

Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds – Foundation Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2022 – 12:30 pm
98 W. Custer Ave., Helena MT 59602

Attendees:

Board members: Mark Menke, Phil Porrini, Greg Pace, Jo Young, Mike Murray, Dave Duffy, Robert LaRue, Marilyn Greely, Jay Sherley

Staff: Kevin Tenney, Logan Gustafson, Sandy McIntyre

Lewis and Clark County Commissioner: Tom Rolfe

President Mark Menke, called the meeting to order at 12:27 pm.

Welcome:

For the benefit of new Board members Robert LaRue and Marilyn Greely, Mark Menke took a few minutes to explain the Foundation's purpose, which is improve the Fairgrounds and raise community awareness of what the Fairgrounds has to offer. The Foundation raises funds for Fairgrounds projects such as landscaping the Promenade and installing benches there. He explained that Fair Board members are also Foundation Board members. Foundation Board members volunteer their time to help with fundraising activities and other Fairgrounds projects.

Approval of Minutes:

There were no corrections or additions to the March 23, 2022 minutes. Mike Murray motioned to approve the March 23, 2022 minutes, Phil Porrini seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report:

- Mark Menke reviewed the financials and noted there are currently no projects pending.

Update on Spring 2022 Fundraising Letter:

Mark Menke reported that the Foundation Board just finished preparing and stuffing envelopes for the Spring appeal which is sent to over 800 Fairgrounds supporters.

Update on Duck Pond Clean-up:

- Mike Murray said that the duck pond clean-up went well and he will talk with Kevin Tenney about further duck pond work.

Other Fundraising Ideas:

Mark opened the floor for discussion of other potential fundraising projects.

- Wall of Honor – Do we want to continue doing this? It was decided to wait until FayDee Hamilton returns and ask her about it.
- Fireworks Display – The Board discussed possible dates and sponsors along with safety concerns, especially in view of the very dry summers in the past few years.

- Cool Alley Merchandise – The Foundation owns the Cool Alley artwork. It was suggested that the Cool Alley artwork/name be printed on purple T-shirts and sold during the Stampede’s Friday night rodeo if we move forward with the “Man Up Crusade” idea presented in the Fair Board meeting. The idea would be to put “Last Chance Stampede” on the front without a date and Cool Alley on the back. Phil Porrini volunteered to talk with Allegra Printing about t-shirts as they did the Cool Alley posters.
- Straw Maze – There were ideas last year to do a straw maze in the Fall. It was decided there was not enough time for planning the event at that time. Since the Fairgrounds will bring back Oktoberfest this fall, there may be a possibility of adding a straw maze to that event.
- Hot Wings Festival – Possibly tie this into Oktoberfest or another event.
- Other ideas included a Cornhole Tournament and video/game board tournament.
- It was agreed that time and effort is needed to do any event successfully – If we’re going to do it, let’s do it well.

Other Business/Discussion:

- Phil Porrini asked if the Exhibit Hall naming rights committee had met recently. The committee had not met recently, and Phil suggested that item be on the May Board meeting agenda.

Adjournment:

- Mike Murray made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phil Porrini seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.