

NCW Fair Board Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2024

Members Present		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Foged <input type="checkbox"/> Julia Goodman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leon Grant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidi Hedges	<input type="checkbox"/> Chance Landon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Becky Matthiesen <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marie Overton <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Schneider <input type="checkbox"/> Jesse Shafer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jamey Jo Steele <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Margaret Viebrock <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lori Beidler <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ann Whitehall <input type="checkbox"/> Sheri Bock
Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Morley <input type="checkbox"/> Nicole Sanders	<input type="checkbox"/> Karina Angeles <input type="checkbox"/> Ramon Ramirez
Guests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Adam called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m. He mentioned that if you have items to be added to the agenda, please do so.

Leon moved, and Becky seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on August 8, 2024. The minutes were previously emailed to all Board members. It passed unanimously.

Carolyn gave a brief financial report; she is working to prepare the budget for next year. Gate admission was consistent with last year despite the rain. There were good crowds at the concerts. The Clint Black concert did well. Sponsorship increased by \$2,000. The rodeo was down by 334 tickets on Saturday, but we are close to budget but waiting for the rest of the bills to come in. All vendors experienced increased income this year. Whammy Hammy would like to move up with the rest of the food vendors.

Old Business – this was not discussed.

New Business

1. NCW Fair Recap

- Manager’s update: Things went well overall. Attendance was not down; it increased over last year. Carolyn noted the following:
 - Overall, the fair was a success.
 - Supers need to understand the importance of requesting things they want/need early; they cannot request things as fair starts and expect to receive what they are asking for.
 - No safety concerns were noted.
 - The bathroom crew did a wonderful job.
 - The garbage crew stayed on top of things.
 - Camping was better this year; more revenue was generated despite fewer camping spots.

- There are some needed repairs in the back camping lot as the mower hitting the sewer pipes left some holes to be fixed prior to next year.
- We need to amend the camping rules to include the necessity for campers to pay for repairs resulting from their use of the facility.
- Some electrical upgrades are needed in the back lot.
- Individual feedback:
 - Internet issues experienced throughout the weekend with fairgoers and vendors overwhelming bandwidth.
 - Race area parking was encroached during the concert; can it be blocked off somehow? The Race Committee needs to work on this.
 - Handicapped parking striping needed.
 - Latches in the lady's restroom need to be repaired.
 - The roof leaks in the 4-H/FFA/Grange building and there are some rotten posts.
 - Animal check-in time too long?
 - No parking allowed in the midway went well.
 - Results input by superintendents went well.
 - Entry hours may need to be adjusted; too many fairgoers are getting in without paying by arriving prior to gate opening.
 - Babyland generated \$4,758 this year; their expenses totaled \$2,670 +/-, resulting in revenue generated of \$2,088. Carolyn mentioned that this is a valued part of the fair and wondered if a "raise the paddle" during the crab feed for the benefit of Babyland might be appropriate. The cost of animals and the expenses associated with their entry into the fairgrounds (vet check, shots, etc.) could benefit from this activity during the live auction at the crab feed.
 - The goat wash rack area needs some reworking. Neither Sheri nor Ramon was present so the Livestock Committee will research that further with them.
 - Incident reports need to be prepared regarding the hog rodeo.
 - Everything was included in the rodeo program this year, which was nice to have.
 - The attentiveness of the maintenance crew was noted by the Livestock Committee with thanks for providing a tent to shelter the auctioneer and clerk during the livestock sale.
 - The livestock sale went smoothly; animals were orderly and prompt to keep it moving along.
 - The Still life exhibit entry went well with both pre-registered exhibits/exhibitors and those not pre-registered.
 - Marie is working to streamline the ribbon distribution process for superintendents for future fairs. She took notes as ribbon boxes were being assembled to organize that process.

- The roof leaks in the baking barn. There is a renovation going on now in that building. The linoleum has been removed and hardwood flooring was discovered underneath, which would be ruined by continued leakage. They are working to caulk the empty nail holes as a temporary fix. It is on the list for a safety grant in the future.
- The carnival bringing extra rides was nice. Additional room was created by the removal of a couple of trees in that area.
- The vendor selling knives to youngsters was mentioned, which received several complaints and many raised eyebrows during the fair. Carolyn will check to see if there is a policy regarding the matter.

2. Committee Reports:

- **Livestock Committee** – The livestock sale generated proceeds of \$402,292.75 plus add-ons totaling \$101,639.18 to date, for a total of \$503,931.95. During 2023 the sale generated proceeds of \$302,035.29 plus add-ons totaling \$120,478.94 for a total of \$422,514.23. Invoices have been mailed and proceeds are being received. It was noted that Carol Cowling, the Superintendent of the Open Class Horse Barn, has submitted her resignation. We thank her for her many years of service. We are looking for a replacement; if you have suggestions, please contact the Livestock Committee.
- **Rodeo Committee** – It was noted that Chance has submitted his resignation from the committee and from the Board. He received a promotion at work, which will take some settling in time. He will let us know if he can help during the fair in the future.
- **Race Committee** – The new race stall buildings need to be treated. Carolyn mentioned that she will be scheduling a Race and Rodeo Committee meeting to see where additional help is needed.
- **Entertainment** – The committee is planning events for the next year. This year's concerts went well. Routing entertainment is always difficult, but we are fortunate to have a wonderful relationship with our facilitator.
- **Operations** –
 - **GOAT** – This event went more smoothly than last year. Amy York has agreed to judge the event again next year. Carolyn would like to see an “application process” established for the event.
 - Online entry was discussed. It was agreed that there was not enough time gap between the drop-off at Coastal and the intake at Waterville. This is an area where we can improve with minor adjustments.
 - A focus group will be formed regarding the process, implementation, pros, cons, etc. They can meet and develop recommendations to be presented to the Board. The committee could include Terri Matthews, Bruce and Alice Dawson, Ann Whitehall, Lori Beidler, Karina Angeles, and others knowledgeable of the process. Choose a date and start the process.

- **Maintenance:** Report on projects
 - Update on barn teardown: The new building is out for bid now and the numbers are coming in. It was mentioned that there are some individuals knowledgeable in barn construction/organization that would like to provide some input.
 - Baking barn update: The baking barn renovation is in process. Margaret mentioned that 4-H owns the plates, silverware, etc. Marie mentioned that she had boxed all of that up. There is \$2,000 in the budget for the project.
 - General maintenance needed around the fairgrounds: If you see something that is broken or needs attention, please let Ramon know about it as you see it. Please do not wait until the last minute to bring it to someone's attention.

3. Super positions needing filled:

- a. Open Class Horse
- b. Open Class Arts/Crafts

4. FYI:

- Karina will be out of the office from September 11 through October 1.
- It was also mentioned that the crab feed will be held on March 8, 2025. The Friends of the Fair board will now consist of five members. Bob and Paul have had their terms extended for one additional year.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next board meeting will be held on October 10, 2024.

Ann Whitehall, Secretary