

**Weber County
Friends of the Fairgrounds Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, June 18th, 2026
Golden Spike Event Center Conference Room**

Members Present: Teddy Anderson, Susan Clontz, Tom Close, Korry Green, Shae Hill, Sharlan Holmes, Eli Johnson, Jeremy Dearden, Lora Parker, Rob Venderwood, Stephanie Solomon, Connie Robinson

Staff Present: Todd Ferrario, Duncan Olsen, Kimberly Salas, Marty Smith, Ashton Wilson, Jim Harvey, Duane Kearsley

Welcome:

Chair Connie Robinson called the meeting to order at 12:28 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Connie Robinson motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 18th, 2026. So moved. The motion carried.

Weber County Report & Welcome: (Chair Connie Robinson)

Chair Robinson welcomed attendees and invited Commissioner Jim Harvey to provide a Weber County update. Commissioner Harvey reported that new road construction is underway at the Weber County Fairgrounds. The approximately \$100,000 project is being funded by the Transportation Department and is not utilizing Parks and Recreation funds. He announced that Nathan Peterson has been appointed as the new Director of UDOT and shared that planning efforts continue in preparation for the next Winter Olympic Games. Commissioner Harvey noted that Weber County has more volunteers than any other county in the state, which will be a significant asset in Olympic planning efforts. He also reported that, according to recent state statistics, Weber County ranks in the top 2% statewide in financial performance and has received perfect scores for its low fraud rates. Additionally, he shared that animal euthanasia rates at Weber County Animal Services have decreased by 90% compared to last year, and adoptions now exceed the number of animals being surrendered.

Golden Spike Event Center Report: (Duncan Olsen)

Duncan Olsen reported that the kitchen remodel at the Golden Spike Event Center is currently underway. He noted that the facility continues to maintain a busy event schedule. Mr. Olsen shared that the Event Center recently received an inquiry from WWE regarding a potential future event and that staff are actively preparing for the upcoming Weber County Fair. He also reported that, during the Fairgrounds road construction project, Duane coordinated with the construction crew to pave an area near Barn D using excess asphalt, resulting in a cost-effective improvement.

Weber County Fair Report: (Ashton Wilson)

Ashton Wilson announced that the Weber County Fair premium books are now available.

She invited Lora Parker to provide a livestock update. Ms. Parker reported that steer entries are slightly lower than last year, while goat and pig entries have increased. She also noted that the Junior Livestock meeting will be conducted virtually this year instead of being held in person at the Golden Spike Event Center, providing a more convenient option for participating families. A Competitive Exhibits meeting is scheduled for July 31.

Ms. Wilson asked committee members to assist with recruiting additional Fair volunteers, securing donations, and identifying new sponsorship opportunities.

She reported that RV reservations for this year's Fair were managed through ETIX. Although there was a minor issue during the booking process, it was quickly resolved, and all RV spaces sold out within minutes. Fair tickets went on sale on May 29. To date, approximately 1,700 demolition derby tickets have been sold, which is about 400 fewer than at the same point last year. Conversely, Bull Fight ticket sales have doubled compared to this time last year.

Ms. Wilson expressed some concern about the potential impact of current economic conditions on overall attendance and ticket sales. In response, the Fair team is implementing several initiatives to encourage attendance and increase vendor participation, including:

- Reducing the percentage fees charged to food vendors.
- Requiring each food vendor to offer a daily special.
- Offering free Fair admission until 2:00 p.m. on weekdays to encourage lunchtime attendance and support food vendors.
- Promoting these initiatives through marketing and social media campaigns.

The hope with offering free daytime Fair admission during the week is to encourage nearby BDO employees to visit the Fair during their lunch breaks.

Committee Discussion: (Chair Connie Robinson)

Chair Robinson opened the floor for committee discussion.

Stephanie Solomon asked whether Visit Ogden could assist in promoting some of the Fair's legacy events through its website and marketing channels. Duncan Olsen indicated that this would be welcomed, particularly promoting the free Fair admission before 2:00 p.m. on weekdays.

Discussion/Action Items: (Chair Connie Robinson)

Stephanie Solomon will coordinate with Ashton Wilson to discuss marketing opportunities for the Weber County Fair through Visit Ogden's communication channels.

Marty Smith will work with Susan and Ashton Wilson to coordinate prize giveaway donations.

Old Business/New Business: (Chair Connie Robinson)

No additional old or new business was presented.

Adjourn:

The meeting concluded at 12:49pm. Chair Connie Robinson Motioned. So moved. The motion carried.