

**Fremont County Fair Board  
Minutes  
May 9, 2024**

The Fremont County Fair Board met May 9, 2024 at the Fremont Center Classroom, in Riverton, Wyoming. Board members present were Scott Walters, Nikki Horton, Trevor Bekken, Megan Sims, Rob Dolcater, Alex Eckhardt and Kourtney Hanger. Fair Staff present were, Fair Manager Pat Hart and Laura Harrington, Administrative Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Scott Walters

President Scott Walters led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pat Hart gave the board prayer

**I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Megan Sims moved to approve the May 9, 2024 agenda; Alex Eckhardt seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**II. PATRONS**

- None

**III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes from the April 11, 2024 Fremont County Fair Board Meeting.
- Current Bills and financial report for April 2024
- Alcohol Permits for The Swarthout Wedding.

Nikki Horton moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Kourtney Hanger; motion passed unanimously.

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

- None

**V. EX-OFFICIO BOARD REPORTS**

- Commissioner Liaison – Commissioner Allen was not present.
- County Extension – Still looking for a 4-H Educator/extension agent
- Wind River Extension – Johnathan Despain introduced himself to the board.

**VI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Royalty Committee** –Megan Sims reported that the Royalty is working on their budget and have started riding practices.
- **Youth Ambassadors**- Alex Eckhardt reported that the Ambassadors participated in the Garden Expo where they had a petting zoo, cupcake decorating and a station for participants to sew a small pouch. They would like to see registration for fair open a little earlier so they can help people register at the events they attend. They will be participating in Hudson Daze and Day in the Park Cinch will sponsor the group again this year. Their next meeting will be May 10 at 5pm.
- **Junior Livestock Sale Board** – Carmen Vasco reported that Liz and Mark from Campbell County will be doing a Showworks training in June. They are still discussing how to handle the resale animals. Tagging will be Jun 4<sup>th</sup> in Riverton and June 6<sup>th</sup> in Lander. She requested that board members be available to help. They will again use Broadway for an entry point in Riverton. Their next meeting will be May 22 due to the Memorial Day holiday. Rob Dolcater reported that Spectrum cannot hardwire internet from the scale house without a separate subscription. The internet on the grounds needs to be updated. Pat added that she spoke to Wedge Fike IT and that he stated the cloud could operate just fine off of updated internet. She suggested that other access to the internet access could be shut down during the sale. The Sale Board agrees to have Bob Husa look into the upgrades for the sound in the show pavilion, lift rentals etc. for the sale.  
**Junior Show Advisory Committee** – No report. Next scheduled meeting is July 18, 2024 at 6p.
- **Friends of the Fremont County Fair** – Jeremy Hill reported that the three Big Foot sound systems had been delivered, these include 3 lapel mics and 9 wireless mics. FOF will be ordering a smaller photo backdrop. They have also authorized the purchase of new curtains for the stage in the Heritage Hall. They have made a down payment for flooring in the Little Wind Center. The Campground upgrades are done with the exception of 10 50-amp poles. They need a written request from Pat for the change order on the poles. FOF wants to check on the cost of painting the wash rack and the purchase of canvas to cover the roof of the wash rack, they are requesting exact measurements on the roof from the Fair Board. Nikki Horton suggested all of the Barns be scrubbed really well and then advertise that it has been done. Scott replied that it gets done every year. Pat said that Friends of Fair offered to help pay for the cleaning products. Photos will be posted for PR that the barns are clean and ready for fair. Rob Dolcater pointed out that animal health inspections are good for 30 days and that they could arrive at fair on day 28. He added that exhibitors are responsible to make sure their animals are healthy. Rob also asked about the outbreak of bird flu in dairy animals. Pat said that she sent the latest information she had to the board in her weekly email. Rick will clean the barns prior to Spring Fair and prior to Fair.
- Carmen Vasco is requesting shade cover for the staging area for the Beef Show as well as more shade for the Beef Barn. She is requesting that Friends of Fair pay for that. Jeremy Hill asked that the Fair Board submit the request. Pat Hart stated that she would get measurements of the areas. Carmen is requesting that something be done on the east side of the Beef Barn as well. Scott Walters said the same could be done as last year or leave the black panels up. Pat said black panels have to stay up until after the horse show. Ultimately Carmen would like to see a cover over the area between the Beef Barn and the Show Pavilion. Jeremy Hill suggested a retractable cover from the east side of the Beef Barn to the Pavilion. Discussion was held on the logistics of covering the area. Nikki Horton suggested dirt be brought in so there are not lakes by the barns. Scott recommended board members send suggestions to Part Hart on these concerns.

## VII. FAIR MANAGERS REPORT

- Carnival- Pat reported that she received a call from Carnival Midway attractions stating that the carnival was double booked and that the carnival would only be available to come during Fair Week with 10-12 rides rather than the 16 they usually bring or they would not be able to come this year. Pat stated that the carnival brings in approximately \$20,000. Trevor Bekken and Nikki Horton both stated that they do not like the carnival at fair time. Pat reported that she heard that Carnival Midway got the bid for Bozeman Montana for next year which is the same week that the carnival has been in Fremont County the past several years. Kourtney Hanger expressed concern financially about not having a carnival. Trevor Bekken asked what night show tickets sales were if the carnival was during fair vs not during fair. It was explained that there are more people when the carnival is here. Pat Hart stated that the fair has lost some sponsors due to no having the carnival during fair week. It was stated that parking is better for the shows if there is no carnival. Pat Hart said that people have stated that it is more like a Livestock Show than a fair without the carnival. Trevor Bekken moved to not have a carnival during fair week this year and examine where cuts can be made in the budget, Nikki Horton seconded the motion; Alex Eckart asked about the contract with the Carnival Midway Attractions. Pat stated that we were operating under the 2023 contract, that she said is an auto renewal for the next year. Nikki Horton and Trevor Bekken voted in favor of the motion, Megan Sims, Alex Eckhart, Rob Dolcarter and Kourtney Hanger voted nay. Motion did not carry. Trevor Bekken requested more discussion to “win over” the opposing board members other board members agreed to continue the conversation. Trevor stated that the crowd that the carnival attracts contradicts some of what parents and kids are doing at fair. He added that when the carnival is here the fair experience is not as nice. He believes that the fair can pick up extra sponsors to make up the loss of the carnival income. Alex Eckhart stated that a new event would need to take place to make up for the financial loss. With the loss of previous sponsors due to the move in the carnival time, and the lack of new sponsors stepping forward because the carnival was moved out of fair week, she is concerned about where the revenue will come from. She agreed that the carnival being here fair week is a distraction to the kids that have worked hard with their projects. She said there has to be something to fill that financial gap. Alex stated that we need to come up with something to give the sponsors for their investment. Discussion ensued. Rob asked if the carnival could come after fair. Pat believes that they would say it would have to be after State Fair which would be about the time that school starts. Megan Sims would like to see the Beer Garden expanded to help make up for a carnival loss, she volunteered to run the Beer Garden, Nikki Horton volunteered to help. Scott Walters called for a revote on Trevor Bekken’s motion to not have a Fair Carnival, motion passed unanimously. Pat will inform the carnival that Fremont County Fair will not be hosting them this year.
- Sound-Pat stated that she had shared her conversation with Bob Husa in her weekly email to the board. Developments are that Bob put in the new amplifier and speaker processor only to find out that the other amplifier needs to be replaced also. She said the funds for that could be taken from the General Fund.
- Budget Meeting- The Budget Meeting will be May 28 at 6:00PM if Pat can arrange with the County for her to present her budget to the county of May 29. She will inform the board of her findings.
- Spring Fair- Pat asked the board for volunteers for the Beer Garden during Spring Fair, no one was available. The carnival will be May 29-June 1.
- Wyoming Department of Audit training needs to be completed by June 30.
- Laura Harrington told the Board she has award donor forms if any of the board members would like some to give out. She reported that she has picked up some new donors this year. Pat added that she also has sponsor packets.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Capital Revolving ARPA, LATC funds- Current booking system will be upgraded.
- Fremont Center Project- The new bathrooms in the Fremont Center are progressing. Walls are being cut out next week. The electrical order in the bid was to remove power but not replace it. A change order will be submitted. The Fans in the main room will be lowered but they will not be any larger due to the roofs ability to hold them. Pat reported that the air flow will still be better.
- Barns- tabled for now
- New Arena- Pat reported that Larry Allen informed her they are just waiting to sign on the property. Pat stated she would update the board in her weekly email as she gets more information.
- Exhibitor Party- not this year.
- **Counting down....79 days until 2024 Fremont County Fair "Whatever Floats your Goat!"**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- Grand Marshall- Nikki Horton suggest that possibly a member of the Gardner Family could serve as Grand Marshall this year. Pat suggested Ernie and Sandy Phinney. It was determined that Pat will ask the Phinney's to be the parade Grand Marshalls. Pat Hart reported that she is working with the Ranger on coordinating and running the parade this year.
- Rob would like the Fair Board to request that Onsite services provide their waste disposal manifest.
- Scott received an email asking him to judge the Porters Father Days Grilled contest. He is unavailable and asked said if anyone else was available to contact Claire Manning with county 10
- Rob Dolcater and Nikki Horton enquired about police and ambulance support for fair. Pat stated that she has spoken to both entities.

**IX. Executive Session**

None

Nikki Horton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34PM, seconded by Megan Sims; motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting**

The **June meeting** will be held on **Thursday, June 13, at 6:00 p.m.**, in Riverton, in the Classroom, Fremont Center, at the fairgrounds.

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Scott Walters, Fair Board President

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Megan Sims, Fair Board Secretary