

Members

Rep. Robert Bischoff, Chairperson
Rep. Kreg Battles
Rep. William Ruppel
Rep. Phyllis Pond
Sen. James Merritt, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. Phil Boots
Sen. Richard Young
Sen. James Lewis



STATE FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Authority: IC 15-1-1.5-4

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 20, 2007
Meeting Time: 9:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: Board Room of the Administration Building, Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 E. 38th Street
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Rep. Robert Bischoff, Chairperson; Rep. William Ruppel; Sen. James Merritt, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Phil Boots; Sen. James Lewis.

Members Absent: Rep. Kreg Battles; Rep. Phyllis Pond; Sen. Richard Young.

Chairperson Bischoff called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Introductions were made of the members of the Committee and attendees at the meeting. The Chairperson stated that immediately following this meeting, there would be a meeting of the State Fair Commission and then a joint meeting of the State Fair Commission and State Fair Board. All in attendance were invited to attend those meetings.

1. Report of the 2007 Indiana State Fair

Executive Director Cindy Hoye furnished the Committee with Indiana State Fair 2007 Recap Report (Exhibit A). She also invited those present to the following meetings, stating

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

that capital projects would be discussed, most importantly the renovation of the Pepsi Coliseum. She thanked the 1500 employees of the State Fair for their assistance at the 2007 Fair, and praised their perseverance in the heat and humidity. Attendance for the 2007 fair was about 751,000. In informing the public about the Fair, Director Hoye was glad that they could tout the air-conditioned buildings. She stated that the leadership of the Fair Board is changing, and stated her appreciation for the members who have served on the Fair Board. (The changes are noted on the front page of Exhibit A.) There will be two new ad hoc Fair Board committees, a fair board orientation committee and a youth scholarship committee. She complimented the Indiana State Police and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department for their assistance.

The Fair staff will be working on promoting other admissions options. There may be multiple day passes available in future years, or a lesser price for an admission later in the day. The 2007 Year of Corn theme worked very well, and spotlighted agriculture with its landscaping motif. The Demolition Derby pulled a great crowd in for the last evening. Future considerations will include more programming on Senior Day, and more seating and more shade for all customers. Advance planning is already going on for the 2009 Fair.

The Fair received a great deal of publicity about the "no trans-fat" policy for the food vendors; there was an article on the front page of The New York Times. Since that time four major fairs are going trans-fat free due to Indiana's leadership.

A permanent structure will be built with contributions from Reynolds Equipment, which will utilize the building during each Fair. The building will then be able to be used throughout the year for other events. The 39th Street Bridge, a joint project between the Fair and the City of Indianapolis, has been completed. Director Hoye pointed out a flat schematic and a miniature model of the covered bridge which will be erected on the west side of the Fairgrounds. Volunteers will help to erect the bridge, and timber for the bridge was cut at Pioneer Village at the fairgrounds. The Normandy Barn will be moved to the north side of the Fairgrounds, and will be a focal part of the 2008 Fair.

In response to a question from Chairperson Bischoff, Director Hoye stated that a gate pass might be offered in future years; local attendees may want to come over for dinner on multiple nights, or in hot weather some individuals may not want to stay too long on one day. The Fair staff is committed to meeting the needs of the customers. Chairperson Bischoff praised the staff who stood in the heat parking cars and taking tickets, and complimented the top-notch entertainment. Director Hoye commented that Joy Rothrock's position has expanded to include Human Resources. The Fair hires approximately 300 staffers each year for parking and gates after a review of over 1,000 applications. Director Hoye stated that there is not a more dedicated group of employees than those at the Fair.

2. Report of the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage (The Barn)

Justin Armstrong of the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage stated that Mark Hindsley from the Fair would cover the financial aspects of The Barn later in the meeting. The Wonder Trail exhibit at the Fair was very popular, attracting 14,000 children. Little Hands on the Farm also was very well received. The Barn is formalizing a educational volunteer program and children are coming on-site beginning next week for field trips. The Barn is positioning itself to be "the State's largest classroom".

3. Financial Report of the Indiana State Fair Commission

Mark Hindsley, Controller of the Indiana State Fair Commission, furnished the Committee with the Indiana State Fair Commission Operating Results thru August 31, 2007 (Exhibit

B). He expressed concern with the long delay in receipt of the state fair property tax, IC 15-1.5-8. The Commission also receives quarterly payments from riverboat revenue. Representative Ruppel cautioned that if property tax computation and disbursements change statutorily, the state fair property tax proceeds will need to be made up in some other manner.

4. Next Meeting of the State Fair Advisory Committee

Chairperson Bischoff announced that the next meeting of the Committee would be on October 23, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. at the Board Room of the Administration Building of the Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Chairperson Bischoff adjourned the meeting at 9:56 a.m.