



Bonner County Fair Board

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 10, 2022

3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Eddie Gordon, Jody Russell, Gail Curless, Bruce Hollett, Laya Bleckwenn

Members Absent: Elaine Linscott & Marj Tilley

Fair Staff Present: Darcey Smith and Chris Larson

Others Present: Tim Mahan

During this workshop no decisions were made. The following items were discussed during the workshop:

- **Fair Board Members Meeting Attendance**
It has been a concern that members are not attending the required amount of Fair Board Meetings.
- **Fair Board By-Laws**
Darcey presented a draft revision of By-Laws for the Fair Board to review, edit, and at some point adopt. It was discussed to adopt the by-laws as a working document, knowing that this version would be changed.

The Fair Board discussed creating an application for appointment. Darcey will work on this and present it at an upcoming meeting this winter for review/approval.

- **Sponsorship Levels/Packets**
There was quite a lengthy discussion regarding the Rodeo and Fair Sponsorship levels. We would like to make it as easy for the Rodeo and Fair sponsors to make their decision on sponsoring as easy/simple as possible. We would like to retain our long time sponsors, but we also need to be cautious not to upset any existing or new sponsors with changes. Darcey suggested creating a sub-committee to put together a sponsorship packet. The Board discussed:
 - combining the two sponsorships into one form.
 - what can we do to bring back sponsors
 - make it fair
 - they can still choose % to go to the fair or rodeo or both, etc.
 - Darcey will be sending out an email to Rodeo and Fair Board members to create a sub-committee to create a new sponsorship form/packet.
- **Fee Schedule**
The Board briefly discussed the current fee schedule. The fee schedule hadn't been increased in years. Some fees have been the same for over 10 years. The Board discussed and agreed to bring forward to the next Fair Board meeting an increase of 10% across the board. Darcey will prepare the updated fee schedule and bring it to the next Fair Board Meeting for approval.

- Camping Fees
 - Fair Camping
 - Non-Fair Camping

The Fair Board has discussed increasing the Camping Fees for some time. We need to be more competitive with other campgrounds. The \$25 per night has been the rate for many years. The Fairgrounds in CDA charges \$49 per night for their RV camping sites. The Board also discussed increasing the RV campground weekly fee for Fair Week. The current rate is \$70 per site during fair week. The Board discusses increasing it to \$125 for Fair Week. That is 7 days with hookups for \$125 total. The dry camping spaces will remain at the rate of either \$30 or \$50 per week. Following discussions of other sites, and searching online for comparable campgrounds, the board discussed raising the nightly \$25 rate to \$40. This will be brought up for decision at the next meeting.

- 2023 Fair Entertainment & Events
 - Messy Mania
 - Petting Zoo/Pony Rides
 - Magician
 - Balloon Artist
 - Demo Derby
 - Challenge of Champions

The Fair Board discussed bringing in some new acts for 2023. We don't want to get in a rut. The Petting Zoo and Pony Rides are always a hit, but we need new acts. Darcey will get all available contacts from acts showing at the RMAF and IAFE conventions this year for potential booking. She will book as many as she can, and we can always either cancel or reschedule as long as it is done with many months lead time.

- Vendors
 - Food
 - Commercial

A discussion was held regarding staffing for vendors during the fair. There is a shortage of employees. Darcey explained that she has allowed booths to be unmanned, and allowed bending of the rules so that we had full booths and no vacant spaces. The caveat is that they provide information for the public - flyers, business cards, etc. It will be recommended for the future that if the booth is not manned, that they place a small fence, or barrier so that their booth is not mistreated.

- Camp Host 2023 Contract

There was a brief discussion regarding the summer camp host. The 2022 camp host was relieved of their duties approximately 1 month early due to numerous complaints. The Camp Host Summer position will be advertised this fall. No changes are expected to be made to the contract, however it will be placed on the next agenda for review and approval.

- Fairgrounds Improvements/Maintenance

There was a brief discussion amongst the Fair Board members and Chris Larson regarding Fairgrounds Maintenance. Chris will provide the Fair Board with an itemized list of repairs needed by building or project area.