

**NCW Fair Board Meeting
Thursday, December 11, 2023**

Members Present		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Chance Landon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jamey Jo Steele
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Foged	<input type="checkbox"/> Becky Matthiesen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Margaret Viebrock
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julia Goodman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marie Overton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lori Beidler
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leon Grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Schneider	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ann Whitehall
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidi Hedges	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jesse Shafer	<input type="checkbox"/> Sheri Bock
Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Morley	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Nicole Sanders	<input type="checkbox"/> Ramon Ramirez
Guests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Adam called the meeting to order at 5:57 p.m. He mentioned that if you have items to be added to the agenda, please do so.

Jesse moved, and Bill seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on October 12, 2023, as presented. The minutes were previously emailed to all Board members previously. It passed unanimously.

Carolyn gave a brief overview of the financial report, copies of which were provided to board members. A copy is attached to the Minutes. The Budget for 2024 was approved by the Board of Commissioners other than waiting for information on funding for the emergency capital improvements. Our profit from 2023 (+/- \$20,000) rolled into 2024. The only pushback was regarding some pass-through expenses (i.e. credit card fees that are received by NCW Fair but paid to others rendering the service). These were then included.

Old Business.

1. **Cowboy Christmas** – There was little expense associated with this event as sponsorship dollars will cover them. The Friends of the Fair will be hosting the bar. This event helps to fund additional needs for PRCA expenses (purses \$1,250 each for nine events, contractor fee \$3,000, announcer fee \$1,200). The event will start at 5:00 p.m.; volunteers should be here around 4:00 p.m. Jesse and Chance are security for the event. We will be selling tickets at the door but will cap the event at 350 attendees. Those purchasing tickets thus far are primarily from out of the area with about 25 locals. A total of 265 tickets have been sold thus far.

2. **Future Events on the calendar for 2024**–
 - a. Dueling Pianos April 6
 - b. Junk Rodeo June 1
 - c. Monster Trucks & Freedom June 28 and 29
 - d. Women’s Event (name TBD) July 13

3. **Future Events to get on the calendar –**
 - a. The Volunteer Appreciation Event will be on February 24 having a Fair Family Fiesta theme.
 - b. The Super School/Judges Training is scheduled for March 23.

4. **Department of Ag Grant Submissions –** Requests were submitted for multiple projects, not knowing which might be approved. Approved was \$250,00 for the new building. With matching funds from the Friends of the Fair of \$15,000 and \$150,000 from Douglas County, we should be able to complete the building. The County has agreed to fix the cracks in the floor in the community hall. They will also purchase a PA system for the entire fairgrounds (about \$30,000) and will donate two more grain bins. One will likely be situated behind the grandstands and the other possibly “mobile” so it can be moved depending upon the function.

5. **Rate increase for Community Hall rentals –** These were recently approved by the Board of Commissioners.
 - a. \$2,500 for a 3-day rental (an increase from \$2,000 previously)
 - b. Removal of off-season rate

New Business.

1. **Committee Reports:**
 - Livestock Committee – Checks for premium points and from the proceeds of the livestock sale were mailed. A question was raised regarding the time frame – why it took so long. Part of the issue was utilization of the new software compounded by Douglas County having to issue the checks rather than doing it ourselves (due to a lack of a signature for the checks; the previous software had the signature embedded in the check template). Further complicating matters was receipt of proceeds from the sale. Not all proceeds have yet been received/ As soon as sufficient funds had been received, when combined with the 3% retainage to the livestock committee, to cover the total payout, checks were requested from the County.
 - Race & Rodeo – They are working on fundraising.
 - Entertainment – Adam mentioned that the concert artist is confirmed and booked. They are still working on arrangements for a Thursday concert/event.
 - Operations/Safety – A report was given regarding a meeting held by the committee recently, having discussed the following points:
 - Update the facility map with AED locations.
 - First aid kits should be installed in all barns (Adam mentioned he will check into the availability of these). Question was raised as to who is responsible for replenishing them.

- How to get new superintendents and replace previous supers who have not performed up to expectations.
- Establish a check-in location for supers in the morning.
- Arrange for a meal per day? Take orders and deliver? Get relief? Need to find sponsors to fund this as comfort items are “gifts” and cannot be provided from the budget.
- Volunteer t-shirts. Continue with it? Yes, but with input on the design. Need to find sponsors.
- Social media shout-outs; continue with these.
- G.O.A.T. experience – repeat again.
- Ideas for the office talking points.
 - Price list for the carnival
 - Create “bundle” deals to resolve confusion on tickets.
 - Rodeo/season/concert
 - Entry to fair
 - Entry to all
 - Entry to gate & rodeo
 - Schedules; post them. Print them on half-sheets and hand them out at the gates; create central kiosks and post them there.
 - Camping – Ramon is remapping to expand spaces (there will be fewer sites) but better utilization of space.
 - Better organize dry camping
 - Increase prices to offset loss of sites.
- Cover for small stage
- Still life exhibits come in on Tuesday; exhibits judged on Wednesday; exhibits all displayed for Thursday viewing.
- Marie is to head up a group to hash out early drop off of exhibits and put together a proposal to be submitted for inclusion on the agenda for the January board meeting.

2. IAFE Awards:

- Photo series of a project/exhibit designed to increase exhibits – awarded for the Zucchini race
- Photo from the rodeo (ag photos)
- 1st place for a photo depicting the best displays out of all fairs, all sizes awarded to Marie for the horticulture building

3. Cowboy Brunch Recap –This was a fun event that brought in about \$2,000. Final numbers are not yet available. The brunch was by donation. There was a good variety of sponsored activities (sponsors donated funds but also provided their own teams to run them). There were activities for all ages. Approximately 250 attended and we will likely repeat the event again next

year. Carolyn gave a huge shout-out to Jamey Jo to relay to her FFA students who helped with the brunch. They were friendly and were a great help. It would have been difficult to have put on the event without their assistance.

4. Planning of SUPER SCHOOL/Judges Training – Carolyn asked for a committee of three to four for the planning of the event. Those interested are to contact Carolyn.

5. Board Term Renewals – Letters of interest to renew their terms on the Board of Directors were received from the following board members with expiring terms. Leon made a motion to accept all members renewing their terms; Julia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Adam Foged
- Jesse Schafer
- Heidi Hedges
- Lori Beidler

6. Open Board Position -- There is one open position on the Board of Directors, recently vacated by Christy Asmussen. She resigned due to family demands on her time. She wants to remain a member of the Livestock Committee and help wherever she can. We need to consider the needs of the board when considering folks to approach about the open position. Please contact Carolyn with suggestions. We were also reminded that there is a provision within the Bylaws stating that three unexcused absences from meetings in a six month period may be grounds for termination of your term.

7. Secretary Position – The meeting held during January is the “annual meeting”. If there are amendments to the Bylaws to be proposed for approval and recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, that is the time to do so. The Secretary’s position is expiring. Ann has agreed to run for the position once again. If there are other candidates who may be interested, please contact Adam, Jesse, or Carolyn.

8. Ribbon Orders – The ribbon orders are ready to be submitted except for Grange. The request from Grange for ribbons for the upcoming fair needs to be received immediately or they won’t be ordered. Margaret and Lori agreed to work with Karina to standardize ribbons.

There being no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m. The next meeting will be held on January 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Whitehall, Secretary