



Clallam County Fairgrounds

Parks, Fair & Facilities Department

1608 W. 16th Street
Port Angeles, WA 98363

CLALLAM COUNTY FAIR ADVISORY BOARD Minutes of May 18, 2021 Special Meeting

Name	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Position
Baxley, Roxi*					X								At-Large
<i>Vacant Position</i>	N	N	N	N	-								<i>President, Large Animals and FFA</i>
Beckstrom, Teresa*	O	O	O	O	X								Agriculture At-Large
Clark, Bob*					X								Grange
Davies, Laurie	M	M	M	M	-								Horse Groups
Edwards, Don	E	E	E	E	X								At-Large
Martin, Cheryl	E	E	E	E	-								Home Arts/Hobbies & Crafts
Johnson, Carol	T	T	T	T	X								Port Angeles Chamber
Borte, Josh	I	I	I	I	X								City of Port Angeles
Offermann, Barbara*	N	N	N	N	X								Garden Clubs
<i>Vacant Position</i>	G	G	G	G	-								Small Animals
Carpenter, Leslie					-								<i>Secretary, Sequim/Dungeness</i>
Greer, Melanie					X								Arts/Photography
Wilson, LaDona					-								<i>Vice President, 4-H Homemakers</i>
Winn, George					X								West End

Guests Present:	
Staff Present	Shari Ioffrida, Joel Winborn, Hannah Merrill, Melissa Earley, Angie Bronson*, Rick McFarlen
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.
Quorum	Yes.
Request for Modification / Approval of Minutes	Not applicable.
Public Comment on Agenda Items	None.
Committee Reports	None.
Special Committee Reports	None.
Unfinished Business	None.

New Business	1. Fair 2021 Requirements and Recommendations Governor Inslee announced Thursday Washington State is moving toward a statewide re-opening on June 30. This does not mean, however, the state of emergency will also be lifted June 30. Fair Manager Shari Ioffrida gave a report detailing the requirements listed in the Fairs, Festival and Events Guidelines provided by the Governor's office. The guidelines included requirements on the following issues: a. Face Masks b. Social Distancing c. Monitoring Congested Areas; Mitigating Crowding; Parking Lots d. Monitoring Designated Eating Area and All Buildings and Areas e. Indoor and Outdoor Capacities f. One-way Traffic in Buildings g. Signage Needed h. Increased Restroom Availability i. Staff needed to sanitize, clean, stock all areas and high-touch areas j. Having a written for covid exposure control and mitigation k. Hiring "Covid Supervisors" and "Safety Workers" to Monitor All Locations Shari reported she and other office staff has analyzed the requirements and has concluded approximately 28 additional staff would be required above the core group of fair staff that returns each year. Numerous local businesses have posted open positions and are having difficulty filling those positions. In addition to anticipating difficulty filling the extra positions, the cost involved in hiring an additional 28 people is a limitation to consider. Shari noted Clallam County Health Officer, Dr. Allison Berry, said in a recent meeting that while it would be legal to hold a fair this year, it may not be a smart thing to do. Shari also noted Clallam County Risk Management officer Tom Reyes confirmed the County's insurance would not cover any Covid-related claims. Their opinion is that Fair should be cancelled this year. Shari concluded her presentation with the department's recommendation that Fair be cancelled in 2021. Bob Clark stated he had read through the information packet sent to the Board members prior to the meeting, and felt attempting to hold a fair this year would result in something that wasn't truly a fair; he felt people would not attend, and attempting to have a fair would present an undue hardship on staff and fairgoers.
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	Carol Johnson expressed she was unwilling to give up on the idea of having a fair, noting new regulations will come, and the importance of a community event. Melanie Greer is hopeful the fairgrounds will be open for off-season events. There is a mitigation plan in place for 4-H meetings and events, with current guidelines allowing for a maximum of 15 kids and 2 adults per building. She spoke of the decline in 4-H membership, indicating many families are not willing to pay the yearly fee if the Fair will not be taking place. There are currently 96 kids enrolled in 4-H as opposed to approximately 300 in 2019, and Melanie expects an additional 10 to 15 in the coming weeks. The current enrollment category breakdown is as follows: [insert animals and #s] Shari noted she and Melanie had discussed a possible 4-H event and livestock auction could be held the same dates that Fair would have taken place. She also noted the Pacific Northwest Junior Livestock Auction (PNWJLA) Committee is currently working on a plan for a virtual/live hybrid auction. Carol noted there are currently two horse shows planned this summer aside from Fair, and that a horse show with only 18 entrants would result in a revenue loss for the horse clubs. Melanie indicated she would be agreeable to the idea of combining horse shows, splitting the cost between two horse clubs. Barbara Offerman noted that Fair is intended for kids, and is disheartened by the low 4-h attendance. She suggested a 4-H sleepover event at the Fairgrounds bringing kids together to show them they are all part of the same group and can work together may help build enthusiasm for Fair 2022. Melanie noted the volunteer requirements may be more than what is feasible at this time. Carol inquired as to which other county fairs have cancelled. Shari noted Jefferson and Clark Counties have cancelled their fairs, Kitsap County will have a 4-H animal show, however it will be closed to the general public and Pierce County will have a virtual Fair only. The Washington State Fair Association is compiling a list of each county's plan and will forward that information to all counties when it is available. Joel reminded the group the county health officer and county risk management do not support the idea of having a fair this year, however noted the fairgrounds are in a good condition to open for off-season events including 4-H. He spoke of the department's difficulty in filling open seasonal ranger positions, and found it difficult to believe the required number of volunteers and staff for Fair could be found. Carol added that 18 horses were not enough
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entrants for a horse show, and Melanie stated several 4-H leaders have stepped back and enrollment is down. Discussion ensued regarding what the county could do to help mitigate the cost of a horse show, but it was determined the bulk of the cost was due to the show judge and their travel costs. Melanie indicated she would look into the possibility of a grant to cover the cost of a judge.

Bob Clark made a motion to vote on whether or not to have a Fair in 2021. Don Edwards seconded the motion. The voting results were as follows:

[insert voting members and numbers]

The group voted 6 to 3 to not have a Fair in 2021.

After the votes were tallied, Josh Borte expressed the importance of having a 4-H special event, stating the longer we go without having an event, the more support will be lost.

2. Fairgrounds 2021 Off-Season Events

Shari indicated the several groups are currently penciled in for off-season events, and added the grounds could be open for junior rodeo and practices. She discussed the Fairgrounds Event Plan that would require groups to submit their plan for adhering to Covid-related requirements set forth by the Governor's office, and would include a hold harmless waiver.

Rick McFarlen indicated it would be reasonable to expect the Fairgrounds to be ready to open as early as June 15.

Discussion ensued regarding camping at the Fairgrounds. Shari noted other fairgrounds are allowing their off-season events to camp in every other space, and some are not allowing group cooking. Roxi noted it was not uncommon for campgrounds to open every other campsite.

Barbara Offerman inquired as to a fee schedule for the renting of a building. Shari indicated she would send her the information requested.

Melanie Greer made a motion to open the Fairgrounds to 2021 Off-Season Events. George Winn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously to open the Fairgrounds to 2021 Off-Season Events.

Joel will prepare a press release to be posted on the county website. Melanie indicated she would prepare a list of proposed

	events for 4-H. Shari reported the department would receive special assistance funding from the Washington State Department of Agriculture and should know any day how much that will be. Melanie indicated she could add a virtual component for non-animal areas of 4-H, but will need some assistance. Carol indicated she would call Melanie to see how she can help. Roxi asked if the press release will be posted elsewhere in addition to the county website. Joel responded he would ensure the department does its best to ensure the information is made public by posting it to the website and in the newspaper.
Staff Reports	None.
Other Items	None.
Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items	None.
Adjournment	George Winn moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Bob Clark. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Earley
Park, Fair & Facilities
Administrative Specialist IV

* Participated via Zoom online