

**Weber County
Friends of the Fairgrounds Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, June 19th, 2025
Golden Spike Event Center Conference Room**

Members Present: Teddy Anderson, Tiffany Christiansen, Susan Clontz, Tom Close, Jeremy Dearden, Lee Dickemore, Korry Green, Sharlan Holmes, Lora Parker, Stephanie Solomon, Michelle Taite, Ryan Cortney

Staff Present: Duncan Olsen, Jim Harvey, Ashton Wilson, Gabby Eisenbarth, Marty Smith, Todd Ferrario, Emily Scoville

Welcome:

Chair Connie Robinson opened the meeting and welcomed new board member, Sydney from Visit Ogden; the meeting came to order at 12:23 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Connie Robinson motioned to approve the minutes from the April 24, 2025 meeting. So moved. The motion carried.

Weber County Report & Welcome: (Commissioner Harvey)

Commissioner Harvey began by giving thanks to Duane Kearsley and his team for the hard work going in to construction on the parking lot to the North of the Riding Arena. He went on to discuss a case study that has taken place over the last year, evaluating every position in every county in the State. Decisions have been made based on the results of that study and the information is expected to be available for all county employees online, within the next 30 days. Commissioner Harvey gave a quick financial update for the County, noting that we have not seen a ton of financial growth but have remained steady. He then told everyone that he was excited to let everyone know that Weber County is expecting to have an Olympic Curling event in Ogden in Spring of 2026. Though Weber County was not selected for the official Olympic curling events, the county will be the home of all Olympic Alpine Events, which is a pretty big deal. He added that he hopes and foresees Olympic Curling coming back to Weber County at some point. In addition to Olympic events, Commissioner Harvey added that there will be a PGA golf event happening at the Country Club soon, which will bring world class golfers to Ogden. He added that the golf event will also be cross promoting the Spring curling event.

Golden Spike Event Center Report: (Duncan Olsen)

Duncan began by adding to Commissioner Harveys comments about the construction happening at Golden Spike Event Center, saying that the team has been heavily involved in projects. In addition to construction, the event center has been busy with events, which will continue through mid-July, at which time the focus will shift to preparations for the Weber County Fair. Duncan let everyone know about a new event that took place recently, which was the truck pulls. He said that this event brought in over 3,000 people, similar to the crowd sizes we see at the Derby's. Lastly, Duncan let everyone know that there will be a new Event Manager joining the team, replacing Amy King.

Weber County Fair Report: (Ashton Wilson)

Ashton informed everyone that there are still some details with the Draft Horse event at the Fair that are up in the air. She also noted that JR. Livestock has just finished their tagging. Lora Parker went over the tagging #'s. Ashton went on to inform everyone that Board member responsibilities have been reduced this year and asked, in consideration of that, if some from the group would consider signing up to volunteer with the Fair because help is still needed in managing check points each day. She asked that anyone who is willing to volunteer or has friends or family who will volunteer to contact Kim Salas. Ashton continued by reviewing where she is at with Sponsorships, saying that several sponsors have dropped out this year and thus numbers are down. She asked everyone to send her their contacts for potential new sponsors. On a positive note, she added that the contact from Ford that Tom Close had provided has committed to being a Grand Champion Sponsor, which was a huge win. Ashton thanked everyone in the group who had signed up to help with local parades to support the Fair. Lastly, Ashton let everyone know that there will be no hypnotist or magician at the Fair this year, which was decided intentionally as a means to keep the entertainment fresh.

Committee Discussion: (Chair Connie Robinson)

Connie asked the group about any new happening and they went around the room. Jim Harvey asked Susan Clonz for a list of which Mayors are participating in the events to promote the Fair. Marty Smith thanked Ashton for helping to get the new ticketing program ready to sell Fair tickets and noted that everything is going well so far. Marty's comments about the ticketing system reminded Ashton of a few facts she wanted to share, including the fact that 2,100 derby tickets have been sold so far, as well as 40 bull fight tickets. She continued by mentioning that she expects the derby tickets to sell out by mid-July, which would be consistent with previous years. She also added that an organization called USARA has committed to purchasing 250 bull fight tickets. Connie Robinson reminded everyone of the date for the July meeting and Ashton added that at the next meeting everyone will receive their Fair tickets, credentials and other important items.

Discussion/Action Items: (Chair Connie Robinson)

Ashton Wilson will have an email sent out with information about volunteering.

Old Business/New Business: (Chair Connie Robinson)

Nothing to report.

Adjourn:

The meeting concluded at 12:47pm. Chair Connie Robinson Motioned. So moved. The motion carried.