

Members

Rep. William Ruppel, Chairperson
Rep. Phyllis Pond
Rep. Robert Bischoff
Rep. Terry Goodin
Sen. James Merritt, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. David Ford
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. James Lewis



STATE FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Authority: IC 15-1-1.5-4

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 10, 2005
Meeting Time: 11:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: Indiana State Fairgrounds, Board Room of the Administration Building, 1202 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Rep. William Ruppel, Chairperson; Rep. Phyllis Pond; Rep. Robert Bischoff; Sen. James Merritt, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. David Ford; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Sen. James Lewis.

Members Absent: Rep. Terry Goodin.

Chairperson Ruppel called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. The members of the Committee introduced themselves and named the districts that they represent. Chairperson Ruppel stated that he intends to have two more meetings during the interim. Cress Hizer, Wayne Vance, Susie Warner, and Dr. Gene Sease of the State Fair Commission were introduced.

1. Discussion of Potential 2006 Legislation

Dr. Sease stated his concern about the end of the term of members of the State Fair Commission. Service ends on June 30, and this can create a problem when the Fair

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.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

begins only six weeks later. With the 2006 Fair designed to be a sesquicentennial celebration, there could be members who had worked setting up the event and might not be on the Commission to share in credit for the celebration. He hoped that an amendment to Indiana Code 15-1.5-2-3 might be a part of 2006 legislation. He also mentioned that Purdue University assisted the Dairy Bar this year through its nutrition department.

Chairperson Ruppel thanked Dr. Sease and all the members of the Commission for their hard work supporting the fair all year long.

2. Preliminary Report of the 2005 Indiana State Fair

Chairperson Ruppel introduced Cindy Hoye, the new Executive Director of the Indiana State Fair. She served the Fair as marketing director for seventeen years before this appointment. She introduced other staff members in attendance, Controller Mark Hindsley and Executive Assistant Joy Rothrock, and remarked that she has a great team doing its job well. Director Hoye stated that she is looking forward to working with the Committee.

As required by IC 15-1.5-3-9, Director Hoye provided the committee with the 2004 Annual Report (Exhibit A), Marketing Plan (Exhibit B), and a 2005 Update (Exhibit C). She highlighted events and exhibits new to this fair on the 2005 Update. Because 2006 is the sesquicentennial of the Fair, special events are planned, including a history book about the Fair and a permanent piece of art to be placed on the grounds representing the 150 years of the Fair. Director Hoye remarked that "The Little Hands on the Farm" exhibit is a prototype and staff from other states' Fairs come to view it.

Chairperson Ruppel complimented Director Hoye on her first day of her first Fair. He felt that the staff has done a terrific job and that things were running smoothly.

3. Report from the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage (The Barn)

Betsy Jones, Executive Director of the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage (The Barn), provided the Committee with a packet of information concerning The Barn (Exhibit D). She commented that in the five years that The Barn has had a staff position of educator, it has reached over 30,000 persons in its presentations. She thanked the legislature for this past session's passage of House Bill 1431, making The Barn part of the State Fair Commission.

She reminded the Committee that there is a quilt exhibit beginning tomorrow as a part of the Fair, about the Painting Indiana exhibit at the Indiana State Museum, and of the Normandy festival coming up in October. She thanked Representative Ruppel for his introduction of House Resolution 75-2005, urging the United States Congress to appropriate funding for the Historic Barn Preservation Act.

Her report on the Farmers' Market showed it to be solidly in place in its third year; there are over 350 visitors each week and vendors are selling out. There will be parking available for its patrons on the Saturdays of the Fair. The Old Time Farm and Antique Auction will be held in late August, with proceeds from donated items going to The Barn.

4. Remarks from Andy Miller, Director of Agriculture

Andy Miller, Indiana's new Director of Agriculture, was introduced by Chairperson Ruppel. He told the Committee that he was excited about his new position. He said that on August 18, at 4:00 p.m. at the Fair, there would be a United States Department of Agriculture Farm Bill Forum session so that Hoosiers could offer thoughts about federal farm legislation.

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Conner will be the host of the Forum. Director Miller stated that a forum happens only once in five years, so this is an exciting event.

6. Potential Legislation for the 2006 Session

Chairperson Ruppel proposed legislation to be prepared for the 2006 session, ensuring that the terms of the State Fair Commission's members expire after the Fair is held. The Legislative Services Agency will prepare this legislation for the Committee.

7. Remarks from the Committee

Vice-Chairperson Merritt voiced his concern with parking when the Committee meeting is held during Fair time. Chairperson Ruppel suggested that perhaps the first meeting of the interim could be held right after the State Fair Commission meeting in July. Vice-Chairperson Merritt questioned the policy of not allowing "pass-outs" when individuals come to the fairgrounds for other events and pay to park on the grounds. He was also concerned about the healthiness of concession food served during youth sports events.

8. Next Meeting Date of the Committee

Chairperson Ruppel announced that the second meeting of the Committee would be held on September 15, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., on the second floor of the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage (The Barn), 1201 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.

There being no more business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.