

**Weber County  
Friends of the Fairgrounds Advisory Board Meeting  
Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Golden Spike Event Center Conference Room**

**Members Present:** Teddy Anderson, Tiffany Christiansen, Susan Clontz, Tom Close, Lee Dickemore, Korry Green, Sharlan Holmes, Mike Mathieu, Lora Parker, Stephanie Solomon, Michelle Taite

**Staff Present:** Duncan Olsen, Jim Harvey, Ashton Wilson, Gabby Eisenbarth, Marty Smith, Todd Ferrario, Duane Kearsley, Emily Scoville, Kimberly Salas

**Welcome:**

Chair Connie Robinson opened the meeting and welcomed new board members, Harrisville Mayor Michelle Taite, Sharon Bee from 4H and Lt. Cowley from the Sheriff's Office; the meeting came to order at 12:38 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Connie Robinson motioned to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2024, Meeting. So moved. The motion carried.

**Weber County Report & Welcome: (Commissioner Harvey)**

Commissioner Harvey provided a brief report from the recent State Legislature meetings, noting that there is not a great amount of extra money in the state budget and the majority of those funds are going towards education. He explained that tech school as well as college level programs are being refined, and youth will be able to start taking upper division classes earlier. He noted that there will be some funding going towards roads projects and that there is much discussion happening around housing and planning for city growth. Commissioner Harvey went on to inform everyone that Ogden Valley City is suing Weber County. He explained that Ogden Valley does not want Weber County involved in certain things and steps that are required in order to become a city, thus there is a conflict because Ogden Valley does not want to follow these processes.

**Golden Spike Event Center Report: (Duncan Olsen)**

Duncan began by highlighting one of Golden Spikes' biggest events of the year, taking place the first week of March which is the Intermountain Ice Breaker Rodeo. He noted that this event brings in people from 18 states as well as Canada and has even starting drawing college rodeo program recruiters. The event takes place Wednesday through Saturday and is free to attend. Duncan continued by thanking Marty and Todd for their help in securing some capital improvement projects that are much needed at Golden Spike Event Center, such as new security cameras to mitigate risk, new asphalt and concrete projects and a temporary floor, which will open the door for more events like wrestling and volleyball competitions.

**Weber County Fair Report: (Ashton Wilson)**

Ashton informed everyone about the new entertainment and attractions that have been contracted for the 2025 Fair. She noted that the team has made great headway this year in terms of getting contracts in place early. She also alluded to a possible carnival company for future fairs, though they have not yet gathered enough information. Ashton discussed the new theme of the Fair, which will be

Americana this year. She listed some of the new attractions and performers, such as the stilt walkers, bubble tower and Dino Encounters. Todd Ferrario then added that the grant being submitted for Dino Encounters will probably include a shade tent, which will be 40x50 ft and retails at \$50,000. Due to the STEM and kid-centric educational components of this activity, it is likely the Fair will be granted the funds to cover costs for both. Ashton then went on to mention more entertainment, such as the jousting show in the new warm-up arena that will be new this year. There will also be a motorcycle trick show called Play with Gravity. Ashton explained that the layout for the Fair is being updated to accommodate some of these new additions. She let everyone know that the trampoline show is coming back this year because they are local, cost effective and popular. Ashton then delivered the big news that there will be a concert this year, though the contract is still being finalized. The artist will be Tyler Braden, and the opener will be Whitney Lust. Ashton played a sound clip for everyone to hear Tylers music and informed the group that the concert is scheduled for Thursday during the Fair. Ashton then listed some of the returning entertainment, such as roaming princesses and superheroes, the photo booth, cow town USA and Bingham party rentals. Ashton let everyone know that the deadline for food vendor applications for the Fair will be 4/25/25 and that superintendents are needed for food arts and possibly for rabbits. She concluded by adding that she is still working on sponsorships.

**Committee Discussion:** (Chair Connie Robinson)

Connie asked the group about any new happenings. Tiffany Christensen added that Comfort Suites is almost sold out of rooms for the Ice Breaker Rodeo. Sharon Bee added that 4H sign ups for the fair are moving right along.

**Discussion/Action Items:** (Chair Connie Robinson)

Mike Mathieu added that Ogden City will need a new sign printed for the Fair because theirs is damaged. Ashton said this will be no problem.

**Old Business/New Business:** (Chair Connie Robinson)

Nothing to report.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting concluded at 1:07pm. Chair Connie Robinson Motioned. So moved. The motion carried.