

MINUTES & NOTICE OF BOARD ACTION

BOOK 146 PAGE 1206

APPROVED 2-5-91



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.

January 3, 1991
1:30 p.m.

BCC MEETING WITH TWO NEW
FAIR BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioners'
Conference Room

Chair Jack Roberts presided with Steve Cornacchia, Ellie Dumdi, Bill Rogers and Jerry Rust present. Fair Board members Patricia Hansen and Sidney Voorhees present. David Suchart, Performance Auditor, also present. Judy Haldeman, Recording Secretary.

1. THE FAIR BOARD HAS A FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC.

Roberts stated that the Board of Commissioners is interested in what happens at the Lane County Fairgrounds because events there reflect on Lane County government as a whole and on the Board of Commissioners. Cornacchia commented that the Fair Board should avoid even the appearance of impropriety and that perceptions in the community should be heeded. He stated that the Board of Commissioners had a responsibility to choose the right people for the Fair Board and to establish expectations as to the appropriate mechanisms and the operations of the Fairgrounds. Dumdi encouraged the Fair Board to use a different auditing firm every three years, in the same manner as the County does, to allow a fresh look at the management of the operation.

2. THE FAIR BOARD NEEDS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION.

Dumdi commented that she is concerned about the entire use of the Fairgrounds and the emphasis on the Convention Center. She stated that there are other parts of the Fairgrounds that are integral parts as well and need to be promoted, such as agriculture. She requested that there be more information sent to the Board regarding what is actually happening at the Fairgrounds and suggested that the Fair Board work more closely with the City of Eugene.

Rogers commented that the public trust and perception is extremely important as it applies to public property. He suggested that Fair Board members need to be more involved on a day-to-day basis in finding out how

and why things are done. He stated that the spirit and the letter of the law regarding public assets must be clear. He suggested that there be adequate communication between the Board of Commissioners and the Fair Board with more substance to the meetings.

3. THERE NEEDS TO BE GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE FAIR MANAGER.

Rogers stated that accountability of the Fair Manager is the most important issue and suggested that a work plan be developed by the Fair Manager and approved by the Fair Board. He suggested that the Fair Board provide checks and balances for each other and that the Fair Board review policies with the Ethics Commission report in mind.

4. THE MASTER PLAN FOR THE FAIRGROUNDS NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED.

Rust stated that the Fair Board needs a master plan which addresses zoning conflicts and non-conforming activities in the area. The neighborhood groups are concerned about dust, pavement, traffic, garbage, etc., during the Fair and would like to have some common sense ways to coexist. He suggested that the Fair Board develop a master plan process, publish it, hold a public hearing and reach out for public involvement.

5. THE FAIR BOARD NEEDS TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE MARKETING PLAN FOR EACH STRUCTURE ON THE FAIRGROUNDS.

Dumdi stressed that marketing needs to be done on all aspects of the Fairgrounds. Rogers stated that the rural aspect of the Fairgrounds is important even if it does not show a profit and a marketing plan is needed to promote the existing facility.

Roberts commented that the remarks made today were fairly consistent with those in the document (see material on file). He stated that he would emphasize that this is a public enterprise and that the public's confidence in the Fairgrounds is absolutely critical. He stated that the Fair Board must supervise the Fair Manager and help him do the best job by having policies, procedures and accountability. He commented that the Fair Board must restore the confidence of the people of Lane County that the Fair Board has looked at what is going on, determined what is going right and keeping it and determined what is going wrong and setting it right.

Cornacchia added that youth programs were important to him and he would like to have a Fair Board member advocate for the youth in this community. He suggested that the Fair Board provide expectations to the Fair Manager and continually question the operations of the Fairgrounds. He commented that it was a common theme that a rural presence remain at the Fairgrounds.

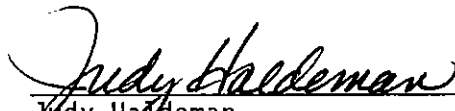
Dumdi commented that her children grew up at the Fairgrounds and she would like other children to have this same opportunity.

Hansen stated that she wished that the entire Fair Board could have been present to hear what the Board of Commissioners had to say today and that the comments of the Board of Commissioners was very much in line with her feelings also. She stated that there is a lot to be done, but she felt that it could be done and she was looking forward to getting to work.

Voorhees commented that it was an honor to be on the Fair Board. He stated that he thought that the comments made by the Board of Commissioners were fair and that monitoring is needed. He stated that he was looking forward to beginning work on the Board and agreed that communication was essential and a key element along with a team effort.

Roberts thanked Hansen and Voorhees for taking time to come today and Cornacchia thanked them for their commitment to the community.

There being no further business, this meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.


Judy Haldeman
Recording Secretary