

Sanders County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2023
Fair Pavilion, 30 River Rd, Plains MT

Called to order at 6:04 pm by Randy Woods

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

Also Present: Dan Rowan, Juli Thurston, Rick Sanders

Approval of Minutes from March Meeting – motion by Kim, second by Brian.

NON-AGENDA:

Randy Woods called for public comments on Non-agenda items

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Rick Sanders again addressed the board on concerns about last year's demo including timers, cost, illegal cars, and inclusion of local drivers. Mr. Sanders requested to know what Tim Denson was paid to all his hired help, bills, etc., and because Denson is a contractor, submittal of receipts and expenses are not required. He is hired to do a job and to pay any required bills in accordance to run the demo (equipment, hiring help, t-shirts, trophies, prize money, insurance, etc.). Mr. Sanders expressed his concern about how much the fair board paid Denson, stating that it is too much. Randy explained that it is actually almost the same as what we were paying out before, but one contractor that does it all. Kim thanked him, once again, for his input and asked Mr. Sanders what he wanted from the board. There was no direct answer provided.
- B. Local's night – Board has been discussing making Thursday night local's night with cheaper gate fees for the rodeo and possibly asking Paradise Amusements for cheaper carnival rides that night. Board agreed to lower rodeo gate prices that evening to general admission (GA) \$10.00 and teenagers (11-18) \$8.00, Reserved seating (grandstands) \$15.00 and bucking chutes to \$20.00. Motion made by Brian, 2nd by Ted.
- C. Sign for River Park – Fair manager brought up having a sign added to the River Park for general information and rules to help facilitate the public's comments and understanding of how the park is to be maintained. Kim agreed to take lead on this project and will work on the sign verbiage.
- D. Fertilizer bid – Fair manager had spoken to Sanders County Feed to have the main greenway and river park fertilized with a natural fertilizer every year for 5 years, twice a year and then once a year after that. Cost is very reasonable (\$700 a year) and they will test the soil to determine the best outcome. Motioned made by Kim to approve, 2nd by Brian.
- E. Arena Lights – Fair has received one estimate from Smith Electric (\$62,631.31). Randy spoke to an individual down at the PRCA convention in regards to this and we will get this bid as well and then revisit this topic. Randy will contact the gentleman and pass the fair manager's info on to him.
- F. Replacement trees and shrubs. Fair manager asked that we replace the tree in the groundskeeper's yard with a peach or plum tree and also the dead trees that were removed to replace these with caragana shrubs, which are drought tolerant, deer tolerant and grow fast

between the wash rack and 4H bathrooms. The other trees will be done next year for trimming (carnival area, stock area, any remaining that were missed). Motion to approve made by Brian, 2nd by Kim.

- G. 4H judge expenses. Discussion in regards to the cost to the fair for rooms, judging fees and mileage and that the fair is paying for this solely. Juli mentioned that the judges are requesting additional fees this year for judging. Kim asked that more numbers be provided as to what exactly we are spending on a yearly basis and to table this until next meeting.
- H. 4H Report – wash rack at the horse barn is moving forward. They are waiting on the permits and cost for the tanks and drainage. 4H wants to upgrade the sinks and counters on the bathroom side. They have received a bid on the stalls from Mike and will have John Thurston give them a bid as well. They will wait on the swine barn repairs and focus on the wash rack first. The bids for the swine barn roof range from \$10K-\$17K. They are also waiting for the Fair to get bids to improve then bucking chute bleachers before moving forward with upgrading the show arena bleachers. 4H provided a number of theme ideas. “Bright Lights and Rodeo Nights” was adopted.
- I. Manager’s report – RMAF tour and BBQ is scheduled for April 24th 2-5. A few supplies will be needed to complete the lunch. Melissa asked if a few of the board could be present to help (Randy and Ted said they could be, Kim out of town and Brian unable to get away from work.) Interviews scheduled to replace Hailey. Hailey has continued to help with vendors, website and other fair business and it has been greatly appreciated. Refrigerator was donated to the fair by Jody Parrot to be put in the long concession booth. Smith Electric has added several multiplugs in the back along the stock fence, power has been run to the new equipment shed and a 30 amp has been added to announcer’s booth for the speakers. A platform for the speakers still needs to be built. Lights in the beer garden and stock pens are scheduled to be done in May. Food vendors are done and commercial vendor forms are returning with payment. There are a few contracts up for renewal and she will reach out to these contractors in the next few weeks. The dumpster at the River Park is scheduled for next week until fall and will be on an automatic pickup and drop service moving forward. Melissa will take the vests provided by Cinch as part of our sponsorship to The 406 Store to be embroidered when she goes to Missoula to pick up the shrubs and fruit tree that were approved. Cowboy shower the sink is pulling off of the wall so we will look at getting a vanity possibly to replace with storage underneath as well. Mike Taylor is aware of this and will fix. Ag bathrooms are completely done with new stalls on both sides. The 4H, cowboy bathroom and carnival bathroom are the only remaining restrooms with wood stalls. Kim and Melissa met with Shawn Fielders and Jerry Johnson to discuss the security contract. We are waiting for numbers to be provided by Jerry to see if this is a feasible option for fair security. May 3rd is the safety walkthrough for the fair, Plains transfer station and library.

FINANCIALS-

Motion to approve financials made by Kim, 2nd by Brian.

Melissa Cady

ADJOURNMENT 8:45 adjourn

05-15-2023