

## Budget Committee meeting Minutes - January 7th, 2026

Present: Kirsten Bolton, Bennett Bennett Rogers, Shirley Anderson, Hilary Anthony, Sandra Bauer, Steve Gorham, Jon Stienhart, Sean Cummins, Alex Zabala, Annette Sturgill, Melissa Swan, William Parham

Announcements: The Committee observed a moment of silence in honor and memory of George Braddock who had been a valuable contributing member of this committee and to the fair in general.

Agenda: Discussed spreadsheet of budget to go to B.O.D Budget meeting on Jan 26th.

Kirsten discussed preparing a spreadsheet for the board and coordinators, deciding to include a year-over-year comparison for crews after receiving support from Bennett and Hilary.

Minutes were approved for meetings on November 12th and 19th.

Crew budgets reviewed and finalized crew budgets for the 2026 Oregon Country Fair. The committee approved budgets for multiple crews including: Farside traffic/security, Community village, elders, and Energy Park. Bennett and Hilary emphasized the importance of educational programming at Energy Park, suggesting that the department should prioritize their existing resources rather than requesting additional passes. Oasis, office site, office town, rainbow connection, registration, teen crew, volunteer support team, Farside pre-post, management trades, Afton trades, arborists, archivists, Assistant EM business, Assistant EM personal, AT &T, Board of directors, Board officers, breathing media, BUMS, Bum business, ED Personal, EM business, EM personal, Emerald Valley towing, EMS Limo, Flaggers, Former GM, former staff, Galleria, Philanthropist, Marketing manager, and vendors. Key decisions included reducing VIP passes for some crews, adjusting food vouchers, and maintaining current inventory levels. Committee discussed how worker day passes were being used. Kirsten clarified that documentation was needed when passes were distributed and Hilary emphasized the importance of accountability and avoiding the distribution of large quantities of passes. The committee also discussed changes to the Farside pre/post crew. Committee discussed vendor pass allocations. Worker day passes were reduced from 3,850 to 2,000. The team discussed wristband allocation and tracking, with Annette explaining the wristbands are managed through a system where names and reasons are documented, and only a few are given out for overnight issues. Kirsten confirmed that most wristband issues are handled through the sticker booth, and the database now includes better documentation of goldenrods, which will help reduce reliance on paper records during crunch week. The discussion also covered various passes and stickers for different organizations, including the City of Venita, Culture Jam, and Dodeca, with specific numbers approved by the Budget Committee and contracts in place for certain arrangements.

Wednesday, January 14th the Budget Committee will be meeting with the crew Coordinators

Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> will be the Board Budget Meeting.

Next Budget Committee meeting will be Wednesday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 6:30 pm