

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR: MINUTES OF EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 4, 1977
9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
at the Original House of Pancakes

Board members present: Sandra Bauer, Ron Chase, Mary Cay Liebig,
Connie Epstein, Gil Harrison, John Sundquist, Bill Wooten
Staff: Hal Hartzel, Eileen, Jill Heiman, Barb Stern

The meeting was called to respond to criticism of the Fair made by Lt. Brieger of the Lane County Sheriff's office in a letter to Archie Weinstein which Archie read aloud into the record at a Lane County Board of Commissioners meeting. News media had picked up the story and were approaching Fair staff for comment.

It was agreed as follows:

1. Bill would ask Cindy to accompany him to a meeting with Sherriff Burkes to deal with the criticism and offer proof against the allegations as well as to ascertain how the letter came to be released.
2. We would not contradict Brieger without first discussing the situation with Burks; however we would marshal reports from the area coordinators to compose a point-by-point response to the allegations in Brieger's report. Such a response would then be sent to Archie Weinstein and hopefully get into the Commissioners Record.

It was agreed that the report was untrue or greatly exaggerated in many respects. The only documentation offered was 2 related individuals who saw trespassing and nudity outside of the Fair and that the other allegations seemed unfounded.

3. Our response to the media would be that to the best of our information, the report was grossly inaccurate and that the Fair's staff coordinators were not aware of the problems allegedly existing. We hope to meet with the Sheriff's department to see where they got their information from and correct any misunderstandings as well as to resolve any problems if they exist.

It was agreed (consented) that the staff needs to do more follow up work with the police and neighbors after the fair to make sure incidents like this don't occur in the future. Members expressed concern that Brieger was burnt out and bitter and that this motivated the letter.

4. Finally, Fair staff would solicit letters of commendation and support from residents to counteract the report by the sheriff.

Jill Heiman