



September 14, 2021
Fair Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jerry Johnson, Linda Rider, Tim Vulles, Elise Burton, Dave Fair, Joe Doellefeld, Miranda Hamilton, Elizabeth Brewer, Gayle Stegmann, Dr. Bob Peters, Robin and Nathan Tolle, Evan Underwood, Shanda Masterson, and Alexcia Jordan.
Meeting minutes recorded by Alexcia.

Called to order at 5:01 pm

Pledge of Allegiance led by Jerry Johnson

Changes to the Agenda

- Moved public comment to beginning of the meeting.

Public/Open Comments

- Guests spoke to hearing concerns of a lack of animals at the fair on the later half of the fair and senior day. Alexcia addressed the reasoning and acknowledged that is an issue we will be working on. Robin also asked if we plan to remain over the top of Bonner County Fair. Alexcia addressed that we have had the same dates for many years and will likely have 2 overlapping days in 2022, however she and the Fair Manager in Bonner County speak often and have a great working relationship, ultimately it is up to the individual fair boards to select the dates they feel are best for the community.

Hearing of Delegates

- None

Approval of August Meeting Minutes

- Elise moved to approve minutes: Dave second. Motion carried.

Reading of Correspondence

- Alexcia shared a file of letters over the last month, to include comments about the Nelly concert previous to the fair both pro and con and some wrap up after fair letters to include both positive feedback and some complaints. Mostly regarding the lack of open class animals on the second half of the fair. Letters are available for anyone to review and respond.

Claims and Financial Statements

- Elise moved that usual and customary claims to be paid; Joe second. Motion carried.

Manager's Report; see attached

Old Business

- RV Park Grant & Design Update – Alexcia shared her, Allan and Jerry met with the Engineers last week to go over last of the design details. The next phase of the RV Park will include at least 10, frost free sites with full hookups. She expects the project to go to bid in November.

New Business

- Rodeo Arena Dirt – Rodeo Committee – Dr. Bob Peters come to speak on behalf of the rodeo committee regarding the safety of the arena footing. Over the last many years, the Rodeo Committee and Fair Staff have put in a great deal of time to deal with the footing, falling short of a permanent or long term solution, thus creating hours of work after each motorized event which brings up more rocks from the soil. Due to this he reported to have done a great deal of research with other multiuse venues across the country on what they use when rocks are a major issue. His research found a Barber Rock Rake which has been successful in other venues like ours. Gayle Stegmann with the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation has been helping to secure funding for this piece of equipment through the Fair Foundation as an emergency ask for capital equipment necessary for the safety of both animals and humans participating in the arena. Tim made a motion to move forward on having Alexcia make an official emergency ask of the Fair Foundation for this piece of equipment. Elise seconded. Motion passed.
- Arena Dirt Plan – Alexcia reported four local dirt work companies are all onboard to help with the arena to make sure future events have safe ground. These companies would work together to pull out and screen all current dirt, lay a barrier, then bring back in the screened dirt and the fill dirt that will be necessary to bring the floor back to level. In addition, this plan includes a stockpile of clean dirt for events that need to build on the arena floor. This would alleviate the rock issues in the Main Arena. This is a long overdue project that will be costly in the next budget but is necessary to ensure a safe multiuse facility for our community to enjoy. She is hopeful this project will be completed before the 2022 Fair. Joe motioned to continue with the dirt work plan and forgo booking motorized events in the Main Arena until the completion of this plan or a suitable solution had been found with a reevaluation in the spring. Elise seconded. Motion carried.



Committee Reports

- Beverages – Jerry reported over 290 volunteers helped run the bars, all from area nonprofit groups earning tips for their organization.
- Development and Planning – Linda reported we met with the Master Planners on Thursday of the Fair, we look forward to their findings.
- Educational Programming – Linda reported Wednesday of the Fair was Ag Awareness Day, they had a variety of activities which made for a successful day at the Fair further promoting our mission to educate about agriculture to our community.
- Finance & Budget – Elise reported that we are still getting in some bills for the fair, so we are close to complete financials for the fair but not at this moment, however things ran smoothly in admissions and the breakroom. She would like to discuss further with Admissions the possibility of a portable building in the future. She also reported that she plans to speak with the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation about their book work as the Fair staff has gotten too busy to continue to offer this service in house for them.
- Facilities, Equipment and Maintenance – Tim reported he is looking into Military surplus as the fairgrounds is in dire need of a forklift and skid steer.
- Livestock & 4-H – Linda reported a strong livestock sale, the largest ever of over 1 million. She also reported that Sharla Wilson the Kootenai/Shoshone County Extension Coordinator has resigned. She will be available until October 1, job will be posted at that time.
- Marketing – Joe reported looking into the next fair, our centennial year he would like to create a minted coin and enhance our merchandise program. He will look further into these projects.
- Policy – Joe recommended the policy committee create a golf cart policy addressing the presentation of carts being uses and the care/service of the fleet of carts.
- Rodeo – Dr. Peters reported in new business, arena dirt and safety concerns.
- Executive Committee/Personnel – No report

Executive Session Idaho Code 74-206(1)(a) & 74-206(1)(b) – Evaluation of Employees/Staff Members

- 6:36 pm Tim motioned to enter executive session Idaho Code 74-206(1)(a) & 74-206(1)(b), Linda second. Rollcall vote, all said I.
- Motion to exit executive session Idaho Code 74-206(1)(a) & 74-206(1)(b) at 7:01 pm all in favor.
- Joe motioned to approve the market salary adjustments, performance bonus and longevity bonus schedules/plans as presented. Dave seconded. Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm – Motion to adjourn by Dave, seconded by Tim, motion carried.



September 2021 Managers Report

Presented by Alexcia Jordan

GROUND/MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

- Clean up for fair continues
- Met with Master Planners during the Fair looking forward to their report

INTERIM, IN-HOUSE EVENTS & RV BOOKINGS

- See attached calendars for the months of September & October
- Due to Covid we are seeing many cancellations although many are still moving forward.
- Wildlife Building and the Stampede Room are/will be a Covid treatment center ran by Heritage Health.

FAIR

- 2021 Fair Attendance was an all-time high with 154,726
- We are working on awards submissions to all fair associations we belong to.
- Biggest attendance EVER, biggest carnival EVER, biggest food sales EVER, biggest livestock sale EVER! Overall, the 10-day fair was very well received. It gave us the elbow room we were all hoping for and a diverse entertainment lineup. With that said we have many areas we can improve upon and look forward to implementing them in 2022.
- 2022 Fair Theme – Salute to a Century, August 19-28 – we are working on the theme logo
 - We will start working on Entertainment and arena line up
 - We are holding wrap up meetings over the next couple weeks with different groups, collecting thoughts and looking forward to some great new things and positive changes for 2022.

Other

- Changes in staffing – Veronica has moved on to a new opportunity. Michaela is rejoining our team. We will be reworking some duties over the next couple weeks. We are looking to hire more grounds crew asap.
- Need to know who will be traveling to convention and begin booking this week.