



Fairgrounds Advisory Board Minutes

Monday, September 15, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm with the following Fairgrounds Board members in attendance:

Board Members Present: Monique Brigham, Gery Cardenas, Robert Desmarais, Dorothy Elsner, Kristen Keltz. *Absent:* Hank Davies and Virginia Learned.

Staff Members and Representatives: Aric Gaither, Frances Negranza

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

Board Discussion:

Bylaws

Board reviewed bylaw recommendations from the county legal team. Agreed to adjustments to add a vice-chair position, further discussion is needed on committees.

Fair Wrap-Up

Staff received positive feedback about the Fair. The couple suggestions that were shared were the amount of non-service dogs on grounds (which many events face), specific barn signage requested by clubs, and noise level from stages during a couple of musical acts.

Fair Board asked for more specific numbers to create a wrap up summary to send to the Commissioners.

The board noted some of the exhibits are bursting at the seams, showing an incredible amount of pride in the community since people want to exhibit at the Fair in such high numbers. Also noted that youth exhibitors at the Fair are engaging of the public and is one of the many things that make the Skagit County Fair special.

Talked about programming opportunities for Sundays at future Fairs.

Capital Projects Update

WSDA Capital grants are due at the end of this month. Planning to submit grants for electrical upgrades in barns, a pavement project and purchase new bleachers, pens, and signage to improve health and safety around the Fairgrounds.

2026 Budget

Fairgrounds submitted the 2026 Fair budget. There will be a work session with the commissioners to discuss the submitted budget on Tuesday, September 30. Fair Staff shared where the fairgrounds is cutting expenses and asked board to be thinking about new revenue ideas going forward.

Adjourn 6:38pm