

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Fair Board Minutes

**Members:** Jake, Denise, Nick, Jason, Melissa, Chad, Tim, Bob, Betsey, Margaret (Horse Council)

**Secretaries Report:** - NA

**Guests – Tim with Pals**

- Tim works with kid's ages 5-9, Denise invited their group to fair 3 years ago. They have since been coming every year they participate in indoor projects and the kid's rodeo. Tim is concerned about Shane Burris and an incident he had in June, and because of this they will not continue to participate in the youth rodeo.
- Denise would like to touch on confidentiality on what we say here stays here. What Tim didn't mention was PALS the group he works with has children from many backgrounds including abusive homes. The PALS group allows them to do things they normally wouldn't like rodeos and fairs and creed theatre. Barbra suggested that this incident was not related to fair, and involved his 19 year old step son.

**Treasurers Report:**

- Checking \$10,955.86
- Savings \$2,123.58
- Checking -\$7,616.88
- Savings \$33,340.89
  - Jake mentioned we still have not received buyback from Mark Brown or John John, he suggests we send a certified letter and an invoice with notice this must be paid in 30 days.
    - Bob mentioned that John John technically only had 24-48 hours to pay since he is bonded and Mark Brown only had 7 days.
    - Chad suggests send invoice and he will follow up with John John with a phone call.
    - **Bob moved to send invoice and letter and follow up with phone call. Jake 2<sup>nd</sup> motion passed**
  - Nick said we made \$40.50 from ATM we had 81 transactions, thought we would use them again next year.
  - Denise will try to get receipt from Mountain View. Says there was no contract this year for Janitor or Gunbarrell station, this is something we need to get done this year.
  - The Keiper Day should have been emailed from Betsey.
  - Same for the photography bid. Everyone received copies of them. We don't have a signed one, just accepted the one she sent.
  - The \$100 for the City – their fiscal year is Jan 1, we do not need to repay it.
  - From now on Denise will be volunteer strictly starting sept 1, but she will stay until we train someone else.
- **Extension Report:** Marvin passed out Amys notes: See Attached document to email.
  - Mostly suggestions to the state on the fair program. Marvin says she will get results just doesn't know when.
    - We discussed if they were the same as State Fair. Margret suggested no, state fair livestock was different, they were able to fill out more than one animal entry per time.
    - Margret said she enjoyed our new software from the back side of things, however the inputting of entries was difficult because it was one at a time rather than a list.
    - Bob said Sheridan had issues having livestock in both 4-H and FFA and had to use different names.
  - Swine classification at tagging??
    - Barbra and Chad think this isn't a good idea, pigs do change color. If you class a York that gains spots during the summer what will you do?

- **Manager:**

- Denise submitted her letter on September 1<sup>st</sup>. She wanted to be able to meet with the officer and make a time line & go through fair with a new manager, but that didn't happen. She missed a meeting and someone decided that September 1<sup>st</sup> was the date she would be done. She still would like to stay and train a new person, and will continue as a volunteer. Now that she is not a paid position she feel like she has a voice and would like to discuss some concerns she has.
  - First off she thinks we need to get our house in order before we hire a new manager. We need to look at our responsibilities and confidentiality, and conflicts of interest.
  - Some things shouldn't be discussed outside of meetings, and example is someone approached Denise at a Holiday dinner and asked why we allowed Alrin Lepp to have a bounced check for that long, this was not even close to the truth.
  - Conflict of Interest – we have a problem with people at meetings texting people on the outside, and this has put some board members in a bad situation.
  - **It doesn't matter if we agree/disagree we are here for the kids and need to respect each other differences and put on a front as a board.** This year there were 2 distinct groups that badmouthed eachother, this is not ok. Denise just wants us to know her concerns that she has felt she hasn't been able to share before since she was not a voting member. We set the tone at fair for the kids, and we don't need to make decisions based on gossip, we also don't need to implode from the inside. Keep the main goal in mind make our decisions and move on.
  - **The president and Manager are in charge of meetings, and lately it has been a real struggle to stick to the agenda.** Denise has list of monthly meeting goals, (attached to email), this lets us know what we need to get done each meeting. Denise stopped using this because no one was going off of it and a lot of things were getting tabled to the next meeting. She apologizes and says she should have tried harder. We truly need organization and communication. We need to listen to Nick and not over talk and have side conversations. The president is in control and we need to respect not only the position but the person as well. She has talked to other boards their meetings last 1.5 hours max, and we truly need to enforce and utilize our committees. Yes this creates more meetings per month but will be much more organized, and will save time in the end.
  - **The PO Box should be moved to Monte Vista.** Barbra will look into that. We believe we can just have it forwarded to an address in MV and this is the time to do it. Nick would like to know how much money we have remaining for rent on the box in Alamosa.
  - **Denise** started out volunteering when a board member grabbed her to help. She has done lots of stuff at fair all for the kids, whether it be cleaning bathrooms, sweeping the indoors or helping judges. We do it for the kids and their generation to instill good values, life skills, money management etc., and she believes this is a valuable organization and will always help us because she is passionate about it. She believes that communication and organization are easy to figure out.
  - **On Site Voting.** She thinks that was a big issue at Fair. Nick agrees.
  - **Job Descriptions** – we need a good job description for our new fair manager. She has been frustrated because she hasn't been able to vote and never knew the results of votes during fair. But as fair manager she was still on the line to talk to people with issues and needed to know these results. We need to decide what we expect from our new manager, if we don't want them to vote but be the contact person we need to keep them in the loop. And that is fine because the manager is typically the person people come to with issues.
  - **Nick** – asked Denise about other fairs managers. She said most are city employees that manage the fairgrounds year round. We are in a non-typical type situation.
  - Jake thinks the manager should be able to vote, especially since we have a hard time meeting quorum. (this is in the bylaws we need to figure out what quorum actually is)

- **Fair Board Application** – Denise has some concerns with some of the people she has heard are interested in joining the board. (there are examples in the attached packet) As a fair board we should have some guidelines as well as a code of ethics to abide by. Denise believes our board is doing well compared to many others.
  - **Dairy Goat Judge** – 10 days after fair she was contacted by the dairy goat judge, they had an issue at fair where a goat had a dirty udder. When they asked the kid to go clean it they wouldn't and said they didn't care. The judge tried to wash it and the manure wouldn't come off, then had to scrub it. They talked to the superintendent and they didn't care either. The judge thinks it is a conflict of interest to have a superintendent be a group leader. Barb, Melissa, Chad, Jake and Bob agree.
    - The judge would love to come back and help in any way and is interested in judging the production meat goat show and would love to set up panels. Barb suggested to be the new Dairy Goat Superintendent.
    - Also we need to bring back the milking – the dairy judge thought this is a great ceremony that promotes the dairy industry. He also appreciated no shavings in the arena.
  - **Rabbit Judge** – the judge wore shorts and flip flops he will not be invited back, Denise suggests the old judge, she just couldn't make it this year.
  - **Bottom line Denise had frustrations because she didn't know what she should/could do and couldn't do.**
- Jake wants to know if the Fair Manager can participate in Executive Sessions. And suggests we have more of those to discuss things that our guests don't need to hear.
  - Betsey says some boards do, it just depends on the topics and they are never allowed to vote.
  - Jake suggests this is where our manager has been left high and dry and we need to address this
  - Marvin says it gets tricky – you cannot vote in executive session, only discussion. You must come out of session then vote, because all votes are public.
  - We need to decide if the president or manager will be the contact person, and keep them informed.
  - Betsey suggests no notes during executive session just discussion.
    - Denise wants to know how we keep guests separate from meetings. Either have designated guest slots or make it mandatory that they are on the agenda, or we can go into executive session after guests. Maybe we should use more discretion on what we discuss in an open meeting.
    - Marvin suggests that we make a motion to go into executive session for x amount of minutes or until x time, and say guests are welcome to come back then.
- **The Fair Camper** – It was returned not cleaned and with the bathroom facilities used. This should be up the fair secretary. Barbbra will work on an apology letter.
- **Officer Retreat** – Denise thinks we really need to spend 1 day going over bylaws, duties, setting fair dates, etc and it would save so much time not having to discuss it at meetings. She is passing out everything she has and suggests we go over them and bring back changes/suggestions (attached in email).
  - **Barb wants to know when we vote new officers.** Bylaws state December we have always done it in November. Bob suggests change it to October meeting, and send out notification in Email, as bylaws state notification of changes must happen 15 days before meeting.
- **Nick** – It is frustrating when everyone does their own thing and he can't run the meeting. Denise says we need to stick to agenda and quit having side conversations.
  - **By the October meeting everyone needs to review all documents attached in email**
    - **Bylaws, Fair Board Application, Superintendent Application, Code of Ethics, Camper rules etc.**

- **We will vote on everything but bylaws at October meeting.**
          - Still suggests we need a calendar like stampede, Denise wants to know who is in charge of this, she has been working on a list. Barbra though Deanna had, and she sent stuff to her. But maybe this is a secretary duty? To be discussed with board positions.
      - **Fair Board Application** – Denise says other fairs still struggle on having people show up, even the fairs that are 1 day or only have 6 steers. This application will be extremely important, and we need to look over the handbook and code of ethics. Currently board members/superintendents don't sign anything, so they can't be held accountable.
      - **Camper Reservations** - Denise said we had lots of issues this year, between non fair board members having campers in our areas and Fair Board members having to be way out in BFE. She thinks that an application is a great idea.
        - **Jake suggests charging a fee** – Denise thinks maybe but we don't provide electricity/water.
      - **Remember these are examples and we will tweak them to fit our needs.**
        - Barb brings up background check required by 4-H currently we don't do this do we need to?
- **Fair Dates**
  - Most people think we need to change it back to Saturday to Saturday and have the Tractor Pull on the first Saturday. We will put this in the agenda for next meeting.
    - The Tractor club would like to participate more in the pull next year.
    - Chad heard more complaints about date changes than positives
    - Jake doesn't think we will be able to pull it all off, considering he spent all day set up setting up and how do they expect him to do both. And also has concern about continuing the roping if they don't have Friday night
      - Chad thinks we will have plenty of kids to help set up.
    - Jake also says we made money this year because none of their pullers showed up, even if they had 5 people that would have cost us at least another \$5,000. If we do not have other income we won't profit. He strongly suggests a beer garden especially if this event won't be during fair.
    - Barb agrees, and believes we would lose most all the pullers we had this year as rules in the pit will be strict next year and alcohol won't be allowed. CTPA suggests all their other events have beer gardens that bring in a lot of money.
    - Jake thinks the East end of the grand stands is a good spot for this.
- **Margret**
  - Doesn't believe many of the superintendets are current on rules, as they only come to county fair and don't travel – She suggests we have an open discussion where exhibitors can come in and give input. Put it in the newsletter.
  - Denise agrees that they are a big issue and constantly changing.
  - Need to address kids on bucking chutes behind campers.
  - Will work on a horse superintendent application – they are looking at having 3 this year.
- **Betsey**
  - Concerned about her buckles, we need to order a waterfowl buckle for ducks Jake suggests 1 buckle. Bob moved to order 1 buckles chad 2<sup>nd</sup> motion passed.
    - Hannah needs to order 1 buckle that reads “Grand and Reserve Champion Market Duck”
    - Betsey says next year we will have many different mkt classes from water fowl and game birds to exotics. She wasn't involved in this discussion, but the judge this year was accused of not identifying an old turkey. She got upset and decided she was going to run the show APA style. Betsey said she may not be invited back to judge next year because our past super has been working on simplifying the show. Betsey says yes we can judge the breeding against each other and have on Best of Show grand and reserve buckle but doesn't believe we can do that in Market she will check

- Bob suggested having a minimum entry requirement for buckles – Betsey said we have one and it is 3.
- **Melissa**
  - The Watters family had complaints about the superintendents this year. They thought they were treated poorly and that the supers were not professional or respectful to the kids. Melissa also witnessed this and had numerous families tell her they would not be showing next year if we did not fix some issues with our superintendents.
  - There was also an issue with kids using oils and sheen going into the swine show and the superintendent was notified and nothing was done.
  - Barb suggests this is why we will have applications yearly for the superintendents
  - Chad says we need to be careful with everything we do, he did not appreciate being called out like he did at fair. He was just trying to help the kid save his pig, he agrees there are some problems with our superintendents. We need to have rules for our supers – and that is for everyone not just depending on who you are.
  - Melissa as of now they have no standards and she is concerned with language.
    - Denise suggests this can all be fixed with a new handbook and code of ethics. We have been having too many issues and we can't lose mind that we do it for the kids and if we have to get stuff in writing we will.
    - Chad agrees and to have expectations on the agreement.
      - Chad brings up that there is one superintendent who seems to get in the middle of stuff every year, not her fault and it is easy to back her because of how she conducts herself.
- **Bob**
  - This is his last meeting, Barbra needs to work on a letter to send to the county, she will get with Nick on this.
  - Suggest Jason Holman to take his spot.
  - Believes we really need to stick to rules – Ace Asbell should not have gotten to show, and that the board voting every day at fair got out of control, we shouldn't be voting to bend the rules.
  - He will continue to find judges
  - Talked to photos by Katina, they thought they could make it next year.
  - Believes brand sponsors don't need recognition any more than their brand at fair it's only \$20.
  - Talked to WW about a certified small scale \$5,000 if we buy it by Denver. Comes with printer.
    - Jason talked to Ranchers about a scale as well, thought this price was very similar to what he got quoted.
- **Jason Holman**
  - Thought fair was too long for the animals.
  - Thought we were moving in a very positive direction thought, loved the tractor pull still thinks we can do the team roping on a week night.
  - Thinks we need to address alcohol rules.

Adjourn 10:23 Jake moved, Melissa 2<sup>nd</sup> passed.