

Harney County Fair Board

Meeting 5/4/2026

Fair board Members Present: Craig Neher, Pat Horlacher, Lindsey Robertson, Kate White, Jay Nelson, Diane Teeman (Zoom)

Community Members: Nick Rutherford, Gary Estep, Jessica Smith, Kailynn Grinder, Reata Kingen, Deb Arntz

Consent Agenda

1. Call to order 6:04
2. Flag Salute
3. Approval of Minutes for April 2026
 - a. Craig made the motion to accept the minutes of April 8, 2026
 - b. Pat seconded
 - c. No discussion – Motion passed

Managers Report

- Donations –
 - We have graciously received donation from the following
 - Roundhouse Foundation - \$60,000
 - Previous resident - \$10,000
 - Craig mentioned giving a “Golden Pass” to the Fair along with the thank you note
 - The Harney County Fair Foundation received it’s 501(c)3 acceptance from the IRS
 - Donated funds will be used to proceed with the installation of the electricity
- Racing Budget
 - The ORC director didn’t like that the iron rail was not going to be replaced
 - No other rulings will be made regarding the funds. DAS would like to get contract sent out to the named counties in HB 5204
- Circus – Culpepper Merriweather
 - May 28!
 - This year is different with a full big top, animals, a Midway, etc.

Guest/Public Comment & Correspondance

1. None

Action Items

1. Deb Arntz
 - a. Record Retentions
 - i. Deb was asked by the Grant County Fair regarding the retention of Fair records and whether past premium books were still locatable. There are statutes for fair record retention and fair books should be kept permanently.
 - ii. After some investigation and phone calls, the record books Deb thought were missing, were located

iii. Past Photographs & Articles

1. Terri has all the original photos of Fair Court and Lindsey has the photos of past Grand Marshalls. Terri has digitized the Fair Court and has put the originals in binders
 2. Deb suggested the Historical Society retain all past premium books, photos & articles for preservation
 3. As with all donations, Deb brought a document to sign (in regulation with the OAR) by the County Court & Fair Board to sign acknowledging the receipt of these articles. All donations are displayed in the museum
 4. Craig made a motion to donate all the past premium books, Grand Marshall & Fair Court photos to the Harney County Historical Society
 - a. Kate seconded
 - b. No discussion
 - c. Motion passed to donate the mentioned articles to the Historical Society
 - b. Deb mentioned that there have been many that have passed who worked with the Fair and donate many things that have many wonderful memories
 - c. The Fair Grounds Office – The Hibbard Building
 - i. The Historical Society recently received a matching \$18,000 grant from the Oregon Historic Parks & Recreation to rejuvenate the office building
 - ii. Spencer Painting agreed to donate the paint with ACW donating the rental of the lift which will all go toward the matching funds as in kind funding. Lindsey mentioned the surplus of metal for the roof that may be used as well.
 - iii. Discussion surrounding the additional repairs ensued stating the various facets that needed to be repaired & rebuilt to restore the building.
 1. The grant did ask what “improvements” have been made to the building
 - a. The only additions is the electrical hook-up
 - iv. With the grant money to be received in June, the contractors thought the building could be done by fair
 - v. With the donations making up the matching funds and the other repairs such as window replacement, insulation, etc., there is a balance of \$2600. Deb asked if the Fair Board would donate the balance
 1. Lindsey stated that there are 2 Memorial Funds the Fair has that at the end of the fiscal year, instead of rolling them over into the Fair fund, we could use some of this to donate the balance
 2. Deb will be making a presentation to the County Court as well
 - vi. Listed on the Oregon Historical Building Sites, the Office aka Hibbard Building has quite a history as Deb gave the Fair Board a brief review of the buildings historical past
 1. Built in 1901 the building originally was a dental office used by the Hibbards, both father & son
 2. In 1975, the building was moved to it's present location at the Fair Grounds
 - d. Deb was asked by the board if the Historical Society would assume the organizational efforts of the Fair Parade
 - i. She respectfully declined
- ### 2. Royalty Scholarship Requests
- a. Reata, the 2025 Princess gave a presentation to the Board
 - i. Thanking everyone for all the support and the scholarship opportunity Reata mentioned her career goal is in photography and the scholarship money would be toward purchase of a professional type camera
 - ii. At the moment unsure about college, she would like to eventually go into law

- iii. Craig mentioned a great opportunity would be to job shadow a professional photographer
- iv. Lindsey stating there was enough funding secured in the scholarship account, Craig proceeded to make a motion to award Reata with a \$2000 scholarship
- 1. Pat seconded it
- 2. Motion passed
 - v. Jessica & Lindsey "wrote" a promotional check for the amount and a group picture was taken awarding the check to Reata and sent to the Newspaper
- b. Jessica let everyone know that the Queen had not sent in a scholarship request & asked if we should keep the deadline open to accept her request should she present one.
 - i. Craig's comment was to keep the deadline and roll the money over until next year's scholarship funding
- 3. Truck Pulls (addition to the agenda)
 - a. Gary gave the board an update regarding the upcoming event
 - i. All vendors are secured and online, still needing to go to the sheriffs office for an alcohol permit
 - ii. He met with the truck people yesterday and they did a walk around the fair grounds planning the logistics of set-up, truck entrances, etc. They said that we had a great set up for this type of event
 - iii. The Facebook page will be up soon and on May 18 it will be line on the internet to accept tickets through a QR Code on the flyer. Hopefully, advertisement will be on the radio within the next two weeks
 - iv. Gary handed out a nicely done & attractive flyer
 - v. His goal is to make the Truck Pulls a yearly event. However, next year, Craig mentioned the date will need to be adjusted to accommodate the Horse Racing schedule
 - vi. Craig stated that we will be going to work on the track as soon as the Ranch Rodeo is over
 - vii. Gary asked about the sound system and wondered if the truck people should bring their own. Lindsey assured him that the current system will be more than sufficient.
- 4. Weather Sponsorship
 - a. The cost of running an ad for the Fair is \$350/month to run our ad one day a week
 - b. Lindsey asked if we wanted to renew the contract and Craig thought we should change the ad with the events that are coming up, probably every two weeks.
 - i. This will keep the community apprised of the continual activity at the fair grounds
 - c. KaiyInn agreed to work with Lindsey by writing up the advertising information and presenting it to the radio
- 5. Point of Dispensing Site-MOU with the County Health Department
 - a. The MOU is pretty straight forward
 - b. As an inter county agency, Craig will sign and renew the MOU

Discussion Items

1. Dog Trials

- a.** Craig received a letter asking to have a Dog Trial at the fair grounds on July 10 or 11
- b.** This is a different type of event than the 4-H dog events
- c.** Since this is a first time event, Craig thought charging a discounted fee of \$175 for the day would help him get started

d. If he is going to have any vendors we will do the same as we normally do

2. Fair Date Change

a. Craig was wondering how the community felt about the previously discussed date change which wouldn't occur until 2028

b. There are many benefits to this change which seem to outweigh the disadvantages. To name a few...

i. The carnival will improve being bigger & better

ii. The rodeo will have a better spot on the circuit & bring in more contestants

iii. Kids will not be in school which inhibits fair participation

c. If it doesn't work out we can always go back to the way it was

d. The 2028 projected date change would give everyone time to adjust

e. Kate made a motion to change the fair date to follow Grant County Fair in 2028

i. Pat seconded

ii. No discussion

iii. Motion passed to change the Fair date in 2028, to follow the Grant County Fair

3. Fair Ticketing Price

a. Craig had several discussions with community members mentioned we voted on charging \$20 per person to enter the fair (instead of car load) so we can get a more accurate account of fair attendance

b. It was decided to ease the change in, this year charging \$10 per person. A 3 day pass for \$25 was questioned but for this year we decided to keep it straight forward

c. Thursday night – Family night will be half price

d. Craig made a motion to charge \$10 per person with children age 5 & under free

i. Pat seconded

ii. Discussion – Dianne asked about the possibility of doing a can drive as well. Craig commented that there would be a need for someone to monitor this. Dianne agreed to make this proposal for next year

iii. Motion passed

2026 Fair Updates

1. Sponsorships

a. Kailynn has been everywhere with Terri giving out sponsorships. She stated that she is getting many "yes" answers from excited community members and enjoys Terri's help

b. The Livestock Association has fulfilled their money and Craig gave Jessica phone numbers of ranchers to inquire about the \$1000 donations

c. Kailynn received discount tickets from Big R for the School Rodeo contestants. Craig asked if they would like to do the same for the Pee Wee rodeo.

2. Fair book

a. Lindsey received the insertion for the open class

b. Jay mentioned that the insertion for the Livestock Show & Sale has been shortened & almost ready to present. It was recommended to not have the rules in the Fair Book but to keep them in their Rule Book

c. Next year we would like to have the Fair Book done in January

d. Lindsey's plan is to have the Fair Book out to the public on July 1

3. Open Class

a. Kate gave an update stating she is having a meeting with the superintendents this week

b. She has purchased banners for each department

- c. This year there are 5 new contests for individuals entering open class items to participate in
 - d. Registration will open in the beginning of June after the livestock weigh-ins. This will mirror the timetable of the livestock committee
 - e. Kate will have a booth at the Farmers Market if community members need help signing up on line.
- 4. Vendors
 - a. Going well
 - b. Craig asked about getting power to the pole for vendor set up
 - i. Getting a quote to start in July
- 5. Parade
 - a. Alesa is happy to do it again and has some ideas regarding the line-up
 - b. So far Dianne and 3 other people have volunteered to help. They also need one other sound person
 - c. Jessica does need help with the flags this year since last year she didn't have enough and it made things chaotic. Dianne stepped up and said she would also help in this area
 - d. Jessica was also wondering about a "theme" for this years parade which maybe sticking to the "Stars - Stripes - Western Nights" theme of the Fair.
 - e. The past two years the parade has been huge which signals the time for it's own committee!!
- 6. Livestock
 - a. Jay mentioned that the MOU is signed but has not heard anything from the livestock association
 - b. He met with the contractors regarding the wash rack pad and is waiting on quotes
 - c. Lindsey asked Jay if he could come in to look at the placement described at the
 - d. Gravel will need to be brought in. This should be able to be done by Fair
- 7. Royalty
 - a. Kailynn updated everyone on what she has been doing
 - i. So far she has attended several rodeo clinics with horsemanship
 - ii. At an Idaho clinic she met Miss Idaho and also met Miss Oregon
 - iii. She will be helping Lindsey with organizing the radio ads for the Fair Grounds and will be graduating high school in two weeks!! We wish Kailynn the best!!
 - b. Jessica wondered what the boards thoughts were regarding the queen & princess judging and not having it at fair due to too much going on.
 - i. She suggested the option of doing it before and keeping quiet the winners until fair. Then the possibility of having the horsemanship phase at the fairgrounds is an idea and crowing at the fair.
 - ii. Jessica would like to start advertising now on Facebook with a QR code in the Fair Book to the application
- 8. FFA
 - a. No one present
- 9. 4-H
 - a. No one present
- 10. Rodeo/Arena/Track
 - a. Jessica brought up the daily Fair Dress Themes. Many ideas were tossed around
 - i. "Can Cancer" will want to do their thing Friday night-Purple
 - ii. Thursday night – "Denim on Denim Night"
 - iii. Friday night – "Red, White & Blue" "Costume Night"?!

11. Capital Improvements

- a. Discussed

12. Horse Racing

- a. There was much discussion regarding volunteers, shadowing at other race meets this year, have other counties help our first year

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm

Next Meeting: June 1, 2026