

FAIRGROUNDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Burrier Building, Fairgrounds, 819 Camano Ave, Langley WA

Friday April 27, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

AGENDA

March 30, 2018 Meeting Minutes Approval

Meeting Agenda Approval

Old Business

New Business

Port Update

General Discussion

- Other/Roundtable

Action Items

- Any formal correspondence to Port Commissioners
- Others

FAIRGROUNDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 27, 2018, 3:00pm. @ Burrier Building, 819 Camano Ave, Langley, WA

Present	Organization
Gwendy Hastings	Member at Large
Dominique Emerson	City of Langley [Vice Chair]
Donna VanWetter	WWGA
Adam Fawcett	Tenant Representative Member
Gary Gabelein	South Whidbey Historical Society [Chair]
Inge Morascini	Langley, Chamber of Commerce
Cathi Mann-Fisher	WSU Extension/Island County 4-H [Recording Secretary]
Virginia Keck	Whidbey Island Fair Association
Jon Beck	Member at Large
Rick Hannold	Island County Commissioner
Angi Mozer	Port of South Whidbey
Larry Lehtonen	Fairgrounds Director

Meeting Called to Order @ 3:04pm

Agenda - Motion made to accept the agenda as written by Dominique Emerson, 2nd by Virginia Keck, motion passed

New fairgrounds property manager – After an extensive search for a new Fairgrounds Director and interviewing a large number of candidates for the position, the Port of South Whidbey hired **Larry Lehtonen** as the new Fairgrounds Director. Larry introduced himself to the Committee. Welcome aboard Larry.

Old Business

Letter to the Port of South Whidbey - Dominique presented a draft of a letter to the Port, explaining that the FAC is in its 2nd year and would like to have more involvement in the following areas:

1. The Coffman building remodel to ensure the building's on-going role for 4-H program and events.
2. Repairs to the Antique Barn for water damage, securing the building and other needed repairs to the building. The lack of progress in this area is jeopardizing equipment and the building structure.
3. Any Campground changes which may conflict with usage of trucks and horse trailers. Temporary solution for the roadways in the campgrounds.
4. The management of the fairgrounds. Review of the job description of the fairground's staff would clarify the FAC expectations. Although we do not have hiring authority, we would appreciate being involved in the hiring process. This would help us in establishing the committee's roles in reviewing of events and programs; projected maintenance and renovation, and historic preservation. We strive to become more of an advocate for economic development and to ensure that there is no conflict with 4-H programs. One possibility is to have a member of FAC be on the interview team.

5. We would like more visibility into staff reports that pertain to the Fairgrounds. This would ensure that our concerns are coming before the Port. We would like a section of the Fairgrounds staff report to list our current concerns in priority order.

Motion was made to send the letter to the Port Commissioners by Rick Hannold 2nd by Virginia Keck, motion passed.

New Business – no new business

Port Update – Angi – Provided an excerpt of her reports to the port and the idea of FAC being on the agenda. We will provide a copy of the job descriptions before they are posted online in the future.

Black Box remodeling permits have been submitted to the city of Langley for approval.

Question about the tasting room being located in an area where the 4-H program is located, where youth members will be during the fair and the possibility of it being in the pole building was raised by Gwendy. The 4-H building will have better water pressure and an upgrade in electricity

Discussion about increasing the water pressure on the fairgrounds.

The Port of South Whidbey has signed a lease with the Island County Fair Association.

Due to the next scheduled FAC meeting will be on May 25th, the Friday before Memorial Day Weekend, the question was raised about the possibility of changing the date. After the discussion, a motion was made by Jon Beck to schedule the May FAC meeting earlier in the day, starting at 1:00pm to avoid the holiday traffic. 2nd by Virginia Keck, motion passed.

Dominque Emerson raised the issue of changing the approval of the agenda to take place before the approval of the minutes.

Virginia Keck motion to include the review of currents & past concerns in the agenda. Rick Hannold , 2nd, motion passed.

Roundtable

Gary Gabelein - South Whidbey Historical Society – Question about the crushed ash fault being using for the campgrounds to fill the pot holes.

Dominque Emerson - City of Langley - City is doing well

Inge Morascini - Langley Chamber of Commerce – Last month Inge reported on the Microsoft contacting the Chamber about arranging a group event for 100 of their employees. Since the last FAC meeting, Microsoft has increased the number of people from 100 to 150. The Chamber is looking for more opportunities to have corp. groups to hold their events in Langley. Inge will attend an event in Woodinville for corporations looking to host events in order to learn more about these events for the purpose of marketing the City of Langley and to network.

Cathi Mann-Fisher – WSU Extension/Island County 4-H - Concern about the parking situation for horse trailers during both Spring Show and horse club shows. 4-H is still monitoring the RHDV-2.

Virginia Keck – Whidbey Island Fair Association – Rabbits – Virginia expressed concern about the feral rabbits on the fairgrounds. These rabbits are known to carry parasites include fleas.

Donna VanWetter – WWGA – Express concern over the parking situation for horse trailers during the April to September horse show season. Another concern is that there isn't enough stalls for the horses. Gary suggested bringing the horse trailers in the double gates by the bus barns, so there wouldn't be any sharp turns around corners.

Adam Fawcett -Tenants Rep –No report

Gwendy Hasting -Member at Large - No Report

Jon Beck – Member at Large – Jon raised the following issues.

1. The question about having WIFI available year around on the fairgrounds.
2. Request for a quote on the cost of electric on the fairgrounds.
3. Why the focus is on the Pole Building, Antique Building and the Coffman Building, and not focus on maintaining the animal barns and arenas, since they are the areas that are generally rented out during the off season.
4. Requesting that the budget should be on the agenda. In August, Angi will ask the commissioners what they want for the budgets, she prepares it for them.
5. What is happening with the sawdust and shavings bins, the areas need to be repaired, fencing around the manure bins and shaving bins are in need of repairs.

Rick Hannold – Island County Commissioner - Transportation Board adopted a resolution to allow Island Transit to provide service for special events. The special service must be provided during normal hours and days of service on the normal routes. This still needs to go through budget process. This special service cannot be a charter or be paid for by a 3rd party. Also, can't compete with another service in the 2019 budgets

Meeting adjourned @ 4:44pm

Minutes respectfully submitted to the FAC by Cathi Mann-Fisher, FAC Recording secretary.

Next meeting May 25, 2018, 1:00pm @ the Burier Building, Fairgrounds.



The purpose of this report is to inform the Fairgrounds Advisory Committee of the information reported to the Port Commissioners in advance of the April 10, 2018 Port Commissioners' Regular Meeting, in regard to the Fairgrounds.

Fairgrounds Architect Updates

Attached please find a detailed breakout of the construction cost estimates for the BlackBox Theater exit and the Coffman building renovation as per the latest official scope of work. Basically the estimate for construction of the BlackBox Theater exit is \$36,146 and the Coffman renovation estimate is \$450,793. None of these cost estimates include bringing Phase 3 power to the property.

Fairgrounds Grants Updates

I submitted an RCEDF grant to Island County for \$688,610. I also have submitted a grant application to the USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant program for \$40,000 with the intention of covering the costs associated with installing new hoods in the commercial kitchen.

Fairgrounds William Shelton Story Pole

I received a response from the Tulalip Tribes that our plan to bring the Story Pole down from its current situation is acceptable. I am attaching the summary that I sent to them for review. I will begin the process of coordinating this task. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

PRESERVING THE PAST
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

South Whidbey Historical Society

April 13, 2018

Angi Mozer, Executive Director
Port of South Whidbey
Box 872
Freeland, WA 98249

Angi

I am providing you with a document on the Fairgrounds Story Pole. The document is completely in flux as additional information is found. It is up to date as of today. I have provided Tessa Campbell with an earlier version when I met with her in March. I will send her this version also.

Please feel free to share this with whom ever has need or interest.

Thanks



Bill Haroldson
South Whidbey Historical Society

Background

“The Langley Fairgrounds Story Pole”

April 2018**

William Shelton carved “Story Poles” from 1912 until his death in February 1938.

He did this to tell the stories of “Native American” legends to ensure that Native Culture would not be lost. He also used the poles to bridge the gap between Native and White America.

His poles were distributed around the USA. When he died in 1938, he was carving a pole for the Capital grounds in Olympia. The pole was finished by other carvers and was erected in 1940. That pole stood there until 2010. Another of his notable poles stood in downtown Everett. The remains of those poles are now stored on the Tulalip Indian Reservation.

The story pole on the Fairgrounds in Langley was believed to be carved by William Shelton also. The pole building was built in 1937 by Gust Skarberg. Skarberg was very active in the Island County Fair. The Story Pole is now attached to the back of that building. There are no photographs showing the pole when the building was first opened. It is likely the pole was moved to its present location later. Photographs from the Island County Fair Scrapbooks show the pole near the present “walk in” entrance to the Fairgrounds as early as 1949.

Little has been documented on the history of that pole. It is known that William Shelton was born on Whidbey Island in 1868 and lived there through his youth. It is also known that he became inspired to be a wood carver by the carvings in the long houses that were at Cultus Bay and Sandy Point.

Shelton documented the poles that he carved and sold. However, no documentation has ever been found concerning the Fairgrounds Pole.

In June of 2017 a delegation from the Tulalip Tribes were asked to inspect the pole on the Fairgrounds and determine if was a Shelton Pole. Steve Madison, a Tulalip Carver, instantly identified the pole as a Shelton pole. He said that it was likely that his grandfather helped carve that pole. He was especially taken by the octopus holding the salmon. The paint he said was original. Shelton was known to use the best of oil paints to preserve his poles. James Madison, another carver and Steve’s cousin, suggested that the pole was a teaching pole to train other carvers.

Information seeking the history of this pole has been sought by anyone who might have some knowledge of the pole. There may be documentation in newspaper accounts in the Whidbey Record or within Island County Fair scrapbooks. To date those sources have not been completely examined.

In February of 2018, Gaylord Porter was being interviewed, he suggested that another individual carved the Fairground Pole. He said we should talk to Jim Brevig who had more knowledge. Brevig believes that the pole was carved in Bayview on family property. The carver was his uncle Paul Cunningham. He is the grandson of Paul Cunningham senior, a local poet that published under the pen name Peppercorn, and the son Lemuel Cunningham. According to Brevig two poles were carved. He said that he was aided by a "Native American" who provided him with the images to carve, the order on the pole the images were to be placed, the proper oil paints to use, and exactly how to paint the images. The pole was to be authentic Native American. Brevig who is now eighty-seven distinctly remembers his uncle carving the poles and meeting the Native American as a boy. Besides Brevig, his sister, niece, and others remember a story pole at the Bayview family property.

If the pole was carved by Paul Cunningham, it likely that it was carved in the late 1930's or early 1940's. William Shelton died in 1938. It is known that other carvers were trained by Shelton. Those carvers completed the Shelton Pole that was erected on the capital grounds in 1940. It is also known that the Cunningham family was in contact with William Shelton. Cora Cook sister of Paul Cunningham (the younger) wrote historical articles for the South Whidbey Record and in the Spin Drift. One article said she became a good friend of Chief Shelton and he related tales of the area to her in the 1930s. At that time Shelton was living on the Tulalip Reservation. Shelton was widely known on the island and likely knew the Cunningham family through various local events. Paul Cunningham senior died in 1930 at age 84. Photographs show him involved in the first Island County Fair in 1924. During the 1920's William Shelton was actively carving story poles.

Who would have been the Native American advising Paul Cunningham? He would have been a carver trained by William Shelton because the Fairground Pole is completely in the style of a William Shelton Story Pole. Brevig's statement that "the pole had to be" authentic" aids in collaboration in its identification of a Shelton Pole. Frank Madison Sr (1923-2002) became the curator of William Shelton's poles and carvings after Shelton's death. Frank Madison taught his grandsons Richard Madison, Steve Madison, and James Madison the art of carving. James was also able to travel with his grandfather to restore several of the William Shelton poles. If the pole was carved by Paul Cunningham, this also answers the question of why James Madison believes it was a teaching pole involving other carvers.

This raises more questions to be answered. What year was the Fairground pole carved? If the pole was carved in Bayview, when and who moved the pole to the Fairgrounds? If there were two poles, carved by Cunningham, what happened to the second pole?

To answer these questions the Gabelein, Skarberg, and Hagglund family members have been approached. Could they provide knowledge, documentation or photographs to collaborate history of the pole. It was suggested that Ray Gabelein senior moved the Pole to the Fairgrounds from Bayview. He was very active in the Island County Fair. Gust Skarberg had a lumber yard at Bayview for many years near the Cunningham property and he was also active in the Island County Fair.

Nathan Gilles who lives on Whidbey Island has also been contacted. He is a local artist with an art education degree and a Washington State teaching endorsement with a Native American education specialty. He has worked with local tribal carvers and carves totem poles. When given the background of the Fairgrounds Pole, he made some recommendations. One, the pole has historic significance.

Because the pole is in poor condition, it may be better to replace it with a new pole. Two, local tribal carvers could be employed to carve a new pole. Three, substantial grant money may be available for a project involving The Port of South Whidbey, The Tulalip Tribes, The South Whidbey Historical Society, and local public interest.

Whether, the Fairground's Pole was carved by William Shelton, Paul Cunningham, or someone else, it was carved in the Shelton Tradition. It was meant to be authentic. The carvings on his poles are meant to tell stories. The Fairgrounds Pole remains as a legacy of William Shelton and his efforts to bridge the gap between Native America and White America.

Quote by William Shelton:

"The following legends are recorded as they were told to me by my parents, uncles and great-uncles in days gone by. They were the text-books used by the Indians to teach their children to be brave, loyal and truthful, and to illustrate that evil comes to wicked people and that only the good prosper in the end."

**This document is under continual revision as more information is found and documented.

Bill Haroldson,
South Whidbey Historical Society