

Sanders County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2021
Fair Pavilion, 30 River Rd, Plains MT

Called to order at 7:04 pm by Randy Woods

Present: Randy Woods, Jim Newman, Kim Bergstrom (via phone), Brian Crain, Ted Forkum, Melissa Cady

Also Present: Ed Moreth, Julie Thurston, Don Burrell, Dave Wonder, Hailey Coe

Approval of March 17, 2021 meeting minutes – Motion made by Kim, Seconded by Jim 5-0 pass

NON-AGENDA:

Randy Woods asked for public participation in Non-Agenda items. Dave Wonder wanted to address ADA parking which was on the agenda but he asked if he could speak now. He brought up that during the 2019 Fair, he had to push his wife's wheel chair over gravel and grass and through the whole carnival because all of the handicap parking was back behind the carnival and rodeo grounds. He tried to park closer to the pavilion but the parking crew told him he had to park out back because he had a handicap sticker. He has tried to talk to the county Commissioners twice and has been shot down both times. He got a hold of Kim and since then Melissa and Kim have been in contact with Ben Bache. Ben said that during the 2019 Fair, the handicap spots had not been marked, but for the 2021 Fair spots along the road will be marked making it easier for people to come in the main gate. Dave asked if there were going to be people enforcing that because in 2019 there were vehicles with no handicap stickers parked in handicap spots; Melissa reassured him that the Road Department, the Sheriff's Department, and Search and Rescue would be on top of it.

Don Burrell said they are waiting on a couple bids to come in for the reefer. He has tried to talk to the Commissioners about having Ben move it to the county shop but has not heard back. He asked for a copy of their contract even though Melissa mailed one out a month ago. Don expressed that he is not happy about the high rates to rent the booth, Randy reminded him that they are being charged the same as everybody else.

NEW BUSINESS:

Melissa stated that there is a film crew (Stirrin' Dirt) that will come and film the Demolition Derby and livestream it on a national level for \$3000. Ted asked what we were looking to gain by bringing in more of the high-end cars and a film crew; Randy told him we are hoping to bring in more fans, more revenue, and become a small town derby that has the support of big names. Kim hopes to cover the cost of the film crew with sponsors as opposed to putting any of the budget toward it and asked that the board be informed if that is not going to be the case.

Kim motioned to approve hiring the film crew for \$3000, seconded by Jim 5-0 pass

Randy read the bid from Mike Taylor to replace the 10 toilets, remove and reinstall the showers, and replace the water-damaged drywall, and prime and paint everything that's needed for \$5500. 4H has offered to pay for 25% of these improvements as well as paying entirely for drains to be put in the showers and heaters to be installed. Melissa stated that she would ask for a separate bid for those costs.

Kim motioned to move forward with the improvements and repairs to the 4H bathrooms as currently bid, seconded by Brian 5-0 pass

Randy brought up all of the expenses and requirements that need to be met in order to hold the Junior High and High School Rodeo Finals. Kim thinks that the timing of the finals might also be off as the Junior High rodeo happens Memorial Day weekend and the High School one is two weeks later. Ted proposed maybe starting with a couple of small summer rodeos to see how those go over and then consider going bigger in the future. Everybody is in agreement that as of right now, it would be too much to take on.

Melissa briefly discussed increasing some of our grounds rental fees because the grounds are being rented out frequently and our prices are dirt cheap compared to anywhere else. Julie is excited to hear that the grounds are being used more regularly. Randy mentioned that they have implemented receiving payment upfront and security deposits to ensure that the Fairgrounds doesn't lose money.

Melissa printed out Helena's form that they use to nominate a Grand Marshall for the parade; this would allow the community to elect people rather than the Fair Board having to choose. Melissa asked Julie if the 4H had come up with a theme for the fair this year, Julie proposed using last year's, Kim said no. Julie was informed that we need to know by next board meeting.

Julie Thurston gave the 4H report. They have all of the judges in order. The sheep and goat show has been moved to Friday at 1 instead of Thursday. Melissa reassured Julie that the 4H has the pavilion reserved from Fair Readiness day through the end of Fair. Julie and Randy are going to follow up at the livestock meeting as to how many horses Michelle is going to have for the horse barn.

Melissa Cady gave the fair manager's report. While having everybody remove their things from the fairgrounds, the weed sprayer has gone missing so we will probably have to look into buying a new one eventually. The monster truck deposit came in today. Contracts have been sent out and we have come up with some new commercial vendor spots due to Bobby Mayes leaving. Joe from 168tickets offered to teach us how to use ticketing system if we go to Helena or we could pay for him to come to the fairgrounds; just waiting to see which option would be more cost effective. Express Personnel cannot come so we still need to find a cleaning crew for the fair. Ben agreed to have the county loader on site to unload the jersey rails for the derby because the fairgrounds tractor isn't big enough; he just needs to know a date. Clint Decker is putting together a music entertainment group, Clark Fork Entertainment, and wants to put on a summer

series concert at the fairgrounds; they would provide their own insurance and catering. The fairgrounds would receive 10% of profit plus payment for use of the grounds. Josh Weatherly gave a bid of \$2391 to install some 20-amp circuits that are needed for the replay screen and to put in a yard light by the fair office.

Brian motioned to accept Josh Weatherly's bid on installing the 20-amps and putting in a yard light, seconded by Ted 5-0 pass

Ted motioned to approve the claims, seconded by Brian 5-0 pass

Jim motioned to approve the financial report, seconded by Ted 5-0 pass

Brian motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm, seconded by Ted 5-0 pass