



**Minutes of the Oregon State Fair Council Regular Meeting**  
May 28, 2020  
By Phone Due to COVID-19 and Social Distancing requirements  
Audio Recorded: Yes

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**I. Call to Order:** The meeting convened at 2:30 p.m. with Chair Kevin Cameron presiding.

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

**Present:**

Kevin Cameron, Chair  
Vicki Berger, Vice Chair  
Loyal Burns, Council Member  
Jon Chandler, Council Member  
Gene Derfler, Council Member  
George Jennings, Council Member  
Austin McGuigan, Council Member  
Leah Perkins-Hagele, Council Member  
Sen. Arnie Roblan, Advisory Council Member  
Craig Smith, Council Member  
Mike Paluszak, Director/CEO

**Non-Present:**

Dana Jung, Council Member  
Rep. Mike Nearman, Advisory Council Member  
Steve Powers, Advisory Council Member

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

**IV. Report Out Regarding Executive Session**

Chair Cameron reported that an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a) to consider employment of a Director/CEO.

A motion was made by Council Member Chandler and seconded by Council Member McGuigan to authorize Mr. Paluszak to enter into a conversation with Kim Grewe-Powell to assume the position of Interim Director/CEO, effective June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with the results of that conversation reported back to the Executive Committee for concurrence and then brought to the Council for approval at the June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting. Mr. Paluszak will remain Director/CEO until an appointment is made, and will be available on an as needed basis as an employee with an hourly rate also presented to the Executive Committee for concurrence and to the Council for approval on the same schedule.

There being no public comment or discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**V. Possible Public Comments and Action Regarding Employment of a Director/CEO:** None

**VI. Approval of Minutes:**

**a.** Council Meeting of April 23, 2020: Chair Cameron asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes presented for approval. Hearing none, a motion was made by Council Member Chandler and seconded by Council Member McGuigan to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Public Comment on Agenda Items:** Kim Grewe-Powell thanked the Council for the opportunity, and she looks forward to discussing further with Mr. Paluszak.

**VIII. Council Chair's Report:** Discussed in item IV.

**IX. CEO's Report: Combining IX and X:**

Regarding Expo Center: Through September 30 we have cancelled fifty-two events, four have been rescheduled, and two may go on in early August that are very small and within the guidelines. The Oregon Health Authority hospital has been packed up and is in storage/staged for future use on grounds in case it is needed later this year. The Willamette Art Center is opening under Phase One for Marion County, with very limited activity. Marion-Polk Counties Food Share has contacted Mr. Paluszak about a mass food distribution, but he hasn't heard any updates. Our year-round concessionaire has proposed limited drive-up/walk-up concession operation on corner of 17<sup>th</sup> St. and Silverton Rd. he thinks it will move forward. It is anticipated that Dairy Women will also participate. Unfortunately, the activities we will have going on will not generate much revenue. If we assume no Expo Center events through the rest of the year, we project that we will net approximately +\$33,000, because we did have a few good months early-on before we were shut down. There are permanent salaries that are allocated across all cost/profit centers, and including that allocation we shouldn't go negative on Expo Center.

All but the core staff has been laid off: Mike, Kim, Jim, Wayne, Shawnnell and one maintenance person that is furloughed in case we need him to come in as needed. Once the decision was made for us by the Governor that we could not hold the State Fair we terminated seventeen fair-related contracts and modified two significantly because they had an element of year-round services as well as fair time. The one opportunity we are going to carry forward to 2021 are the concert contracts, as some have expressed interest in moving their contracts to 2021. There are a couple of fair time revenue contracts that needed to be cancelled that he plans to reissue for 2021: the Carnival and Oregon Beverage Service. Particularly the carnival is taking a massive financial hit because they have not been able to open anywhere, but they sound optimistic they will survive the storm. They have applied for grant money and feel sure they will get some.

The biggest conversation regarding the fair is what to do with FFA and 4-H. The fair has been in talks with both organizations and they are going to work within their respective organizations to salvage what programming they can for their participants, but not involving the State Fair.

The management team has decided to take advantage of this time and start preparing and promoting the 2021 State Fair, including announcing our entertainment during this year Fair dates, putting concert tickets on sale, doing admission and carnival presale during the holidays for stocking stuffers, and other things that will generate interest on social media.

Regarding other operations: The LRS facility assessment project has continued. We are waiting the first draft of the report. Starting June 1<sup>st</sup> Marion County will start paving per the agreement that was approved by the Council a couple months ago. Mr. Paluszak is working with Marion County staff to complete the contract before the start date.

The Management Staff is planning the reopening of the OSFEC offices in compliance with the HR requirements, which are pretty significant. When we reopen will largely depend on when we can start doing events. We are prepared to stay in skeleton mode until then, and through the rest of the year if necessary, with a modest amount of maintenance work being done.

Council Member Smith asked if there were things we could do during the 2020 Fair dates that could promote the Fair such as broadcasting The Gerry Frank Chocolate Cake Contest, have an animal drive thru, wine judging, and other activities that can happen without drawing crowds?

The team is looking at those types of activities and others like them, virtual and otherwise. They do have to meet certain guidelines, have to make sense in in terms of cost to produce, and they don't really generate much revenue. Will report back next month on any decisions.

**X. Information Items:**

a. **State Fair Report:** See Item IX. above

**XI. Action Items**

a. **State Fair Council**

i. Financial Statement 1/1/20-4/30/20

Chair Cameron asked if there were any changes or corrections to the Financial Statement presented for approval. Hearing none, a motion was made by Vice Chair Berger and seconded by Council Member Chandler to accept the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

b. **State Fair:** None

c. **Expo Center:** None

d. **Committee Reports and Action Thereon**

i. Executive Committee: None

ii. Governmental Affairs Committee: None

iii. Nominating Committee: None

**XII. Public Comments on Non-Agenda items:** None

**XIII. Council Members' Comments:** None

**XIV. Adjourn:** There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:56pm

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**Meeting Materials:**

Agenda

Council Meeting Minutes April 23, 2020

Financial Statement 1/1/20-4/30/20