



Fairgrounds Advisory Board Minutes

Monday, October 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5:10pm with the following Fairgrounds Advisory Board members in attendance:

Board Members Present: Monique Brigham, Gery Cardenas, Hank Davies, Robert Desmarais, Dorothy Elsner, Gin Learned. *Not Present:* Kristen Keltz

Staff Members and Representatives: Aric Gaither, Frances Negranza

Guests:

Skagit County Fairgrounds Foundation Board members: Sharrie Nelson, Bekki Cox, Robert Johnson, Ayla Holboy. Foundation Guests: Wendy Ringhouse, Sarah Moure

A motion was made to approve the September 2025 minutes and seconded. The motion was approved and passed unanimously.

Board Discussion:

Introductions of all present – Advisory board, Fairgrounds Foundation members and guests.

Fair Foundation

Fair Foundation shared their current brick fundraising effort, sharing how many have been sold with the hope to have the first round installed at the Fairgrounds by May of 2026. If installed by Fair, it would be visible by guests who attend the many events at the Fairgrounds and potentially inspire more bricks to be purchased. Further discussion is needed on the location of Bricks. Foundation is seeking grants and sponsorship opportunities and identifying opportunities.

Fair Advisory Board

Tabled further discussion about the Vice Chair and committees to next meeting. Discussed economic impact report received from IAFE, both national and Skagit County Fair specific reports. Fair staff discussed how the Fairgrounds plans to cut expenses in 2026, while still maintaining the ability to continue to provide outlets for improvement requests from superintendents and departments during the Fair. Reviewed capital grant applications and projects that are upcoming in 2026.

Joint Meeting Discussion

Began discussion about how the two boards can support each other moving forward. Initial ideas: New golf cart for the Fairgrounds, encouraging and educating adult exhibitors: Is it possible to donate their premiums back to the Fair?, Introductions for sponsorships.

Group mentioned idea of quarterly joint meetings during regularly scheduled Advisory Board meeting times.

Adjourn 7:00pm