



Bonner County Fair Board

Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 18, 2023
5:30 p.m.

1. **Meeting called to order** by Vice Chairman Jody Russell at 5:31 PM
 - a. Members in attendance Vice Chairman Jody Russell, Tim Mahan, Ben Wood, Laya Bleckwenn, Tawnya Johnson Absent: Gail Curless
2. **Action Item: Discussion/Decision Chairman of the Fairboard** - Ben made a motion to nominate Tim Mahan as Chairman of the Board. Tawnya seconded the motion. The motion Passed.
3. **Public Comment:** *time limit of 3 minutes
 - a. Liz Peters - She has been helping and active for over 20 years at the fair. She felt this was the most unsupported fair by any manager. She expressed her frustration with Amy (Fair Manager) and her lack of help during the static exhibit check-in and judging. She handed the board a copy of her superintendent letter. She also has issues with the no Dog signs all around the fairgrounds, but the manager has her dog in her office.
 - b. Sierra Graybell - has questions about money such as attorney fees, etc.
 - c. Joleen Bass - Thank you to all fairboard members for the fair and rodeo
 - d. Kristina Anderson - This is a long agenda and where is the fair manager? She questions if something should be tabled until there is a manager present.
 - e. Melody Vanhorn - She is a 4-H leader and would like to see us consider bringing back waterfowl. If not, could we at least allow them to be judged or have their own show at the extension office ahead of time.
 - f. Monica Gunter - Fairboard does a great job! They are volunteers and should not have to worry about the negativity from some. Just let them do their job. They are not elected officials and should not have to deal with the same issues as the BOCC.
 - g. Jennifer Newberry - Had a sign - Tim (Chairman) asked to not bring up things on Social Media as we will not give time for that here.
 - h. Liz Peters - Loves the fair and fairgrounds. Everything needs to be able to move forward and beyond the past. She saw the fairboard all here at the fair and worked in all capacities, so let them do their jobs and keep the fairgrounds moving forward.
 - i. Kristina Anderson - Had several questions about a volunteer board managing tax payers money. Accusing the fairboard of corruption.
4. **Action Item: Discussion/Decision Regarding Approval of Fair Board Minutes**

- a. Laya made a motion to approve all three sets of minutes Executive Session, September 5, 2023, Special Meeting, August 24, 2023, and Meeting August 9, 2023 with the changing of spelling of Monica Gunter's Name. Tawnya seconded the motion. The motion passed.

5. Financial Report: Treasurer Samantha Schmidt

- a. Samm gave an update about the financials. She is working on policies and trying to streamline all processes in the office and for billing, etc. She would like to see a billing email set up that would come to her/office. Mail had not been checked by the Manager since the end of August. There were several bills in the mail that needed attention ASAP.
- b. Ben made a motion to accept the check Detail as presented by Samm. Laya seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- c. Laya made a motion to pay the checks in the check disbursement sheet. Tawnya seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- d. We need to look at who the owners of the accounts are, and get access for Samm at Umpqua.
- e. Account Balances:
 - i. Mountain West Fair \$ 14,458.50
 - ii. Rodeo Royalty \$ 33,893.69
 - iii. Rodeo \$ 115,241.05
 - iv. Umpqua \$212,981.08
 - v. **TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS\$376,584.53**
- f. Samm is planning to have a profit/loss as well as all events for the October Meeting.

6. Approval of Bills

- a. Laya made a motion to pay all bills. Tawnya seconded the motion. Motion Passed (as stated in c from above)

7. Agency Updates

- a. Rodeo Update - Laya made a motion to move the rodeo update as the first update. Ben seconded the motion. The motion passed. Levi Irish gave his updat:
- b. They will be looking for a new Clown for 2024. There was a lot of great feedback on the new chutes from everyone involved! The crew and volunteers were wonderful. Maya Lowrey is the new Rodeo Queen for 2024. They rodeo committee would like to schedule a workshop with the fairboard.
- c. 4H Update - Gena Gibson
 - i. She gave out her update. New enrollment will begin in October. The sale was another great success.
 - ii. Asked if the bill for the Porta Potties for the horse show could be paid. Ben asked if in the future they could plan by asking the

Fairboard in advance as this is how it should be done. If not, they will need to pay themselves. Laya made a motion to pay the bill this year. Ben seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- d. Facility Update - Chris
 - i. 98% cleaned up from the fair and put away.
 - ii. Sheep barn has been power washed and wrestling is set up ready to go.
 - iii. One more horse show at the end of the month
 - iv. Electrical is fixed in the Holly Barn
 - v. He is working on the list given to him by Tim - put together by the board
 - vi. Commercial kitchen is getting close to being finished
 - vii. Ben made a motion to authorize Chris to buy a water pump for up to \$300. Tawnya seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- e. Office Update - Amy was not available - But Christ said things are going forward. Cole took things off the wall to paint. Samm is working on finances.

8. Correspondence-

- a. Letter from Jessica Fry - See attached letter - Tim Read the letter.
 - i. Ben asked to respond- The watering hole only had 1 person at times when people needed to use the restroom. As it would take more to shut it down at this time than run to the restroom, sometimes the second person was eating, but still available if it got busy as they were at the watering hole. There has to be common sense when it makes sense to shut it down for only 1 person. The watering hole did make over \$7500 - his guess.
 - ii. Ben also stated that we are working on the issue of people taking water or electricity without paying for it, but it really isn't an individual's responsibility to monitor.
 - iii. Ben Also discussed the comment made about the Scarlet letter towards one specific child. He as a buyer takes this as a direct insult for himself and all businesses that purchased at the fair. He would like to see 4-H pursue this as it needs to be addressed as a falsehood. The actual prices for all pens of rabbits were read out loud. They were all about the same except for the one cage of rabbits that was substantially higher by an individual's choice.
- b. Dana Schez would like us to visit the possibility of Zooming all meetings

9. New Business

- a. Action Item: Discussion/Decision 2024 Fair dates Tawnya made a motion that the fair would be the week of August 11th to August 18th of 2024. Ben seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- b. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Workshop date for September or October - to begin looking at buildings and plan for the fairgrounds, Review the fairbook, Idea of daily packet/schedule, etc.
 - i. Laya made a motion to have the workshop on October 6th at 4PM. Tawnya seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- c. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Renting of equipment for events (Including 4-H & events that use entire fairgrounds) - This was from a previous meeting and was decided as a no to outside rental.
- d. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Watering Hole set up at other events - It does move very easily and well. It is safe out of the weather under the lean to on the indoor arena. We will look into a liquor license for year round to cover the fairgrounds. Laya made a motion to table this until the workshop and until we have more information. Tawnya seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- e. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Exhibitor booths for 2024 - ideas for improving the number of participants Liz Peters mentioned to look at TimberFest to add to the fair to help with adding another set of ideas. We also need to discuss the hours a business needs to be in their booth. This will be added to the workshop agenda.
- f. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Food Vendors for 2024 - ideas to get more options - Krisitina would like to see a larger variety of foods. Laya made a motion to move to the workshop. Tawnya seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- g. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Contract Sandpoint Marine and MotorSports rental of beef barn - need to get a contract, discuss amount for the season-Ben made a motion to accept the contract with the change of a fee of \$20,000 for 2023/2024 rental. Laya seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- h. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Sponsorship banquet - dates, etc. Laya made a motion to table this until the workshop. Tawnya seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- i. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Fair days - go back to Tues - Sat fair - Tawnya made a motion to table this to the workshop. Ben seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- j. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Goat/Sheep washing - where should this be
 - i. Chris recommended redoing the pig wash rack and adding sheep/goat to the west end. He will do a drawing for the workshop. Ben made a motion to table for the workshop. Laya seconded the motion. The motion passed
- k. Action Item: Discussion/Decision parking during the fair - some areas

roped off - differing exhibitor passes, guest passes? We need to look at this more in depth. Where else to park, enforcing parking passes, differing colored passes, etc. Laya made a motion to table to the workshop. Laya seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- l. Action Item: Discussion/Decision harassment of fairboard, fair personnel on social media - complaints from the public about why this is allowed? This is a question from the community as to what can be done with the continued incorrect information, slander, etc on social media. The fairboard is not accountable to these people as it is under freedom of speech at this time.
- m. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Sunday move out of campground - Ben made a motion to change move out day from fair as Monday by Noon. Laya seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- n. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Payout for open class - There were issues with payouts for 2023 based on information not getting organized as it should have been. It could have been very simple if it had all been put into the spreadsheet. Ben had to step in and get people to come back later in the next couple weeks. Ben made a motion to extend payouts for 2 weeks after the fair during business hours. Laya seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- o. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Christmas Craft Fair -The line was out the door at 8AM when the staff got to the office. The online option didn't work, so they had to shut it down. Maranda was in the office by herself with no other staff until Samm was there. There were some applications in the mail that Samm picked up, but these were picked up too late. We should look at other buildings, 2 weekends, be a little more selective on vendors, etc. Jody made a motion to table this to the workshop. Laya seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- p. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Thursday night concert - need to begin looking for someone Laya made a motion to table until the workshop. Ben seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- q. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Theme for 2024 Fair - Laya made a motion to have the office ask for ideas and to table to workshop. Tawnya seconded the motion. The motion passed.

10. Old Business

- a. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Workshop Contract for Draft Horse Show - We are still waiting for them to get us some information.
- b. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Pest Control in MEB/Office there are poison boxes set up and the pest control is being taken care of for the fall.
- c. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Rocky Mountain Fair Convention - Those Fairboard members going need to let Amy know and get registered.

- d. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Commercial Kitchen -
 - i. Still need to insulate the windows, put up wall coverage, new sink, look at trim and contact Burnet Electric for electrical boxes and heating.
 - e. Action Item: Discussion/Decision posting hours for the fairgrounds when it is open unless staying at campground - Ben made a motion for the manager to look into a sign for posting hours & work with legal. Laya seconded the motion. The motion passed.
11. **Executive Session:** Laya made a motion to enter into executive session under Idaho Code 74-206- 1-B Personne; Idaho Code 74-206 (1) (D) Records Exempt; Idaho Code 47-206(1)(f) – hiring outside counsel, hearing complaints about public officials, and discussing imminent litigation. . Ben seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- a. Roll call vote Laya - Yes, Ben - Yes, Tawnya - Yes, Tim - Yes, Jody - Yes
12. Moved out of executive at 10 PM
13. Action Item: Discussion/Decision approval of counsel recommendation
- a. Ben made a motion to move forward as discussed in executive. Tawnya seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 - b. Laya made a motion to proceed with Smith and Malek as discussed in executive. Ben seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 - c. Ben made a motion to appoint a legal subcommittee as discussed in executive session. Laya seconded the motion. The motion passed,
 - d. Laya made a motion to proceed with Smith and Malek with the other items as discussed in executive session. Tawnya seconded the motion. The motion passed.
14. Laya made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 PM. Tawnya seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Next meeting, October 9, 2023 at 5:30 PM