

FAIRGROUNDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held via Zoom Meeting Service

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 5:30 pm

AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82742563771>

Meeting ID: 827 4256 3771

One tap mobile

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Meeting Agenda Approval

October 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes Approval

Port Update

Fairgrounds Update

General Discussion

- Other/Roundtable

Old Business

New Business

- Meeting every other month, rather than every month
- By-Laws

Action Items

- Review current list of concerns/action items/top priorities to Commissioners
- Any formal correspondence to Port Commissioners
- Other

Fairgrounds Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – Jan 18, 2023
5:30 pm Remote Zoom meeting

In attendance

Gary Gabelein	South Whidbey Historical Society, Chair
Stan Reeves	Port of South Whidbey – Executive Director
Amanda Ellis	Port of South Whidbey – Fairgrounds Director
David Stern	Port of South Whidbey – Fairgrounds Marketing and Events Host
Clayton Canfield	At-Large
Gwendy Hastings	At-Large
Thomas Gill	City of Langley

Not in attendance

Alex Foode	WWGA
Commissioner Bacon	Island County
Jason Kalk	Fair Association
Jaime Ruddell	4-H Coordinator
Adam Fawcett	Tenants
Sarah Howie	At-Large
Nancy Rowan	Langley Chamber of Commerce

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm.

Agenda Approved: Approved by Stan (no vote taken).

Minutes Approved:

Minutes from October 26, 2022: No action taken to approve the minutes.

Port Update:

Stan Reeves gave a report on the current projects/status of the ongoing Port projects throughout the Port District. Fairgrounds projects through mid-January, and provided budget execution/graphs/projections through end of December 2022 and January 2023 projections. Expenditures for 2023 will likely exceed projections.

Fairgrounds Update:

Funding/grant statuses: Bond fund transfer scheduled for Feb 2023, approximately \$20k; RCED grant reimbursement submitted for 2022 expenditures, approximately \$14k.

Coffman kitchen project:

No change at this point. The Port will likely move forward with making necessary improvements to the heating system, electrical system, water systems and roof without major remodeling.

Restroom project:

Contract awarded to Valdez Construction. Work scheduled to begin mid-February 2023 with an April 30 completion date. The Port will ask Valdez to quote demolition of the seating area in the Grandstand.

Proposed Fairgrounds Workforce Housing:

County awarded \$150k for preliminary engineering and design work from the County General Fund rather than ARPA funds. The City of Langley Planning Department is preparing the invoice for the zoning change request. The Port was not awarded the additional \$350k requested under the County's Housing Program call for projects.

Fairgrounds Director Amanda Ellis: Coffman interior is being painted; much of the Fair Association property was moved out of the Coffman Building. Kitchens are reaching max capacity of users; additional refrigeration is needed to support the current and additional users. WIFAS is moving their operation to Coffman; Bekah Bee is moving into the vacated space in Burrier. A couple of events are planned in the next few of weeks. Small Business incubation will be our focus. Burrier and Malone will be primarily used for long-term rental; Coffman and Pole will be primarily used for short-term rental. Food Hub from Whidbey Island Grown is a new tenant coming on board.

Old Business:

The Plaque is still at the Port Office on the Fairgrounds for anyone to come and view with prior coordination. The Fair Association is looking into coordinating some sort of presentation event.

Meeting every other month vs. every month. Do we need to modify the By-Laws to amend term limits, quorum requirements, etc. Group will review the latest By-Laws and bring comments back at the next scheduled meeting.

New Business: None

Roundtable:

Gwendy: Will there be a "Friday Market" or "Saturday Market" at the Fairgrounds this summer? Thomas reported that this is a Langley Chamber of Commerce initiative. Gwendy is advocating using the Fairgrounds for this initiative. Amanda will explore the possibility of using the Turner and/or Midway for this activity; Thomas suggested coordinating with the Main Street Association as well.

Gary: Fairgrounds seem to be getting busy in the off-season. He asked the South Whidbey Historical Society to pay for a plaque for the Cider Press. Discussion followed on "Industrial Art" and how it will be displayed in the future. Asked about the potential water leak on the Fairgrounds.

Amanda: Gave an update on the Creative District initiative to improve the "walkway" from downtown to the Fairgrounds.

Clay: No issues.

Thomas: No issues; glad to see some progress is being made on the Fairgrounds.

David: Just happy to be part of the team. Is working with potential tenants for events later in the year and boosting our social media presence.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for February 15, 2022 at 5:30 pm (virtual or in-person to be determined)

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm.