

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 17, 2019**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Mordhorst and Commissioner Ainsworth were present.
2. **MINUTES** : **COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2019.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **FAIRGROUNDS DEPARTMENT UPDATE** – Tina Andersen, Fair Manager, and Anna Scharf, Fair Board member, came to give an annual update. Tina informed the Board that fair attendance was up this year and revenue was up 26.5%. They attribute the increased ticket sales to the online sales. Each year a group volunteers to help with admissions and this year the group had some difficulties operating the scanners that were provided by the company hired to manage the sales so the data from the scanners may not be the most accurate. Their cash sponsors were increased by 10.5%. Anna stated that she would like to reach out to some of the bigger businesses in the county that have not previously sponsored the fair to see if she can make some new partners. They had 77 vendors and 13 food booths and beer sales were up 130%. They did have trouble finding volunteers and have found that people usually do not want to commit to any tasks until the day before the fair. This year the fair had a “free family fun zone” which was a big hit. It had life size checkers/chess among other activities and games. In the future they will possibly be looking at how they can provide more seating for the rodeo because it is always so popular and this year it was very crowded.

There was a Fair Board Recap meeting last week and they decided that the 2020 Fair theme would be “Happy 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday to the County Fair”. They have received requests to have the speed lowered on the highway during the fair because of the danger it poses for fair goers pulling in and out of the parking lot. There were 16 fundraisers held in 18-19 and all of the money was reinvested into Polk County. Fam Jam was held for the first year at the fairgrounds and they have signed a contract for two more years. They received a grant from Energy Trust of Oregon to upgrade all of the lighting, so now it is all LED. They have had churches paying for campers to stay overnight and then they are having trouble getting them to leave. Two of the Board members terms will expire at the end of the year. They are very happy with their current caretaker but he has been getting calls when he is off duty and it is making it difficult for him to be off when he is supposed to. They are considering putting up a privacy fence so that when he is outside his home he is still getting the privacy he should have at his home.

Anna stated that they would like to send Tina to the Western Fair Association conference because there is a lot of learning, and networking that can be done. It is not very expensive and the Fair Board has agreed it would be a worthwhile expense. The Board stated that if they can find it in the fair budget they approve it.

4. **FISH & WILDLIFE ANNUAL UPDATE** - Brian Thomas, District Supervisor, informed the Board the cougar population is increasing significantly and they received 51 calls about them last year. Of those 51 calls they were only able to remove a couple lions. If they don't respond to the calls within a day or two their ability to take care of the problem significantly declines. He is interested in having a presence at the Polk County fair to help bring awareness to the issue and spread word that they are here and would like to be notified of cougar sightings.

Brian has also stated that they spend a lot of time responding raccoons and skunks within the city limits. They are using a lot of resources by doing so and he would like to ask the Board if they are ok with this or if they have any thoughts on the matter. Commissioner Pope stated that he would like to see the cities taking this problem seriously as well.

5. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha  
Approved: September 24, 2019