

**CACHE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
OCTOBER 23, 2023**

The Cache County Fairgrounds Advisory Board met in a regular session on October 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Cache County Event Center, 490 South 500 West, Logan, Utah 84321

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members in Attendance:

David Erickson – County Council
Justin Clawson – USU Extension Agent
Lane Parker – County Fair Manager
LaMont Poulsen – County Rodeo Manager

Advisory Members in Attendance:

Shawn Milne – Economic Development
Bart Esplin – Fairgrounds Manager
Ron Bjorkman – CCEC Marketing Director
Casadee Hudson – CCEC Assistant Mark. Direct
Bartt Nelson – Cache County IT Director
Dirk Anderson – Chief Deputy County Executive

Voting Members Absent:

David Zook, Chair – County Executive
Sandi Goodlander – County Council
Mark Hurd – County Council

Advisory Members Absent:

Julie Hollist-Terrill – CV Visitors Bureau
Dane Murray – Interim County Attorney

Also in Attendance:

Janeen Allen – Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: A motion was made by Lane Parker and seconded by David Erickson to approve the minutes of June 20, 2023 as written. The vote in favor was 4-0. (David Zook, Sandi Goodlander, Mark Hurd and LaMont Poulsen absent for vote)

10:02 am – LaMont Poulsen arrived

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

1. RAPZ Projects Update

Sound Panels are on schedule to be installed in the Event Center on the north, south and west walls the week before Christmas. The Event Center and Fairgrounds work to bring back customers lost due to the poor sound quality.

Esplin is meeting with Cache Valley Electric tomorrow regarding boosting the cell phone signal at

the Fairgrounds. Esplin will also be working with all cell phone companies towards a solution. Arena Lights are scheduled to ship around the end of the month or first of November. They will be installed when they arrive.

Esplin having a very difficult time getting concrete contractors right now for the Cow and Pig Barn.

2. Horse Stall Fees

Will be going before the council by the end of the year as part of the updated fee schedule.

Permanent stalls are almost exclusively used by local residents. The stall barns are in desperate need of replacement. Estimated cost at roughly \$300,000 for each barn (2).

Do we want to go that direction for new barns or make them go away for good? Currently, they are almost at capacity.

The following questions were raised during the discussion on horse stall fees:

Nelson: Can you recoup the costs with rental fees? Will you raise fees to include the new costs?

Basically, the tenants would essentially pay for the buildings.

Esplin: The question is if we want to build these buildings for mainly local renters?

Parker: I think it's a service that the county should still provide.

Poulsen: I am embarrassed to take people to the stalls right now because they are in such bad shape.

Erickson: If the buildings were rebuilt, would people still rent?

Nelson: Does this jive with the Master Plan?

Esplin: Master Plan has a new horse stall building at another location.

Nelson: Classic cost/benefit

Erickson: Will it create a better environment for the Fairgrounds?

10:25 am – David Erickson left meeting

Milne: What is the long-term plan for the Fairgrounds and will the renovation of these buildings fit that long-term plan?

Esplin: The long-term plan for the Fairgrounds actually has them being moved to another location, so that's definitely a question that needs to be considered.

A lengthy discussion followed after which Esplin said he will continue to work numbers to bring to the next meeting. His main goal was to start the discussion. The discussion will continue at the next meeting.

3. Millburger Building

The Millburger is on the 2024 budget schedule to rebuild at an estimated cost of \$300,000 to \$500,000. The question is if it's worth it because the building is used all of five times a year. The trend with food trucks is making it not seem worth the cost to build.

Esplin met with the Sheriff and talked about the possibility for renovation, but even that would be around \$250,000. It currently does not meet any health codes and is in very bad shape. Something needs to be done. We either tear it down permanently or renovate or rebuild. It does have some historical significance, but is that enough to save it?

Parker: It has served its purpose.

Clawson: How about turn it into a pavilion and have people bring their own equipment.

Esplin: Another item I wanted to start the discussion on. Personally, don't think it gets enough use to justify renovation or rebuild. The question is that it is the sole source of income for the Explorers. We should look at other options for them to continue with their fundraiser without the Millburger building.

This item will also be continued for discussion at the next meeting.

4. Open Items

- Lane Parker said the ventilation in the indoor arena needs improvement. Esplin said there is money in the budget to improve the ventilation. He will look into it more.
- Bartt Nelson said they are working to provide cameras and more options to bring the livestock sale into the Event Center next year.
- Ron Bjorkman said the Fair went very well. There are, of course, a few things to work on, but overall, it was a great success. They have been extremely busy in the Event Center with events and have now come to point where there are actually too many events. He complimented his staff and all at the Fairgrounds for their work together coordinating these events. He said they have a great team there.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Monday, December 18, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Cache County Event Center

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.