



September 12, 2023

### Fair Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jerry Johnson, Elise Burton, Linda Rider, Tim Vulles, Dave Fair, Christina Petite, Sharon Nelson, Mike Mclean, Jessica Mclean, Dave Paul, Greg Mills, Michaela Woempner, Greg Bennett, Shanda Masterson and Alexcia Jordan.

Meeting minutes recorded by Alexcia.

### Called to order at 5:01 PM

**Pledge of Allegiance:** led by Jerry

### Changes to the Agenda

- None

### Hearing of Delegates

- Greg Mills shared about a personal survey he did in the Draft Horses barn asking why people come to the fair #1 was food and family/friend time #2 was to see animals. He requested we please do more to promote the Draft Horse events during the fair.

### Approval of August Meeting Minutes

- Elise moved to accept minutes as presented; Tim second. Motion carried.

### Read of Correspondence

- Alexcia passed around the folder of correspondence. None required action.

### Claims and Financial Statements

- Elise moved that usual and customary claims to be paid; Dave second. Motion carried. Table financial statements.

### Manager's Report

- Alexcia reported on the fair. 2023 attendance was 157,130, down 7% from 2022 but up 15% from 2021. Poor weather on the first four days contributed to the decline. Of 11 arena shows, 7 sold out. Carnival gross was down 7%, food gross was down 3%. Overall, still a very successful fair.

### Old Business

- RMAF/IAFE Attendance – Alexcia requested anyone wanting to attend these conventions need to let her know within a week to register for the best rate.

### New Business

- Fair Recap – Covered in Manager's Report
- Pumpkin Event – Alexcia requested to forgo the Pumpkin Festival event due to the quick turn around after the fair, staff needs time to rejuvenate and that the event is very weather dependent to be successful. Board consensus was to forgo the event and focus on the Christmas event.
- Insurance Renewal – Elise shared an increase in health insurance renewal of 13.72% for 2024. We did look at other options and without changing employees' benefits greatly this is still the best option. Tim moved to renew the 2024 insurance with Pacific Source understanding the increase. Dave seconded. Motion carried.

### Committee Reports

- Food/Beverage – Jerry reported great sales at the Fair, down a bit for 2022. Help from ISP was extremely helpful during concerts scanning for fake IDs. We plan to continue working with them to help with checking IDs.
- Development/Planning – Linda and Alexcia will schedule a meeting soon.
- Educational Programming – No report
- Events, Fair & Policy – No report
- Finance & Budget – Elise noted we are working on a bookkeeping plan and the position is posted.
- Facility, Equipment & Maintenance – Greg reported on fair clean up and prep for events to begin again. Noted working on the water truck, discussed easement with Avista, moving forward with finishing the well on Dalton.
- Jr. Fair Advisory Board – Michaela reported the Jr Board was very active during the fair, 12 kids helped consistently.
- Livestock, 4-H and FFA - Mike reported the YSSS committee and exhibitors were very happy with the judges this year. Spotlight additions to some species final drives were a huge hit. Swine changed their class list which also was very well received. Disbursement of animals after the fair went well. One animal was flagged by UDSA for weight, suggested the committee look at a reweight to avoid this type of issue in the future. Fair Vet was great, well-staffed and did daily walks of each barn, she even was able to do some educational demonstration. FFA seemed happy with coordination of the show this year and communication. Unfortunately, four lambs and two goats were sent home as they did not pass the vet check. Several families had alternatives they could bring. He spoke of an



incident with one family which resulted in a letter to the Fair Board from the Vet. Letter from Dr. Christensen was presented at this time to the Fair Board. As Dr. Christensen is hired by the Fair Board as the State Fair Vet she is an employee/contractor of the Board. After much discussion the Fair Board consensus was to draft a letter to the family with a one-year suspension for the parent specifically named in the letter due to YSSS rule violations to be cited in the letter. Once the letter is drafted it will be sent to legal for review and sent to the family via certified mail.

- Rodeo – Dave reported the committee has two events coming up to close the season a barrel race and team roping, entries look strong. He will be at Circuit Finals and PRCA Convention. The committee helped Spokane with their rodeo again. Our rodeo was live on the Cowgirl Channel this year on Sunday and the other perfs were on the Cowboy Channel played back multiple times, this is great sponsorship recognition!
- Executive Committee – Jerry reported a 5% COLA for all fulltime staff to being on the next payroll.

**Public/Open Comments**

- Jerry shared his appreciation of the board and what an incredible working board we have, a big thank you to all!

**Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm** – Motion to adjourn by Tim, seconded by Linda, motion carried.