

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: October 26, 2005
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: Board Room of the Administration Building, Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1302 E. 38th Street,
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

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 10:07 a.m.

1. Report Regarding the 2005 Indiana State Fair

Executive Director Cindy Hoye introduced Mark Hindsley, Controller of the Indiana State Fair, who furnished the Committee with Exhibit A, Operating Results Through September 30, 2005. The 2005 Fair has a profit of \$400,000 thus far, and the Grandstand made a profit. The budget was written for attendance of 790,000 and attendance was about 820,000. The facility charge is for parking during events, and the excess surplus goes to fund certain capital projects such as air conditioning. Executive Director Hoye pointed out,

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.

for example, the Rabbit Breeders Association that is meeting this weekend will pay about \$10,000 in facility charges. Winter events and shows draw a large number of attendees.

Executive Director Hoye reminded the Committee that the 150th Fair will be held in 2006. Special events are planned, as well as a commemorative book. There may be a pre-Fair celebration planned for Tuesday evening before the Fair officially opens. Chairperson Ruppel complimented Executive Director Hoye for the recent information session for new members of the Indiana State Fair Commission, and suggested that the Committee take a tour of the buildings and grounds next year before the Fair opens to see what renovations might need to be done.

Executive Director Hoye next addressed the capital projects planned for the fairgrounds. The Administration Building is the oldest structure and has some mechanical, electrical, and structural issues. Any renovation will have to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and with historic preservation requirements. The third building in the 4-H complex has been the subject of discussion with Homeland Security and the Red Cross. The recent evacuees, close to 100 in all, from Hurricane Katrina who were housed in the 4-H dorms have now left. Some have gone to apartments, alternative housing, and a few went to the Red Cross shelter in downtown Indianapolis. At the maximum, they were at the fairgrounds for three weeks. Because of this success as a dormitory, a few of the Rabbit Breeders are using them for lodging, and high school bands are interested in them. The cost is \$6 a day per person. Chairperson Ruppel felt that Homeland Security could use the fairgrounds as an evacuation point for a crisis in Indiana or surrounding states. Representative Pond would like everyone in the state to know about this good facility.

2. Report Regarding the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage

Executive Director of the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage-C.A.S.H. (The Barn) Betsy Jones told the Committee that she is working with the Indiana Geographic Information Council for the barn survey. Chairperson Ruppel said that he had heard that the Normandy Barn might be moved to the north end of the Fairgrounds, into the Pioneer Village. Executive Director Hoye said that the Indiana State Fair Commission had voted in principle to approve the move, as master planning for the north area will provide a new entrance. The private side of the CASH Board has not endorsed a move, and the public side has not yet discussed this with the Trustees. If the south side of 38th Street were without structures, it would be dedicated to parking under current plans. Discussion ensued about parking in the fairground's proximity and transportation to the Fair. Senator Ford was concerned that if the Normandy Barn were moved, it would totally destroy all that has been put into CASH. Representative Pond suggested that a walkway be placed over 38th Street and the Pioneer Village be moved near to The Barn. Chairperson Ruppel stated that the Commission is looking at many other ideas. Executive Director Hoye displayed an aerial map of the fairgrounds and surrounding land and gave the Committee an update on the real estate of the Fair. Senator Merritt was concerned that the Normandy Barn might be moved, and stated that the Committee has a sincere interest in the future of the Normandy Barn and the Pioneer Village.

3. Potential Legislation for Introduction in the 2006 Session

Chairperson Ruppel distributed preliminary drafts PD 3023(Exhibit B), PD 3083 (Exhibit C), and PDOC isfac2006draft (Exhibit D) to the Committee. He stated that the State Fair Commission has approved PD 3023, to change the term of office of the Commission members so that the terms expire after the Fair. Representative Pond moved, and Senator Craycraft seconded, to recommend PD 3023 for introduction in the 2006 General Assembly. The motion passed 7-0.

Chairperson Ruppel then stated that the language of PD 3083 was introduced in the 2005 session, but did not pass due to the establishment of the Department of Agriculture. PD 3083 allows the chairman of the State Fair Advisory Committee or a designated member of the Committee to serve as an ex-officio nonvoting member of the State Fair Commission. Both the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Governor have agreed to the language. Since Representative Ruppel stated that the Legislative Services Agency would cover the expenses of the attending member, Bernadette Bartlett, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee stated that the draft should contain language concerning those expenses. Representative Bischoff moved, and Representative Pond seconded the motion to recommend PD 3083 for introduction in the 2006 General Assembly, with the addition of language concerning the payment of the additional member's expenses for serving on the Commission. The motion passed 7-0.

Chairperson Ruppel then gave the Committee Exhibit D and discussion followed. The draft would require school corporations to begin the fall semester no earlier than the Monday before Labor Day. The Commission and the Fair Board have both endorsed it. Chairperson Ruppel stated that this would put all school districts on an even start with ISTEP preparation, as well as affording school children the possibility of exhibiting at and attending the Fair. Senator Ford felt that school starting dates should be left up to local discretion, and Representative Pond did not think that this was the proper committee to be proposing this school start date. No vote was taken on Exhibit D.

Chairperson Ruppel directed staff of the Legislative Services Agency to combine PD3023 and PD 3083 into one final bill, adding the amendment to PD 3083, and to show the authors as Representatives Ruppel, Pond, Bischoff, and Goodin.

There being no more business before the Committee, after thanking the Committee for its cooperation in his first term as Chairperson, Chairperson Ruppel adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.