

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: September 15, 2005
Meeting Time: 9:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage, 1201 E. 38th Street
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

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

Members Absent: Rep. Terry Goodin; Sen. James Merritt, Vice-Chairperson.

Chairperson Ruppel called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

1. Report of the 2005 Indiana State Fair

Chairperson Ruppel introduced the executive director of the Indiana State Fair, Cindy Hoye, for a presentation regarding the 2005 Indiana State Fair. Executive Director Hoye furnished the Committee with the September 2005 Update (Exhibit A). She stated that this year's Fair was challenged by the weather most days, but that the addition of air conditioning to many of the buildings in the last few years helped keep visitors comfortable. Despite the weather, Fair total attendance was the third highest in history, with a record set for Sunday, the last day of the Fair. The next project for completion is the

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.

Department of Natural Resources building, funded by a federal ISTEA grant. It will include a fishing pond, so children can learn how to fish. That building will be rededicated at the 2006 Fair.

Executive Director Hoye then reported on something that would have been unbelievable at the last meeting in August. Two days after Hurricane Katrina hit, she wrote the Governor, reminding him that the Fairgrounds had dormitory housing available for evacuees. On Thursday, the Red Cross came to look at the 4-H dorms. Saturday, the Fair staff was told the space was needed for evacuees, and by 3 p.m. that day the dorms were up and functional. This began as a Red Cross project and the Salvation Army became involved. The dorms were rented to the Red Cross which is responsible for the coordination of the guests. The Fairgrounds have had as many as 80 evacuees; the first group was picked up and flown up to Indiana on an otherwise empty plane that Marsh Supermarkets had flown south with supplies. Federal Homeland Security also came, inspected the dormitories, and stated that up to 550 persons might be relocated here; as of today, that has not yet happened.

Two of the three 4-H dormitory buildings have been renovated, with the state fair commission set to talk about the third at its meeting later this morning. It appears that this recent use has pointed out the need for more shower facilities in the dorms. Senator Craycraft thanked the staff members who volunteered to work setting up the dorms over the Labor Day holiday weekend. Chairperson Ruppel pointed out that housing at the Fairgrounds could be useful as an evacuation point if there were a catastrophic event in Indiana.

2. Report of the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage 2005 Highlights

Betsy Jones, the Executive Director of the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage (The Barn), gave the Committee the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage 2005 Highlights (Exhibit B). After 2005 Session legislation, The Barn's trustees' actions are now subject to approval by the state fair commission. Recent projects and events are noted on the Exhibit. There are even 29 distance learning programs scheduled already for 2006. The Barn has received a grant from the Indianapolis Foundation to conduct a barn census in the state. Senator Ford suggested that the Indiana Geographic Information Systems Council be consulted as it potentially has records and information that may be helpful. In response to a question from Senator Ford, Executive Director Jones stated that The Barn is linked with the Center for Interactive Learning and Cooperation. Referencing a notation on Exhibit B, Senator Craycraft asked if it was true that The Barn had no administrative staff; Ms. Jones replied that it was so and that they usually have to lock the door because no one is available to greet the public. Representative Ruppel stated that it would be up to the state fair commission to authorize an assistant.

3. Discussion of Potential Legislation for the 2006 Session

Chairperson Ruppel gave an explanation of PD 3023 (Exhibit C), which extends the term of members of the state fair commission through September 30 of the fourth year on the commission. Discussion ensued concerning the date the term should end; Chairperson Ruppel explained that the September 30 date correlates with the end of term of a member of the state fair board. Senator Ford recommended, and Representative Pond agreed, that PD 3023 be a point of discussion for the state fair commission later that morning. Representative Bischoff suggested that the bill be introduced both in the House and the Senate by the members of the Committee.

The Committee further discussed a bill draft placing a member of the Committee on the

state fair commission, as an ex officio nonvoting member. This concept was contained in a bill in the 2005 Session but was not enacted into law. The Legislative Services Agency was directed to prepare a bill draft concerning this topic for the Committee's next meeting.

4. Date of Next Meeting

Chairperson Ruppel announced that the third meeting of the Committee would be held at the Board Room of the Administration Building at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1201 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 26, 2005.

There being no more business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.