



O R E G O N

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session Summary Minutes

St. Paul Rodeo

January 29, 2025. 11:00 AM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Colm Willis, Kevin Cameron, and Danielle Bethell.

Board's Office: Matt Lawyer, Alvin Klausen, and Toni Whitler.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga, and Cody Hawkins.

St Paul Rodeo Staff: Karen McKillip, Laney Brentano, Sue Coleman

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Summary

The meeting with St. Paul Rodeo focused on the success of their inaugural "Slack" event, designed for families with disabilities. Last year, 326 people registered, with 216 attending, and 78 utilizing parking passes. The event featured a hot dog lunch, cotton candy, and interactions with rodeo personnel. The feedback highlighted the need for more space and longer event hours. The discussion also covered potential sponsorship and the possibility of expanding the event. The county expressed interest in partnering for future events and explored the possibility of using the rodeo grounds for a community roundabout project.

St. Paul Rodeo Event

- Overview of the St. Paul Rodeo Slack event:
 - Held during the daytime for families with disabilities.
 - Designed to provide an accessible and less overwhelming environment for families to attend the rodeo.
- Details of the event activities:
 - Provided cotton candy, a hot dog lunch, and opportunities for families to interact with rodeo clowns and queens.
 - Aimed to balance stimulation levels by having local vendors available in addition to the event offerings.
- Logistics of the event:
 - Required registration to monitor attendance and plan for food/parking needs.
 - Provided goodie bags, cotton candy, and hot dog lunches for registered attendees.
 - Ran from 9 AM to 2 PM, with the event supported for a 2-hour window.
- Feedback and future improvements:

- The event had a high turnout, with 326 people registered and 216 attending.
- 92.3% of attendees expressed interest in attending again.
- Potential to increase attendance and provide more space for those with mobility issues.
- Rodeo grounds have been made more accessible, and families appreciated the ability to explore the area.
- Potential for sponsorship and partnership with the county:
 - The county expressed interest in sponsoring the event or exploring economic development opportunities.
 - Discussed the need for a formalized request for sponsorship and support.

Other

- Future plans for the rodeo grounds:
 - Ongoing construction of new bleachers and plans for improved hospitality areas.
 - Suggestion of exploring satellite centers for public safety and other community services.
- Roundabout Rodeo event:
 - County in need of a large, graveled area to host a community event to test and redesign a roundabout.
 - Discussed the potential use of the rodeo grounds for this event

Next Steps

- Reach out to the IDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) division director to discuss potential partnership and support.
- Provide information to the county on the costs and resources required for the "St Paul Rodeo for All" event, as well as the potential impact on the IDD community.
- Explore the possibility of sponsorship or other support from the county for the event.
- Provide the county with information on any future plans or projects the St. Paul Rodeo has.
- Assist the county's engineering team in finding a suitable location to host a "roundabout rodeo" event.

Adjourned – time: 11:36 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White