fair Council Regular Meeting

March 19, 2026

In person - Cascade Hall - Oregon State Fair/Virtual/Zoom Meeting

Audio Recorded – Yes

- **Call to Order:** The meeting convened at 1:34pm with Chair Burns presiding.
- **Roll Call:** The attendance, both in person and via Zoom, was recorded as shown below:

Present:

Loyal Burns, Chair
Joel Conder, Vice Chair
Shane Matthews, Council Member
Geoff Hinds, Council Member
Tami Kerr, Council Member
(*Kerr Joined following voting on Min.*)
Lucy Escobar, Council Member
Travis Smith, Council Member

Non-Present:

Soraida Cross, Council Member
Arnie Roblan, Council Member
Representative Paul Evans Advisor Council Member

Other-Present:

Kim Grewe-Powell, Director/CEO
Jean Wheat-Palm, CFO and Director of Human Resources
Maddie Kansky, Administrative Assistant and Contract Procurement
Deborah Hall, Accounts Payable and Front Office Lead

- **Pledge of Allegiance:**
The Pledge Allegiance was made by all parties present.
- **Approval of Minutes:**
Chair Burns gave the Council time to review the minutes from the February 5, 2026 Council Meeting. Chair Burns asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Conder motioned to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Council Member Matthews.

Yes Vote: Burns, Conder, Matthews, Hinds, Escobar and Smith **No Vote:** None
The motion carried unanimously.

- **Reports:**

Council Chair's Report: Chair Burns stated the Council needs to discuss the review of Director/CEO Grewe-Powell, along with a wage review. The Council gave positive feedback about CEO, Kim Grewe-Powel. The Council voted on a 15% wage increase and an annual automobile stipend of \$5,500 effective January 1, 2026.

Council Vice Chair Conder, Council Member Smith and Council Member Escobar will be the subcommittee for the next CEO review process.

Following discussions, Chair Burns asked for a motion to approve Director/CEO Grewe-Powell wage increase and automobile stipend. Vice Chair Conder motioned to approve a 15% wage increase and an annual automobile stipend of \$5,500 effective January 1, 2026, with a second by Council Member Matthews.

Yes Vote: Burns, Conder, Matthews, Hinds, Kerr, Escobar and Smith **No Vote:** None
The motion carried unanimously.

CEO Report: Director/CEO Kim Grewe-Powell gave special mention to Gene Derfler who passed away at the age of 101 on March 16th. Gene was a champion of the OSFEC and instrumental in the success we are today.

The Jackman Long Building received a landscape facelift through a partnership with Green Acres. The Crosswalk project is near completion with lights to be finished before April 1st of this year.

The sales team is actively recruiting larger public events, securing new livestock and sporting events.

Vendor spaces are nearly full for the 4th of July Spectacular. OSFEC will replace a big-name concert with tribute bands on the center stage due to past unprofitability. The fireworks display will be expanded in celebration of America 250. The City of Salem has offered additional funding for the fireworks display and OSFEC is very thankful for that.

OSFEC is bringing back the Artisan's Village to the Fair this year. Ten out of eleven major acts secured; the majority of food concessionaires and trucks are confirmed, and half of the exhibitors are secured.

Financials:

Director/CEO Grewe-Powell reported the Assets and Liabilities/Equities in balance at \$13,607,390.45. Assets grew 10.17% from 2024. Total income as of February 28, 2026 reflects \$336,065.11. The total expenses were \$596,545.96 for the same time period.

The decrease in Expo revenue during the first two months of the year was reflected by a reduction in parking, Expo food and alcohol sells with fewer events scheduled.

Overall it is not unusual with the given monthly expenses to be in a negative net income the first 6 months of the year.

There will be an uptick with larger events that will increase revenue up in these areas over the next several months. We are very diligent in monitoring our overall performance.

Chair Burns gave the Council time to review and entertain questions of the Financial Statements. Chair Burns asked for a motion to approve the Financial Statements for 1/1/2026-2/28/2026. Council Member Vice Chair Conder motioned to approve the Financial Statements as presented, with a second motion by Council Member Kerr.

Yes Vote: Burns, Conder, Matthews, Kerr, Hinds, Escobar, Smith **No Vote:** None

Fair Foundation Report: President, Zach Pickett stated he is trying to get a grant between \$100,000 and \$200,000 for the Horse Stadium and ADA restroom improvements. The Fair Foundation will operate the water sales booth this year at the Oregon State Fair, the projected dollars raised is around \$50,000. These funds will be used for OSF improvements.

- **Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:**
None
- **Committee Reports:**
Executive Committee: Did not meet.
- **Old Business:**

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.