

Monday, May 24, 2021

6:30 PM CONVENE

Present: Alyse Webber, Chairman; Wendy Wagner, Vice Chairman; Eddie Coulter, Matt Plaisted, and Karrol Williams, Board Members; Shyla Hadley, Fairgrounds Manager

Guests: Chad and Britney Follmer, Fallon County Horse Club; Polly and McKenzie Davis, Baker Wrestling Club

6:30 PM CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Alyse Webber called the meeting to order.

6:30 PM APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Wendy Wagner made a motion to approve the April 26, 2021 Fair Board Agenda. Eddie Coulter seconded the motion. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. The motion carried unanimously.

6:32 PM PUBLIC COMMENT

4H Fair Horses/Britney Follmer

Britney said she and Chad were representing the kids in Baker's 4H Horses Club. They wanted to express their concern with stalling the horses throughout the Fair when they compete first thing Tuesday. It has become difficult and unhealthy for the horses. They are typically ranch horses used to fresh air and movement but there's really no good place to exercise them during Fair. Chad said that a lot of them are also older horses which doesn't help the situation. Britney said they get messed with and it's all just a liability. She added that they are required to bringing them earlier than ever before and so she was asking if they could compete, go home, then bring them in on Saturday only. Eddie thinks that it's a good idea because someone's horse seems to colic every year, it just gets too hot in there. The Board agreed. Britney then wanted to ask about bringing in studs. She said they get inquiries every year, and that studs are what people want. Chad agreed that they have had many people who are interested. Britney added that studs are still not allowed at the State level, but any entries would know that prior to competing. She thought we could keep them separate during the show, they would be required to enter the arena from a different side and would not be able stall here at all. She asked what our current policy on studs are. Shyla said about 3 years ago the Board changed our stall rental agreement to state that any renter interested in bringing in a stud would need to come to a Board Meeting to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Britney said they would be doing the same sort of thing, each participant interested in bringing in a stud would have to apply and go through a grooming process. There was discussion on this. Alyse thinks if they could write up their protocols and how they would be evaluating each stud then we would be interested. Britney named a few but said she would get the Board a list so they could officially vote on it. Chad added that they would make it similar to how steers are assessed on weigh in day, and that it would certainly not be an open-door policy. Karrol agreed that would be a good way to do it. Shyla asked Britney to write it all out and the Board can vote it in officially. Lastly, Britney expressed her concern with the Horse Show dwindling. She said the numbers are down, but she had the idea that maybe if we allowed other counties in on our horse show we could put some life back into it. She said that our county is allowed to compete in others, but we don't allow anyone into ours. Alyse thought that would be more of a budget issue more than anything. Britney added she didn't think premiums would need to be a requirement, she thought people would enjoy competing event if there weren't premiums. Britney said she's been putting on the Eastern Montana Horse Show here and people love the facility, so she thinks it'd be a great thing to offer to try and get the Fair show going again. Eddie said start inviting them and then see how it goes this year then we can talk more about premiums for next year. Britney agreed and thanked the Board for having them.

6:48pm Britney and Chad left the meeting.

6:48 PM OLD BUSINESS

Circus Funtastic

Shyla said that tickets are now available: \$5 for a child and \$10 for an adult but that she had coupons for every paying adult they can have a free child's ticket. Shyla said she has tickets here in the office and people can get them online. Alyse asked if she needed help with anything. Shyla said no, they are very low maintenance, but that she would probably come into the office to sell tickets on Memorial Day since it's the day before the show.

6:51 PM NEW BUSINESS

2021 Fallon County Fair

Polly Davis said that they want to start set-up/check-in before Cowboy Church, proceed after it's over, but have the official start time at 2:00pm. She said they would like to set up tickets on our system again at \$10 a ticket and 6 and under are free. Shyla said she was going to make the tickets so that even the kids who would be "free" get one just to get a more accurate attendance count. She would also like a sponsorship list so that she could help Polly mark

those people off and to know how many “comped” tickets need to be accounted for. Polly said she’d work on that, she added that contestants and some family would get wristbands to be able to sit by the roping boxes but everyone else needs to be out of the pit area. Eddie said they could always lock the airport road entrance if that would help save on ticket takers. Polly said they’d start charging for tickets at about 12:00pm using our system and booth. She said to let her know what the fee will be this year and if it’s separate, what the cleaning crew would cost them. Polly added that they would still have a crew to go through the arena to clean up debris. She said if she forgot anything else, that they have a meeting coming up on Wednesday at the Legion at 7pm. Shyla said she’s willing to meet up with the ticket takers prior to “opening time” to help with any questions if they wanted. Polly said she’d talk to Tammy Reetz about that. Shyla asked about the dunk tank. Polly said they will not be doing the dunk tank this year. Shyla said there will be bleachers on the stage but not the cement pad in front of the grandstands. Polly said that sounded good. Shyla said to send her schedule and graphics and she will help promote it.

7:13pm Polly and McKenzie left the meeting.

Shyla asked what the Board would like to charge the Wrestling Club. Eddie ask what the cleaners charge. Shyla said it would come out to about \$2,000 per day. Alyse thinks we need to add in the cleaner cost. Karrol asked if we get a percentage of ticket sales. Shyla said no. Wendy explained how they spend their earnings. Matt asked what we charged last year. Shyla said we didn’t just because of covid we weren’t sure how attendance would be. Eddie offered \$2,500 per day. Alyse agreed due to the cleaning fee and they are getting the full day now.

Matt Plaisted made a motion to change the Baker Wrestling Club Derby Fee to \$2,500. Karrol Williams seconded the motion. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. The motion carried unanimously.

Matt asked what time he should take off for Fair. Eddie said to for sure take Thursday off for slack. Eddie said he found some free stage music. He said his prices were \$1,000 for 3 hours per day if he gets his own hotel or \$800 for 3 hours per day if we get his hotel room. Christofer Thomas is his name and Eddie heard him play at the Bucking Horse Sale and said he was better than the main act. Shyla said we don’t have any music currently lined up for the free stage. Eddie said he was really good at the bucking horse sale he thought maybe have them play before the rodeos Wendy thought it was a good idea. Eddie also met a videographer who was really impressive and had a super quick turnaround. There was discussion on this. Shyla said she always likes promotional things for social media. Eddie is going to ask for prices. Shyla is going to get more inflatable and game options ready for the next meeting.

2021 Montana High School Finals Rodeo

Shyla asked the Board to take a look at the final schedule. Eddie said it looked good. Wendy asked what days we need help. There was discussion on this. Shyla asked if anyone wanted to line up Notaries. Alyse is going to ask around. Eddie said we need to put an alley way between the stalls and the rough stock pen, he got a quote from Frank’s Archs and Sparks for \$3,300. He’d also like to get the stage railing fixed. Shyla confirmed that taking the stage railings in and out is dangerous. Eddie just wants to put them on a hinge so that they don’t need to be taken off at all.

Karrol Williams made a motin to approve Frank’s Archs and Sparks implementing an alleyway in the rough stock pasture. Matt Plaisted seconded the motion. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. The motion carried unanimously.

Eddie Coulter made a motion to get the stage railing hinged by Frank’s Archs and Sparks. Wendy Wagner seconded the motion. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. The motion carried unanimously.

Alyse asked about having Leslie do “old time” photos on Thursday and Friday. Shyla said we could just charge the vendor fee of \$50. The Board agreed. Shyla asked if anyone would want to help with Xtreme Bronc or Championship Round ticket taking. Wendy said she would do a little of both, Alyse can help Saturday. Monica is going to do the ATM. Shyla said she is struggling getting Hotel Rooms again. Wendy is going to talk to the Lakeside Hotel. Shyla asked if we need any hospitality items. Eddie said just water and maybe some cookies for the Cowboy Prom. Eddie is going to get an invoice from Vaughn for DJing. Stall Setup will be—Wednesday June 2, 6:00pm. Banner Setup will be—Monday June 7, 6:00pm. Eddie is going to get an air conditioner for the announcers stand.

PRCA Xtreme Broncs

Shyla said the Tavern called for more information but otherwise she hasn’t heard anything. The Board is going to start asking around Downtown. Shyla said the Chamber is good to go on the Calcutta, their Gambling Application was approved and she will be there to help if needed. Eddie said all 30 of the boot jack sponsors have been filled.

Next Meeting: June 21, 2021 6:30pm

8:32 PM ADJOURN

Karrol Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Wendy Wagner seconded the motion. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:
s/Alyse Webber, Chairman

ATTEST:
s/Shyla Hadley, Fairgrounds Manager