

Sanders County Fair Commission
March 17, 2008 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the pavilion by Chairman Glen Magera. All Fair Commission Directors were present. Also present were Fair Manager Mike Hashisaki and Fair Secretary Ruth Hamilton. Guests included Walt & Karval Pickering, Jim Newman representing the 4-H Livestock Committee, Karen Dwyer representing Sanders County 4-H, Sanders County Extension Agents Meghan Phillippi and John Halpop, and County Commissioner Carol Brooker.

No changes were made to the agenda.

The minutes of the Fair Commission's February 18th, 2008 meeting were reviewed, a change made to reflect the additional outdoor pens would be for PRCA rodeo contestants with horses, then approved on a motion made by Bruce and seconded by Roberta.

Mike reviewed the correspondence with the Fair Commission. Please refer to the March 17th booklet for further information.

Free Grounds Entertainment was discussed. Walt & Karval suggested the fair consider hiring Ken Overcast, the man responsible for the development of the Montana Lullaby. Mike stated the free entertainment has not been hired as yet, that he would check on the availability of Ken, and present his findings at the next Fair Commission meeting.

The Facilities Rental Agreement Prologue, developed by Bruce, was reviewed by the Fair Commission. Roberta made a motion, seconded by Lynn, that the prologue as written be accepted and attached to all facility rental agreements. Motion carried.

The new rodeo arena was discussed. Mike briefed the Fair Commission on the meeting with the County Commissioners concerning the price hike in steel with the request to the Commissioners that they approved interim financing for the acquisition of the new arena. The County Commissioners agreed to the Fair Commission's request. Mike stated the new arena (used

once at Pocatello Idaho for the Dodge Circuit Finals on March 19th through the 22nd of this year) would arrive at Plains early on the morning of March 25th. Road District #1 will have a loader with forks available to offload the equipments. The Clerk & Recorders office will have two checks cut: one to pay the freight costs from Pocatello to Plains (two trucks at \$1200.00 apiece) and the second check to pay Hank Franzen for the cost of the new rodeo arena. The eight bucking chutes will be delivered at a later date as they are being manufactured in Dallas. They should arrive within 8 to 10 weeks. At that time, if the Hot Springs Homesteaders Days Rodeo Committee has not entered into an agreement to purchase the Two-W bucking chutes, holding pens and timed event chute, the fair will sell that equipment to Hank Franzen for \$12,500.00. Mike then briefed the Fair Commission about the meeting with the Board of Health which responded to the Fair Commission's request to place a septic tank and drain field in the floodplain immediately adjacent to the bucking chute platform. The system would be used in conjunction with a shower/restroom facility which would be made available to the rough stock PRCA cowboys. The Board of Health approved the Fair Commission's request. The Fair Commission then discussed the costs associated with pouring a concrete slab underneath the bucking chute platform, the cost of building privacy changing rooms for the cowboys on those slabs, the cost of constructing a shower/bathroom facility on the southern-most pad, the cost of installing the septic system, as well as making modifications to the bucking chute platform. Those modifications include a three foot wide walkway in front of the platform for use by the rodeo announcer and timer as well as a modification to the crows nest to permit access to that walkway. Mike was instructed to obtain cost estimates for all the work to be done and report to the Fair Commission at their April 21st meeting. At that time, the Fair Commission will decide if the fair should increase its INTERCAP loan request to cover those expenses and have the associated work accomplished.

Mike briefed the Fair Commission on the WPRA Barrel Racing approval application, noting the PRCA had lost the lawsuit with the WPRA and now we, once again, needed to approvals for hosting a barrel race. A claim form has been prepared to pay the registration fee to the WPRA.

The agenda item for 4-H shooting sports was tabled until the April meeting since no one was present from the 4-H shooting sports adult leadership.

Jim Newman then briefed the Fair Commission on the latest 4-H livestock committee meeting, stating they were wondering if they could sponsor a raffle to keep “market animal” costs down. The Fair Commission stated they could. Additionally, Mike told Jim that following the market animal sale, if the livestock committee would provide a list of names of buyers, that information would be placed on the fair’s website as a public thank you.

Mike briefed the Fair Commission on the signed contracts to date: the Concessions Group food contract; the demolition derby contract; the miniature bull riding contract; and, the arena motocross contract.

Roberta then asked about the Saturday night PRCA rodeo and what we had planned. Mike informed her that he had requested a fly-over by a B-2 or B-52 bomber and if that doesn’t work, then a fly-over by F-16s from the Montana Air National Guard. Bruce and Polly had suggested we provide U.S. flags to all active duty military and veterans attending the rodeo with Bruce & Polly providing funds to help offset the cost. The unit in Kalispell has been contacted about presenting the colors as well as having an Abrams tank in the arena as well, if one’s available. The rodeo announcer and sound technician will play each services song and members who have served, or are serving, in that branch will be asked to stand and be recognized by the crowd. And, the horse-mounted drill team has been asked to reactivate and perform as well. Finally, Mike said two of the PBR National Finals tickets the fair will receive will be given as a prize to a veteran or active-duty serviceman, he just hasn’t figured out the logistics of that “raffle” yet.

Glen then opened the floor to public comment; there was none.

The financial condition of the fair was discussed and Mike briefed the Fair Commission on the March claims. On a motion by Roberta, seconded by Chris, the March claims were approved for payment.

The Fair Commission then moved into executive session. However, the action did not follow the dictates of Montana Code Annotated, 2-3-203, which states “The presiding officer of any meeting may close the meeting during the time the discussion relates to a matter of individual privacy and then if and only if the presiding officer determines that the demands of individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure. The right of individual privacy may be waived by the individual about whom the discussion pertains and, in that event, the meeting must be open.”

The Fair Commission came out of the executive session at 7:45 p.m. and adjourned.

Approved: _____ Date: _____