

Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds – Fair Board Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2022 – 11:30 am
98 W. Custer Ave., Helena MT 59602

Attendees:

Board members: Phil Porrini, Greg Pace, Dave Duffy, FayDee Hamilton, Robert LaRue, Marilyn Greely, Wilbur Rehmann, Mark Menke

Staff: Kevin Tenney, Logan Gustafson, Sandy McIntyre

County Commissioner: Tom Rolfe

Chair Phil Porrini called the meeting to order at 11:31am.

Approval of Minutes:

There were no corrections or additions to the May 25, 2022 minutes. FayDee Hamilton motioned to approve the May 25, 2022 minutes, seconded by Dave Duffy. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Volunteer Appreciation Night:

Volunteer Appreciation Night will be Wednesday, July 6th at the Fairgrounds Picnic Shelter, 6pm. Barbeque will be provided. We will send out notices for your RSVP.

Financials:

Kevin Tenney reviewed fiscal year end financials. Overall things look okay, though there was a loss on event revenue. FayDee Hamilton asked about painting some buildings. Kevin said that the FY23 budget is done. Phil Porrini asked if there was an update on the state properties adjacent to the Fairgrounds, Kevin said the state lease had been renewed.

Operations:

- Naming Rights – The subcommittee had previously met and discussed figures and possible businesses to approach. Kevin Tenney suggested the subcommittee meet in August after Fair to develop a final recommendation and present it to the Board at the August board meeting. The goal would be to fine tune an “offer” letter in August to send out in early Fall. FayDee Hamilton asked if individuals could bid for the naming rights to the Exhibit Hall and/or Entry Hall. Kevin Tenney said if individuals are interested they are welcome to bid – the figure under consideration is in the neighborhood of \$100,000.
- New trees have been planted in the park area near the entrance.
- We have received applications for the open maintenance position and will be interviewing next week. We are also hiring temporary/seasonal workers for July/Stampede. We generally hire 2 at the end of June and 6 after July 4th.
- There will be no Board meeting in July.

Stampede and Fair Update:

- 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. Right now, sales are going especially well for Friday and Saturday night concerts.
- Main arena improvement-took much less sand than initially budgeted for. Maintenance is working with C5 Rodeo on arena grooming. Good ground and good food helps with contestant attendance.
- Jim Matlock is working with Helena Sand and Gravel to get a concrete patio donated at the VIP Hospitality room.
- Commercial vendors look good with a lot of interest and many signed up. Commercial vendors will be outdoors on the Promenade this year due to the indoor night concerts.
- Concessions are all set.
- Indoor Fair exhibits will be on the west wall.

Events Report:

- Treasure Chest Crafts show is signed up for August and has added an additional day based on their last show's attendance here.
- Motor Carriers had their largest convention ever. They used the main arena for tow truck showing.
- Elections went smoothly.
- The gun show had the greatest number of vendors they've ever had.

Firearms on the Fairgrounds:

- The Fairgrounds are in city limits and are under City laws.
- Firearms will not be allowed in the Stampede concerts – it is specifically stated in the contracts.
 - Jimmie Allen/Randy Houser concert will have metal detectors.
 - There will also be no bags allowed in the Jimmie Allen/Randy Houser concert. Clear bags will be acceptable.
 - We will post signs at the concerts that no firearms are allowed.
- Fairgrounds Manager Kevin Tenney believes there should be no firearms allowed at any Fairgrounds events. He's submitted a request to the County Attorney to review that would prohibit firearms at Fairgrounds events. The decision is beyond the Fair Board's authority and would need to be decided by the County Commission.
- There currently is no county law regarding firearms beyond no open carry in the City/County building and Courthouse.

Other Business:

- Commissioner Rolfe said there have been complaints about the Multi-Purpose Building restrooms with more 4-H events in that building.
- Wilbur Rehmann asked if there was a plan for recycling at the Fair. Kevin Tenney said there is recycling at the Fair, though the capacity is limited.

- Robert LaRue asked about expectations of financial support from Fair Board members. A brief discussion stressed that volunteering time is as important as financial support, and that about half of the Board financially supports the Foundation.

Adjournment:

- Greg Pace moved to adjourn the meeting. Mark Menke seconded the motion. It passed unanimously and meeting was adjourned at 12:12pm.