

FAIRGROUNDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held via Zoom Meeting Service
Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 5:30 pm

AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82990103787>

Meeting ID: 829 9010 3787

One tap mobile

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/ke6u2Eale>

Meeting Agenda Approval

March 22, 2023 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 – April 22, 2023
5:30 pm Remote Zoom meeting**

In attendance

Gary Gabelein	South Whidbey Historical Society, Chair
Stan Reeves	Port of South Whidbey – Executive Director
Loretta Strothman Martin	Langley Chamber of Commerce
Michael Hastings	Fair Association
Gwendy Hastings	At-Large
Amanda Ellis	Port of South Whidbey – Fairgrounds Director
David Stern	Port of South Whidbey – Fairgrounds Marketing and Events Host
Thomas Gill	City of Langley

Not in attendance

Alex Foode	WWGA
Commissioner Bacon	Island County
Clayton Canfield	At-Large
Jaime Ruddell	4-H Coordinator
Adam Fawcett	Tenants
Amanda Ellis	Port of South Whidbey – Fairgrounds Director
David Stern	Port of South Whidbey – Fairgrounds Marketing and Events Host

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm.

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

Minutes Approved:

Minutes from March 22, 2023 not provided; the meeting was not recorded by error and no meeting minutes were prepared.

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-April, and provided budget execution/graphs/projections through end of March 2023.

Fairgrounds Update:

Funding/grant statuses: RCED grant project funding under discussion with Island County to move funds among the projects in order to take advantage of projects we believe we can complete by the end of the year. Strategy is to move as much funding as possible to Campground Improvements.

Restroom project:

Late May completion date. Project closeout with WSDA is May 31. This will be close but if materials arrive without delay should be attainable. Regardless of what happens in May, the restrooms will be complete and operational well before the Fair in July.

Proposed Fairgrounds Workforce Housing:

The Port met with the City of Langley, Architect and Engineer. First step is to conduct a new/clean survey of the property. City of Langley has not taken action to get the zoning change on the work plan for the Planning Department. Thomas Gill logged in late and reported that the City will either have a contractor in place to start work on the zoning; or, the Planning Dept will start work on the zoning change, on July 1, 2023 (earlier if possible).

Operations on the Fairgrounds: The electrical assessment of the power pedestals in the Campground is underway.

Water Leak on the Fairgrounds: Search for a leak was inconclusive; its possible the consumption rate was very high during the 2022 Fair due to the heat; and additional tenants/kitchen users likely contributed to the increase in water consumption. The Port will taking a whole new approach to how we charge for facilities/utilities.

Grandstand Demo: We did receive a quote form Valdez Construction; in excess of \$70k. We are not able to proceed at that cost. Amanda is hopeful that she can come up with a solution.

Amanda: Amanda reported that Whidbey Island Grown is ready to move into the Malone Building; and that the Malone, Turner and Antique Barn will no longer be used for off-season boat storage. Kitchens are essentially at capacity for users making products for sale at local markets. Kitchen rental rates are reasonable yet may need to be adjusted to account for increased utility costs. Several extension cords disappeared from the Fairgrounds during the 2022 Fair; the Port will be purchasing replacements.

Old Business: None

New Business: At the March meeting, the FAC agreed to meet every month at least through October 2023 in the current informal format. The group agreed again to continue every month until October. We will continue operating informally without reinstating the By-Laws.

Roundtable:

Gwendy: Read a letter by Carissa Moore (WWGA) – Wanted to know what is going on with the Horse Barns. Claimed someone from the Port gave her “free reign” to coordinate major renovations to the Barns. Plans to have a contractor start work. Amanda has talked to this person and told her should could do projects to improve the barns; but not major reconstruction.

Thomas: Reported that sewer changes will be underway soon that will affect Cascade Ave.

Gary: No issues to discuss this month.

Michael Hastings: Fair is three months out. Fair received a \$40k grant for entertainment. Was asked if there was a change to the buildings available during the fair, responded that it was going to be part of the lease discussions with the Port.

Loretta: The Art Corridor is being planned along Cascade Ave leading into Langley. The Visitor Center at Ken's Corner will be completely renovated and cleaned-up. The Mystery Weekend Reveal was held in the Pole Building on the Fairgrounds this year; it went very well, over \$1mil in sales, 2700 people attended over the weekend.

David: Been working hard getting things ready on the Fairgrounds for current users and future events. Coordinating a music event with Keegan Harshman, Aug 11-13.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for May 17, 2023 at 5:30 pm (virtual or in-person to be determined)

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm.