

Sanders County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2022
Fair Pavilion, 30 River Rd, Plains MT

Called to order at 6:02 pm by Randy Woods

Present: Randy Woods, Jim Newman, Kim McMahon, Brian Crain, Ted Forkum, Melissa Cady

Also Present: Hailey Coe, Ed Moreth, Tracy Scott, Cheyenne Cirolia, Brian Reed, Shelley Bertrand, Justin Wright, Juli Thurston (via phone)

Approval of April 13, 2022 meeting minutes – Motion made by Kim, seconded by Jim 5-0 pass

NON-AGENDA:

Randy Woods asked for public participation in Non-Agenda items. Brian Reed from the Cancer Network of Sanders County stated that on May 3rd Hailey contacted the president of the organization and told them that they could no longer sell lotus drinks out of their commercial vendor booth. They then received an email from Melissa saying that they could possibly have a food booth if one became available but they would have to obtain a single event insurance policy which would cost approximately \$300; Brian claims that this is almost 1/3 of a gift that they would provide to a cancer patient in the county. Brian then reached out to Hailey through Facebook Messenger on May 4, 2022 and requested the meeting minutes dating back to August of 2021, she informed him that Melissa would reach out to the county courthouse to figure out the steps that needed to be taken in order to get those to him. He stated that as of today he still has not received any meeting minutes, Melissa said that he requested the minutes via email yesterday and that she informed him that he would have them by the end of the day Thursday, May 12th. Brian then said that he went to the courthouse and they have not received any fair board meeting minutes since March of 2019, Randy told him that Hailey and Melissa were never made aware that the meeting minutes needed to be sent to the courthouse and that in the last three years nobody has ever reached out to let them know. He also stated that he didn't know that they were selling lotuses in their commercial vendor booth, and that the separation of commercial and food vendors has been going on since far before 2019.

Justin Wright, the agriculture teacher/FFA advisor in Hot Springs, came to pitch his idea about holding an agricultural mechanics contest for students in grades 8-12 including the current year's graduating class; it could be entered individually or in groups of up to four students. Its purpose would be to "encourage and strengthen the development of skills in the areas of design, fabrication, and construction". Students could work on the project in or out of class and would be required to have a written document and photos to show that they are actually the ones that did everything as well as an interview portion. It would include the areas of agricultural machinery and equipment, livestock equipment, outdoor recreation and natural resources, and trailers. He hopes that we can build this up big enough to potentially get tuition waivers from FVCC in the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

The commissioners want the fair to take over the river park as soon as possible so we need to hire an employee just for park maintenance. This person would need to check on the park every day so we are looking at 20-30 hours a week during the summer in addition to purchasing a new lawnmower, weed eater, looking into underground sprinklers, etc. Kim would like to attend the budget meeting with Melissa and Randy.

Paradise Methodist wants \$1000 for all of the equipment in the fry bread booth. There are a couple of fridges, some freezers, the fryer, and a few other things; they priced it out and it came to roughly \$1800.

Brian moved to pay the Paradise Methodist group \$1000 for the fry bread booth contents, seconded by Kim 5-0 pass

The board needs to schedule a day to move the stoves. Brian recommended doing it after the next board meeting on June 8th.

The bylaws need to be amended to specify what the board is going to pay for concerning travel expenses for board members. Kim is going to work on a draft for a travel reimbursement policy.

Joe from 168tickets is dismembering his company so we need to look into a new ticketing service for next year. He will not be available by phone, only email for this year's fair. Melissa has been working with Kalispell and Ravalli to find a new service and see if we can get some sort of deal if we all sign up with the same company.

Hailey would like to make a few small changes to some of the age categories for the open class competition in ShoWorks. Kim asked if we really need a professional category, Jim said to get rid of it.

Kim moved to edit the age categories as presented by Hailey and to get rid of the professional category for open class entries, seconded by Brian 5-0 pass

Juli Thurston gave the 4H report via phone. The mats and sand are in the horse stalls and they are going to work on the water situation over there this summer. Justin Wright is going to take the outdoor panels to put feet on the bottom of them so they don't sink into the dirt. They want to paint the metal part on the bleachers and renovate the inside of the home ec building. Tag day will be the first Sunday of June from 10-1 for the pigs, sheep, and goats. Brian would like to look into putting in a horse wash station over by the horse barn.

Melissa Cady gave the fair manager's report. Sponsor requests have went out; she reached out to Justin Boots to see if they can get some Justin Medicine guys here for the rodeo because Hank has really been pushing to have them at all of their rodeos. The ag bathrooms should be done tomorrow, the LED lights will be worked on next. The water truck has a couple of spots that

need to be welded. Derek is working on the speaker platform, he thinks we will need to rent a crane for the day to put it in place. Ted started working on the fence today so that we can extend the timed event shoot, we will be taking out the gate going into the beer garden. She reached out to Josh Smith about putting some lights in the beer gardens due to stuff getting taken last year. He is going to work on the multi-plugs on the grandstand and Melissa thinks we are going to need to consider putting in some more hookups down toward the handicap parking spots due to the increasing amount of 50 amp campers we have been getting. Kim has been working on the permits for the pole barn, Katherine Maudrone is reviewing the permits that have been submitted.

Kim moved to approve the claims, seconded by Jim 5-0 pass

The April financial report was not available to approve, will be reviewed at the June 8 board meeting

Kim moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm, seconded by Ted 5-0 pass