

## **FAIRGROUNDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Held via Zoom Meeting Service

Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 5:30 pm

### **AGENDA**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83792227864>

Meeting ID: 837 9222 7864

One tap mobile

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Meeting ID: 837 9222 7864

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/keBdALATsy>

**Meeting Agenda Approval**

**May 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes Approval**

**Port Update**

**Fairgrounds Update**

**General Discussion**

- Other/Roundtable

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**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 – June 21, 2023  
5:30 pm Remote Zoom meeting**

**In attendance**

Gary Gabelein South Whidbey Historical Society, Chair  
Gwendy Hastings At-Large  
Commissioner Bacon Island County  
Clayton Canfield At-Large  
Amanda Ellis Port of South Whidbey – Fairgrounds Director  
Angi Mozer Port of South Whidbey – Executive Director

**Not in attendance**

Loretta Strothman Martin Langley Chamber of Commerce  
Michael Hastings Fair Association  
Alex Foode WWGA  
Jaime Ruddell 4-H Coordinator  
Shannon Bly Tenants  
David Stern Port of South Whidbey – Fairgrounds Marketing and Events Host  
Thomas Gill City of Langley

**Meeting called to order at 5:30pm.**

**Agenda Approved:** Approved.

**Minutes Approved:** Minutes from May 17, 2023 approved.

**Port Update:**

Angi Mozer reported that the 4-H restroom project is ongoing and should finish in 2 days' time. Shower stalls delivered last week and are being installed now. The Port should be able to close out the WSDA grant June 30<sup>th</sup> as currently scheduled.

Angi is planning to meet with Port Commissioner Greg Easton and architect Rick Brown to get up to speed on the concession stands/housing project. Angi reported that everyone is very sensitive to maintaining the space currently available in the Midway. Angi described that setbacks are typically required along access roads for new construction, but the Port will be requesting a waiver on that setback.

**Fairgrounds Update:**

Commercial kitchens are still at full capacity. Campground electrical assessment is still ongoing, getting WiFi across the property is ongoing. Staff is focusing on repairs to the property for this busy season of events. Owen Boram has just been hired to fill the maintenance role on the Fairgrounds, who just graduated from the University of Washington. Owen has hit the ground running making repairs. There is an illness going around that is affecting the rabbits on the property. WSDA is running labs and should have results soon to identify the cause. Gwendy mentioned that disease among the rabbits in the past has affected Fair exhibits.

There is still not a signed contract with the Fair Association from the Fair. There has been some back and forth regarding wording in the documents. Amanda has facilitated allowing some Fair participants to see the spaces on the property.

Clayton asked if the year round tenants are making any concessions for Fair. Amanda responded that Bekah Bee's Music Studio is willing to share her space for the Fair. Outkast Theater is planning to share their large space with Fair. Amanda has been focusing on the Fair Association Agreements, and ensuring they are amenable to all parties.

**General Discussion/Roundtable:**

Gwendy: Just keeping tabs on the negotiations, hoping they go quicker than in years past. Gwendy is supportive of the shared space with year-round tenants. The tenants are generating revenue that will ultimately support the Fair event.

Clayton: would like speak with someone who was part of the original decision to establish permanent leases. Gwendy encouraged members of the group to go to the Fairgrounds and speak with staff, see the shared space, and get an in-person update. Angi offered to provide Clayton with some history. She worked for the Port when the property was first transferred to the Port, and can provide some insight on the original vision of balancing the management of the property for the Fair with also making the property at least revenue neutral (if not revenue positive) and supporting

the economy. Clayton mentioned that would be great and would get in touch next week for coffee or something like that.

Fair is scheduled for July 27-20.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Gwendy and Angi have attempted to update the email distribution list. If there is someone that is supposed to be attending et us know and we will make sure we have the correct email address for them.

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled for July 19, 2023 at 5:30 pm (virtual)