



DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR BOARD- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH 2023 AT 6:30 PM

KIRK HALL

MINUTES

Attendance: Dean Elliott, Debbie Mills, Phil Riesselman, Lora Talbert, Rob Tkach, John Adams, Sarah Fischer, Gary Turner, Tori Thelen, Teresa Kutt, Clay Gysin, Michelle Bartlett, and Zach Burns

Meeting:

Discuss format for 2023 Fair and Rodeo review meeting- Last year, each committee recognized areas of improvement and things that went well. Dean asked the committee if the format should remain the same. Dean requested everyone to email Dean their feedback by Tuesday, September 19th.

Discuss Budget needs – The budget for 2024 has been submitted by the County. Dean would like to know what the budget submittal looked like and requested to know what items were mirrored from the previous year. Dean discussed the Foundation's support of specific budget items in 2024. The Fair Foundation would like to donate more money to support the Fair & Rodeo. We read all of the one-time supplemental budget requests from 2023. Dean mentioned that the Fair Foundation meeting in October is when the Fair Board has to request the funds for 2024 Fair & Rodeo.

Discuss committee assignments and meeting times- Zach discussed committee responsibilities and the new format. Teresa will focus on marketing, while Tori will focus primarily on sponsorships and royalty. Dean asked Debbie if she would like to form a separate sponsorship committee, and she said there was no reason. Teresa would own Guest Services, admin, and marketing. Michelle would own Livestock Sale, Awards, and Show Management. Tori would own Marketing, Rodeo and Entertainment.

Review emails, i.e., Volunteer event, etc.- VIP reception RSVP reminder. There is a need for a volunteer master email list per committee (non-green shirts). We need to compile an email list for communication. Dean requested all committee chairs to compile their lists and send them to staff. Gary discussed using Offero as a resource for all volunteers to sign up. Admin could support this task. Rob suggested that the email lists be separated by committee. Tori discussed the RSVPs are currently standing at 70. John noted that we should recognize how many years the volunteers have been involved at Fair & Rodeo. John suggested that we ask all volunteers to stand at the volunteer reception and give recognition to the longest-standing volunteer.

Other- Phil asked about the master plan. Zach discussed the recent meeting with the architectural firm. The master plan is in the preliminary phases. The rough sketch was based on analysis and feedback from all groups interviewed. Zach discussed the master plan and presented that all buildings, except the events center, need reinventing and relocating. Dean asked that the Fair Board be involved before any phases are confirmed. Dean discussed the resolution, stating that George Teal is the liaison for the Fair Board. Dean asked the committee if he felt the topic should be addressed at Fair Board. The committee agreed it was essential to discuss. Dean read an appreciation letter written by Pat Salazar recognizing the volunteers. Dean would like to send a Thank You letter to all volunteers. Dean discussed how the Fair Board can recognize the volunteers who have been involved for many years. Rob suggested sorting the volunteer list by number of years and handing out certificates. Dean discussed the director positions that have terms expiring. Gary said his term is expiring, not Lisa's. The list needs correcting. Four director positions have upcoming expiring terms- Gary T, Tom H, Arlie G., and Pat C. Arlie had a conversation with Dean and has decided to step down from his director position. Arlie served 37 years as a Fair Board Director. Dean discussed the opportunity to recognize Arlie as an honorary lifetime member and get approval from the BOCC. The 4-H leaders council recommended increasing membership fees to \$60 from \$50. Twenty dollars of the membership dues go to Show Management if the child shows up at the Fair & Rodeo. Michelle confirmed that 2023 \$8400 went to Fair from the 4-H membership fees. Dean said a question was asked about where the \$20 goes if the 4-H child does not enter the Fair. Wes asked who initially supported the budget of the judge's ribbons before the County was involved. Michelle confirmed that the remaining \$30 goes to the state 4-H and Douglas County offices. Dean discussed his conversation with an individual who did not understand that the County funds the Fair & Rodeo. Dean mentioned the importance of the public understanding that the County funds and supports the fair, and Fair Board puts its best foot forward to make it a zero net event. Dean discussed the articles in the Fence Post and how well Lincoln captured the spirit and culture of the Fair & Rodeo.

Guest Services- No comment

Entertainment- No comment

Rodeo- No comment

Show Management- No comment

Admin- No comment

Livestock Sale- No comment

Marketing- No comment

Next Meeting:

Thursday, October 12th, 2023