

Sanders County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2024
Fair Pavilion, 30 River Rd, Plains MT

Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

Community Present: Ed Moreth, Tracy Scott, Jolene Burke, Michele McGuigan, Carla Kinzie, John Holland, Dan Rowan, Juli Thurston

Meeting minutes: Motion was made by Kim McMahon to approve the January 10, 2024 Meeting minutes and Brian Crain Second. Motion passed.

Public Participation in Non-Agenda Items: Jolene Burke questioned why the 4-H wash rack was supposed to be paid for by the 4-H and not the Fair since it was on County Property. Juli Thurston replied to the question. "Because under the MOU, the fair lets the 4-H use the facilities free of charge and 4H has agreed to pay up to a certain amount each year for improvements that they would like to see on the fairgrounds."

Maintenance Position Update: Kristy was able to contact Rich about getting it posted on the job site. So far, we do not have any applicants to her knowledge. Kim had mentioned about bringing on additional summer help. Kristy would like to wait to see if we can get a full-time maintenance person in to see if they are able to take care of everything.

Arena Light Update: The previous bid and the current bid from Smith Electric were presented to the board, and the new bid (\$80,663.24) is higher than the original bid from April 2023 (\$62,631.31) due to cost increases over the past 10 months and adding breaker panels with shut-offs at each mount location so the lights can be individually shut off to prevent losing all lights in the event of a malfunction. Smith also supplied a separate bid for putting the wiring underground (\$15,025.31). Kim McMahon motioned to approve the \$80,663.24 bid for the lights and shut-off breakers and Brian Crain second it. – Motion Passed.

John Holland asked why we do not go with the underground wiring to have everything done at one time. The board wanted to wait until the 4 wood light poles were inspected (scheduled for 2/17) to see if we need to replace them or not before we decide on spending the extra on the underground wiring. Brian Crain motioned that if the 4 light poles do not need to be replaced that the electrician can go ahead with the underground wiring. If they do need to be replaced, the underground wiring will need to be tabled until another time. Ted Forkum second. – Motion approved. Kim asked Kristy to verify with Smith electric that we clearly understand the new bid that was received.

Montana Circuit Finals Update: What did we learn from going to the Finals? We learned that it is good to sponsor the Hospitality room where the cowboys and girls come and eat and it is where the Committee meeting is also held so people can see your banner and information. The cowboys and girls are very happy to receive their Jackets and it would not be possible without sponsors. From the feedback from the cowboys and girls, everyone loves it when the rodeo committee of the rodeo that they go to has a hospitality tent so they can relax and eat a decent meal instead of fast food all the time.

The feedback from the judges is that they like that the rodeo committee of the rodeo that they are attending offers hotel/motel rooms for them to stay in. With us offering these things for them, there is more of a chance to get good judges, cowboys and cowgirls coming back to your rodeo. Attending the meet and greet along with the breakfast meeting, it was nice to meet the judges, riders, and was a good chance to talk to the sponsors that were there. Kim provided feedback to the organizers asking for more time to consider sponsorships (fall request versus December request) and encouraged them to give sponsors more mentions from the announcer and at the committee breakfast.

Battle of the Scholars Update: Ted attended the Battle of the Scholars to help out Powder River Rodeo with the event. He was the only one out of all of the sponsors that attended to help with the event. He believes that it was definitely worth sponsoring because it is for a good cause, it gets our name out there, and we are supporting our Stock Contractor and the future of the sport of rodeo.

Bucking Chute Bleacher Update: Kristy presented the searches that she had found for the bleachers along with the costs of them. The costs ran anywhere between \$15,000 to \$25,000 for each section of bleachers, and we need 2 sections. The board agreed to table adding new bleachers above the bucking chutes until the electrical upgrade in the arena is done.

Update on Rooms for Judges: Kristy was able to get the rooms booked at the Glacier Crossroads for less than they were at the Dew Duck Inn. She asked everyone to confirm the number of rooms and who would need rooms to make sure that the 7 rooms that were booked would be enough for what we needed. Kristy is going to cancel the rooms at the Dew Duck and ask for a refund of the \$5022.00.

4-H Update: Juli Thurston gave her update on the quote from Smith Electric for the wiring in the steer barn and outlets in the poultry barn. He is still working on it and will have it to her by the next board meeting. The MOU was gone over with her by the board. Kristy was asked to email the revisions out to the whole board for review and it will be voted on at the next board meeting.

Fair Manager Report: Lillian MacDonald is under contract to sing the national anthem at the Fair with Paris Maw as standby. The carnival contract is fully signed now that the county attorney has reviewed. The county attorney hasn't yet gotten to review the other contracts. The Plains Day event being planned will include team roping organized by Chip Von Heeder on Saturday and barrel racing organized by Jolene Burke on Sunday. The American Legion will host the beer garden on Saturday with Kelly Hughes Band playing there that night. Kim expressed concern about the arena ground being ready by early June but Randy and Kristy assured her it would be fine. Kristy has gotten new local sponsors and is still reaching out for others. Ted and Kristy plan to attend the PRCA Convention next year.

Claims: Claims were signed by the board. Jim Newman made a motion to approve the claims and Kim McMahon second – Motion passed

Financial Report: The Financial Report was reviewed by the board. Jim Newman made a motion to approve the report and Ted Forkum second – Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 7:15