

**Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds – Fair Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 25, 2022 – 11:30 am**  
**98 W. Custer Ave., Helena MT 59602**

**Attendees:**

Board members: Phil Porrini, Greg Pace, Jo Young, Mike Murray, Dave Duffy, FayDee Hamilton, Robert LaRue, Marilyn Greely, Wilbur Rehmann

Staff: Kevin Tenney, Logan Gustafson, Sandy McIntyre

Jerry Blythe, Helena City Parks Liaison

Public: Bill Entwistle

**Tour:**

Board members previously mentioned that a tour of the Fairgrounds and facilities would be helpful, especially for new Board members. Kevin Tenney, Fairgrounds Manager, took attendees on a tour of the Fairgrounds and facilities. The Fair Board convened for its monthly meeting after the tour.

Chair Phil Porrini called the meeting to order at 12:50p.

**Approval of Minutes:**

There were no corrections or additions to the April 27, 2022 minutes. Mike Murray motioned to approve the April 27, 2022 minutes, seconded by Greg Pace. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:**

- Bill Entwistle, representing the Helena Solidarity Network, stated he was disappointed in the Fair Board's response to the February proposal to use Fairgrounds campsites as emergency shelter for homeless with vehicles from November through April. In February, the Fair Board formed a subcommittee to review the proposal and how it addressed the concerns that were raised by the Board and staff. The subcommittee recommended not supporting the proposal. The Board passed a motion to not support the proposal.
- Phil Porrini commented that the Fairgrounds tour showed the need for funds and labor to maintain the Fairgrounds as well as what improvements could be made.

**SpringFest Update:**

SpringFest went well, even with the loss of the carnival. The carnival had to cancel due to staffing issues. Both the Friday and Saturday night Pro-Am rodeos sold out. Since this was our first year putting this on, we met with C5 Rodeo and discussed what we would do different next year. We would probably shorten the arena and not do barrel racing so that we can put more bleachers in for more seating capacity and increased ticket sales. Michael Ray put on a very good concert, which was well attended.

**Stampede and Fair Update:**

All concert acts are signed for Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights. Jimmie Allen and Randy Houser will co-headline Wednesday night. Dylan Scott will perform in the Exhibit Hall on Friday night, and Hairball will be in there Saturday night. Both of those shows will go on after the rodeo is over. Concert and rodeo tickets go on sale June 1.

**Operations:**

- One of our primary maintenance people resigned for personal reasons. We will begin advertising the position ASAP. We will try to bring in a temporary person in until we can fill the full-time position. This is our busy season with the Stampede coming up and it's a tough time to lose maintenance staff.
- No major updates on the paving project. KJL Engineering is still working on their side of things and will hopefully be done soon. The narratives for both the paving project and hospitality room improvements have been submitted requesting ARPA funds to cover costs.
- The reader board is still not functioning. Stewart Signs reconfigured it and said it would fix the issue, but it hasn't. They are continuing on working on it. We've been very frustrated about this issue.

**Events Report:**

- The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation banquet went really well, with over 100 more folks than last year.
- Cowboy Ball worked well with SpringFest going on the same time as it increased attendance.
- Dog Agility folks were really happy with the ground/surface in the Multi-Purpose Building.
- There is a craft show coming up in late May. We have a lot of private events booked for June. We also have the gun show, elections and Motor Carriers here in June.

**Financials:**

Financial statements are in the Board packets. Since Kevin Tenney could not attend today's meeting, if you have any questions for Kevin, he can answer them at next month's meeting.

**Other Business:**

- FayDee Hamilton suggested a Board workday in June to paint the sign posts.
- Jo Young said that, after the grounds tour, it looks like the southeast door of the Multi-purpose building needs replacement and bathroom doors need work.
- It was agreed that improvements to the Multi-purpose building need to be discussed.
- Wilbur Rehmann suggested looking into recycling trash and garbage during the Stampede. He said he would talk to a local recycling company.
  - Jerry Blythe said he is talking to someone in Missoula about recycling in city parks and will get information to Kevin about a possible presentation.

**Adjournment:**

- Mike Murray moved to adjourn the meeting. Greg Pace seconded the motion. It passed unanimously and meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm.