

MINUTES & NOTICE OF BOARD ACTION

LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



This document, upon approval in a public meeting by the Board of County Commissioners, serves as official minutes of such meetings as required under the Open Meetings Law, ORS 192.650.

Pursuant to notice made by mailing agendas to news media, a selected list of jurisdictions and individuals in Lane County, a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held.

Questions should be directed to The Board Office Specialist 3, ext. 4203.

December 9, 1991
8:30 a.m.

INTERVIEWS WITH FAIR
BOARD APPLICANTS

Commissioners'
Conference Room

Chair Jack Roberts presided with Steve Cornacchia, Ellie Dumdi, Marie Frazier (on speaker phone) and Jerry Rust present. Judy Haldeman, Recording Secretary.

BILL ROGERS

Rogers stated that most of what he wanted to say was contained in his application. He noted that he had attended many of the Fair Board meetings and that if he were appointed, he would insist that the agenda for the meetings be published early. He stated that he was a believer in process and process has either never existed in the operation of the Fair Board or it has been badly damaged over the years.

Rogers stated that he would create expectations for the Fair Manager and then expect him to live by them. He stated that master planning for the fairgrounds was mandatory and that he was concerned about the change from a fairgrounds to a convention center. His priorities are to get a good handle on finances, begin master planning, keep people informed and hold the manager accountable. Rogers stated that the capital investment at the fairgrounds should be maintained, that some expansion may be appropriate and commitments on the livestock arena should be fulfilled.

GREG EVANS

Evans stated that he was applying for this position to bring political stability and accountability to the Fair Board and stated that the acrimony must cease. He stated that the fairgrounds should be a money making operation for the County and that he would like to see diversity increased with new blood and ideas for the Fair Board.

Evans commented that he would look at how the fairgrounds is managed in depth before he would look at a personnel change; he would ask if the policies were effective for the long and short term. He noted that he would consider moving the fairgrounds to another location to reduce the problems currently created for the neighborhood and to provide opportunities for expansion of the facilities. He would look at more mid-size conventions and trade shows to increase revenue and he would emphasize marketing. He stated that he liked the agricultural aspects of the fair and would like to have them back in the forefront. He commented that his style was one of compromise, consensus and cooperation.

SANDRA BRISTOW

Bristow commented that the Fair Board has gotten too political and that she would come on with an open mind. She stated that she had read the minutes of the Fair Board meetings and noted that there were few main agenda items.

Bristow stated that maintenance and better use of the fairgrounds facility was important as it was a vital part of the community. She would examine the rate scale and work on new marketing ideas, improve the image of the Fair Board and encourage the fairgrounds to continue to grow.

NORMAN THOMAS

Thomas stated that he has always been interested in fairs and carnivals and that Lane County has a gem of a fair. He stated that he did not view this position as a political step and that he would address problems and correct them.

Thomas commented that he would be open minded with regard to the Fair Manager. Thomas considers agriculture to be the roots of the fair. He appreciates the value of master planning and feels that the fairgrounds is a great contributor to the local economy.

STAR WOOD

Wood stated that the master plan which included the City of Eugene and community groups was mandatory, that users of the fairgrounds need to be increased and a low overhead maintained. She advocated an increase in attendance at the fair and an increase in off-season activities with an aggressive marketing program. Wood stated that she would focus on the livestock building and on maintaining a financial even keel with a master plan.

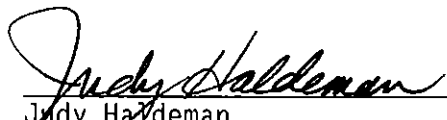
CHUCK PAPE

Pape commented that the fair was showing a loss and that there should be a change in the administration at the fairgrounds. He stated that livestock should play a heavy part at the fairgrounds on a year-round basis and that the facilities should be used more heavily for events and concerts. He suggested that there be a parking charge for events to increase revenue and that users be allowed to bring in their own food with the fairgrounds taking a percentage of sales.

GUY DI TORRICE

Di Torrice commented that one of his three priorities in life was community service and that he had energy for the Fair Board. He stated that the fairgrounds was a community resource and showcase which needs to be used a lot more by the community. He stated that the management had been allowed to ignore people and that this does not work in the public sector. He advocated a new management focus for the future with an emphasis on listening to the public. He stated that animals were something that people want at the fair and noted that the Fair Board needs to be an advocate for the users. He suggested that the Fair Board needs to plan for the future, discuss where this facility will be in the next century and involve the community in this discussion. He suggested that marketing be done for the fairgrounds as a destination-point and that the Fair Board should work with the neighborhood regarding support services. He recommended that there be more workshops, seminars and rallies - high ticket events with low overhead - trade shows and car shows. He visualized the fairgrounds as a year-round facility and suggested that there be some covered walkways and additional landscaping to provide a friendly look to the facility.

There being no further business, this meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.


Judy Haldeman
Recording Secretary