

Sanders County Fair Board  
Meeting Minutes  
March 13, 2024  
Fair Pavilion, 30 River Rd, Plains MT

Called to order at 6:00 pm by Randy Woods

Present: Randy Woods, Kim McMahon, Brian Crain, Ted Forkum, Jim Newman, Kristy Sheehan

Also Present: Jolene Burke, John Holland, Juli Thurston, Michelle McGuigan, Rick Sanders

**Approval of Minutes from February Meeting** – Kim Motioned to approve the meeting minutes from February and Brian 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion Passed

**NON-AGENDA:**

Randy Woods called for public comments on Non-agenda items. There were none.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Arena Lighting: We were able to connect with Josh Smith on the Phone to answer questions on his different estimates. He explained that estimate 1154 included all of the lighting updates with the disconnect at the top of the poles for each light. Estimate 1167 was the extension of the disconnect panel to be placed up to 50' away so we are able to reach the shut offs for each pole. He gave us a new estimate to remove the shut offs at the top of each pole and that is estimate 1193. He also gave a new estimate that had all shut offs coming from the poles and went into one shut off for all poles. The board agreed that they would rather have all of the shut offs down where we can reach then in individual shut offs for each pole. Brian Motioned to accept estimate 1167 and Kim 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion Passed

Talking with Josh, he did say that he had a source of some poles in Texas that we could purchase the poles from. Their minimum number of poles that they would ship is 4 poles and they were going to be 60-65' long. The price of each pole was going to be \$1500, and the shipping from Texas to Montana would be around \$5000. Josh added that if we were to purchase the poles from this company, he would be able to install the poles at the same time that he changed out the lighting since he had the equipment in place already to do so. He gave us a rough estimate of \$30,000-35,000 for him to place the poles. Kim had said that if we purchased the poles from this company, we still could have NWE install the poles for us. Josh mentioned if they are able to place the poles, to have them just take off all of the lights and he would put the lights back up when he came in. Kim said that she is still working with NWE to have them come in with poles and install them for us. NWE is going to be working on a project this spring that might possibly allow us to get the poles from that job. NWE was going to be getting back to Kim in the next day or so on that job.

Kim was worried that we would not have it in our budget to do the replacement of the arena lights this year, so she went and sat down with Lisa in the treasurer's office and made sure that we would be ok to do the replacements needed. Lisa stated that we had \$80,000 in our budget as of right now to start the replacement of the lights.

Fair Theme: The board would like to have the 4-H submit some fair themes to them by the next board meeting. Juli was going to email those to Kristy before the next meeting.

4-H Report: Juli Thurston stated that she was still waiting for Josh Smith to get her a bid for updating the electrical in the poultry and beef barn.

Juli said that the judges for the 4-H are all contacted and set up for the fair.

Juli had John Thurston look at the repairs needed in the horse barn. They found that there is a post that needs to be straightened and a hand full of boards that need replaced. John gave her a quote of \$400 to repair the boards and straighten the post. Juli also said that the boards will need to be painted along with painting the boards that were replaced last year before fair. She asked if the fair could pay for the cost of \$400 to replace the boards and the post and also pay for the paint, then she would have the 4-H come over and do the painting.

John Thurston was able to get the sinks fixed and the countertops replaced in the 4-H bathrooms and he also was able to get hot water plumed to the bathrooms from the showers. Juli had asked if we could have Mike Taylor put stalls in the 4-H bathrooms. The board let her know that it would have to be next year before they would be able to do that since most of their budget is going to the arena lighting.

Julie has not heard from Pat yet on the status of the Horse Wash Rack or the start date of it. She will let us know as soon as she finds something out.

We had asked if anyone wanted had anything more to add to the Fair and 4-H MOU. Brian had asked if we could add one parking pass per 4-H family. The board agreed to add it to the MOU and to have it edited and bring it back to the table at the April meeting to be passed.

Fair Managers Report: Kristy went over the advertising quotes from KPAX and Anderson Radio. KPAX quoted us \$10,000 for 162 spots, along with an internet wallpaper on their website, and adds for streaming on smart TVs. Anderson Radio gave us a quote of \$918, but said that they would do a 50/50 split for cash and rodeo tickets. Randy wanted Kristy to check and see what all stations that they would advertise on for us.

Kristy went over sponsors that she has gotten in so far, along with the mount and names of the new sponsors. Just since the last meeting we have 6 new sponsors for the rodeo, that have not sponsored in the past. Also, since the last meeting we have gotten in \$6800 in sponsorships. Ted requested for Kristy to bring a list of all sponsors to date to the next meeting for the board to see. She also went over the number of Commercial Vendor contracts and payments that have been received in since the last meeting.

Kristy met with Bruce Icenoggle to look at getting Aisle Hand Rails installed for the Grandstands. Bruce has offered to cover the majority of the purchase of them if not all of the purchase if we can find ones that will work within a reasonable cost. Kristy or maintenance will have to be the ones to install them.

Kristy went over all of the repairs needed around the fairgrounds. We are needing to fix the door latch on the concession's storage door, repair the beer garden bathrooms, repair the stairs and railing on the north bleacher cat walk, fix a leak in the bucking chute bathrooms, look at getting the bathrooms repaired next to the old fair office (S&R Office), fix the fence that is falling down at the entrance of the north bleachers. Randy said that the major projects will have to wait until next year to do.

We are going to look at getting rid of the ATM in the cashiers' office and having someone come in with one where we do not have to manage it, such as repairs and/or replacement. Kristy is going to contact the current ATM company to see if they are able to rent them to us, and Kim is going to get a contact for the ATMs that were used in Newport at their fair.

Kristy had asked the board when they would like to see about posting the Admin Position. They asked if she needed someone right away. Kristy said that with the work coming on outside that it would be nice to have someone in the office to answer the phones and the emails while she is out taking care of the grounds. Kim motioned to advertise for the Admin position and Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

Kristy was able to get hold of the 2 Anderson brothers and see if they would like to come back to work for the summer. She is waiting to hear back from them after they get their parents approval.

**Claims** - Motion to approve the claims was made by Randy and Kim 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed to approve the claims.

**FINANCIALS** - Motion to approve financials made by Jim, Randy 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed to approve the financials.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn made by Brian, Ted 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion to adjourn passed at 7:15 pm.