



DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR BOARD

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023

KIRK HALL

MINUTES

Dean Elliott- Chairperson called the Douglas County Fair Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on August 17, 2023. The meeting was held in Kirk Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present:

*Pat Candelaria
Scott Candelaria
Dean Elliott
Sarah Fischer
Tom Harris
Wesley Jacobs
Debbie Mills
Dr. Phil Riesselman
Lora Talbert
Rob Tkach
Gary Turner
Lisa Turner*

Associate Members Present:

*Nick Candelaria
James Jamison
Dick Sabulsky
Jean Sabulsky
Lori Sorenson
Ted Sorenson
Chris Spyke*

Other Guests Present:

*Tori Checkal
Cindy Duckworth
Lisa Goudy*

Staff Members Present:

*Zach Burns
Tim Hallmark
Teresa Kutt
Michelle Mannes
Tori Thelen*

Board Members Absent:

*John Adams
Jennifer Foss
Arlie Gordon Jr
Gabriel Ryan
Pat Salazar
Hayden Schmidt
Pam Spradlin*

Associate Members Absent:

*Ben Alderton
Matt Coyle
Deb Dilley
Josiah Fredericks
John Holst
Chayce Lutz
Laura Martin
Scott McHenry
Kyle Moore
Patti Russell
Todd Spencer*

6:30 PM CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**Public Meeting**

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: A few corrections to the minutes as follows: Scott Candelaria was present. The mock sale was held on July 12. Fair Foundation is increasing the financial benefit for each scholarship, not the number of animals awarded. Pat moved to approve the minutes with the amendments. Gary seconded. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Wes briefly overviewed the expenses and revenue for the 2023 Fair & Rodeo. These are rough numbers as more revenue and expenses remain to be reported.

Reports From Other Groups

FFA: No representative present.

4-H Youth Council: Tori reported that no meeting was held this month.

CSU Extension/4-H: No representative present.

Fair Foundation: Cindy reported that the Fair Foundation was very happy with its location during the Fair. The Moore's chuck wagon brought many people in and made the Fair Foundation feel like they were a very included part of the Fair. They gave away 800 boot koozies and talked to many people about Fair Foundation and its mission. The Wall of Honor Ceremony also went very well and was well attended.

Cindy also reported that eight out of the nine grant animal recipients made the sale. The annual Ghost Town Hoedown is coming up in October, and the Foundation is planning for that event.

Regular Agenda

Staff Report: Zach introduced Teresa Kutt, the new Event Coordinator for Douglas County. He also told the board how impressed he was with the Fair, Fair Board, and staff. He appreciated everyone's willingness to show him around and the helpful information throughout the Fair.

Tim reported there is limited finalized information at this time regarding attendance, and more information will come in the next few weeks. He believes that the attendance maintained, if not exceeded, last year's.

Michelle reported that staff is working on wrapping things up after Fair.

Tori let the Board know that the Volunteer Appreciation event will be held on Wednesday, September 27, in Kirk Hall. The Committee is also sending out a survey to

all volunteers. If the Board has any changes or feedback, please get those back to her by 8/22/23.

Lisa gave preliminary numbers on ticketing sales, with 23,000 tickets sold totaling approximately \$350,000.

Old Business: None.

New Business

Fair Review: Dean asked everyone to briefly overview their thoughts on the 2023 Fair & Rodeo, with a more in-depth discussion coming in September. He also asked everyone to think about any additional budget items needed for the 2024 Fair.

James: James liked the flow of the Fair this year. In talking with the entertainers, they were impressed with how everyone, including the public, treated them while they were there. Everyone was incredibly friendly and welcoming.

Tom: Tom received five personal thank you cards after the Fair and read one aloud to the Board. The thank you note is a testament to everything we do with the Fair and how the community appreciates it.

Lora: Lora thought Work Day, the animal shows, and the Livestock Sale all went well. She had the chance to ride on the Kiefer Hitch for the first time, which was an incredibly memorable experience.

Lori: Lori was impressed by everyone and their willingness to welcome her and Ted into the group. Everything went well and was incredibly fun as both an Associate Member and a spectator. She stated how happy she is to be a part of the group.

Ted: Ted was able to help in several different areas this year and was very grateful for all the experiences. Everywhere he looked, people were having a great time.

Sarah: Sarah thought everything went well across the board.

Scott: Scott thanked the Staff for all their hard work. Over the last two years, the Fair Board has brought on a lot of great Associate Members who have stepped up to help and made a huge difference on the Board; he thanked them for their time and dedication. He also thanked Lisa and the ticketing team for their hard work.

Dean reminded everyone that there were no protests made during Fair this year. That is a testament to all involved to keep the barns and 4-H shows running smoothly.

Gary: Gary thanked the Staff for their preparation to ensure everything was ready to go and taken care of when needed. Everyone he has talked to has been happy and impressed with the Fair as a whole, and that speaks to everyone in the room.

Lisa Turner: Lisa thanked Dean for his drive and leadership of the Board. She echoed all the comments about the staff and facilities. She has not seen a facility this clean during any event she has attended. She liked being able to help with placings this year as it gave her an appreciation for a portion of Fair, she is not normally involved in.

Chris: This is the biggest and best event he has been a part of with everyone involved. He loves the opportunity the Fair gives him to be able to give back and help people. An older gentleman stopped and thanked him during the Fair for helping to put on such a great hometown event.

Nick: Nick echoed everyone's comments, especially how clean the grounds are.

Wes: Wes thought there was excellent attendance for the Fair and the sale this year. The food lines were much shorter than last year. As always, the staff is excellent to work with. Wes overheard Commissioner Laydon say he wasn't sure what we could do to make the Fair any better.

Rob: Rob thought that Work Day went smoothly this year, and everything was done quickly. The County was a great help in that. The changes for the Horse program went over well and attendance at the show was up this year due to more public on grounds the first weekend. The kids loved the buckles and key chains. The 4-H Barn Dance was also well attended and is a big hit in the barns. All County Staff was a great asset, including Maintenance and IT.

Debbie: There was great cooperation and preparation with all parties involved this year, making everything run smoothly. The stands were full for the Hometown Rodeo. Open Class entries and sponsorships were up this year too.

Pat: Pat enjoyed attending the Farm to Table Brunch this year and getting to interact with the public attending. She agreed with Lisa Turner that seeing a different side of the Fair was great by entering placings at the Livestock Shows. She also thought we had the best staff for the Livestock Sale, including the IT staff and volunteers. All reconciliation was done by 3 p.m. on Saturday. That is a new record!

Phil: Phil was very surprised at how well everything went this year and how easily things got done. Work Day went smoothly and the Sale was faster and better than ever. The Sale Committee had great volunteers this year and had the 2nd highest total at around \$592,000. He also thought that the load-out went smoothly and fast.

Dick: Dick thanked the staff for making everything run smoothly. The Volunteer Command Center was great, and everyone enjoyed a place to take a break when needed.

Jean: Jean gave kudos to Tori and Lisa for creating a welcoming team environment for all volunteers. Jean enjoyed attending the Farm to Table event and only heard good comments from attendees, including her son-in-law. Her son-in-law commented that it was wonderful to attend an event that takes you back to the roots of what America is all about.

Tori: Tori said everyone she spoke to was very happy with the Fair. It was a wild ride for her this year, but she was amazed to have the team we do and to feel like such a valuable part of that team.

Cindy: Cindy talked to many people at the Fair Foundation booth on the second weekend and was surprised by how many were first-time attendees to the Fair. She thought the Marketing for the Fair was great, and everyone worked together like a well-oiled machine. She volunteered at the Livestock Sale this year and registered six new buyers of kids who came up to them and made an impression on them before the sale.

Zach: Zach was very impressed by how smoothly animal load-in and load-out went. The teamwork to make such events happen is amazing.

Michelle: Michelle thanked the Show Management and Livestock Sale Committees for their hard work and dedication to making all the 4-H and Open Class activities happen during the Fair. Things go better and smoother every year, which is a testament to those involved. She is proud to be a part of the team and can't wait to see us all grow in the years to come.

Tim: Tim agreed with everyone who said taking placings was a great experience. He was able to experience such a big part of Fair that he had never had the chance to before. It puts things into perspective of why we do what we do. He had the chance to visit with attendees at the entrance gates and saw the excitement in the kid's eyes as they came into the Fair; that was very rewarding. Carnival sales were up this year, and the carnival vendor is interested in bringing two more rides next year. He agreed that the team grows stronger every year and cannot wait to see what the future holds!

Lisa: Lisa commended her team of volunteers and staff. Everyone said the grounds were clean, and we raised the bar this year. She was thankful to everyone as we took chances this year, and they paid off. She was thankful she could leave the ticket office this year and spend time around the grounds.

Dean: The Commissioner's support is amazing, and their engagement in Fair is a huge win. There are never enough good things to say about the staff as we rely on each other for a successful event. The cleanliness of the grounds and the cleaning staff this year was great. All the volunteers, some of whom we don't know,

greatly impact the Fair. Lincoln Rogers from the Fence Post asked to interview Dean, and he used a word he never uses, “ecstatic,” but that is how he felt about Americana and the nostalgia we bring to the fairgoers. He has great pride in what we do and thanks everyone for their part in that.

Date for September meeting: Everyone agreed to keep the September Fair Board date on Thursday, September 21, 2023.

Other Business

Director Comments

Adjournment at 7:36 PM.

Next Meeting: September 21, 2023 (Tentative)

Rules for Citizen Engagement at Fair Board Meeting

To have orderly, efficient, civil, and productive board meetings, the following rules apply to all citizens that have a desire to address the Board:

1. Citizen comments will be heard during the public comment section at the board meeting.
2. All citizen comments must be addressed to the Board. Directing comments to staff or other members of the public is not permitted during Board meetings.
3. Public comment section is limited to ten minutes collectively.
4. Citizens are asked not to repeat comments made by others; merely indicate their concurrence.
5. Citizens will be asked to use a microphone so that Board members and the audience can hear their comments.
6. Clapping, cheering, booing and the like are not permitted at Board meetings.
7. Failure to abide by the aforementioned rules of engagement is considered disruptive to the public process and will result in a warning to the violation citizen(s) by the Board Chair. If after that warning the citizen(s) continues to violate these rules, they will be asked to leave the meeting. If the citizen does not leave the meeting when asked, the appropriate steps will be taken by the Board Chair to have them removed from the meeting.

Mission Statement: The Douglas County Fair and Rodeo is the premier annual community event in Douglas County bringing together the best of Rural Heritage, Agriculture, Western Sports, Youth and Adult Exhibits and quality Entertainment.