

Sanders County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2022
Fair Pavilion, 30 River Rd, Plains MT

Called to order at 6:01 pm by Randy Woods

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

Also Present: Hailey Coe, Ed Moreth, Chuck Bandel, Teresa Garrison, Dale Williams, Juli Thurston

Approval of August 10, 2022 meeting minutes – Motion made by Kim, seconded by Brian 5-0 pass

Approval of September 1, 2022 special meeting minutes – Motion made by Brian, seconded by Ted 5-0 pass

NON-AGENDA:

Randy Woods asked for public participation in Non-Agenda items. Dale Williams voiced his concern about the lack of handicap parking available; he recommended making a couple spaces for people that would like to park, get food, and take it home to eat it. He would also like to know why people aren't allowed to drink beer on the midway. Teresa Garrison was very disappointed with the carnival this year; she mentioned the lack of rides and games, the fact that they only had one ticket booth, and the prices. Randy informed her that the board did not have any heads up about the number of rides coming, they only found out when she finished setting up. Melissa let her know that she and the board will be sitting down with the carnival to discuss the contract and will pass her concerns along to Sherry as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

The board did a fair recap and briefly discussed this year's numbers; they would like the numbers from last year for the next meeting to compare. Randy stated that our numbers are good every night except for Thursday; he would really like to make Thursday into a night for the locals and said we may want to consider dropping those ticket prices even more. Brian asked about giving the 4H kids their free tickets for Thursday night instead of Friday, Juli said that is when a lot of the kids walk and wash their pigs. Randy would like to set a minimum (maybe \$500) for the 20% from food vendors; Kim said she sees where he's coming from but needs some time to think on it. He recommended getting about 20 more picnic tables and moving them back more so they aren't as congested on the midway. Randy had his own list of things that can be taken into consideration for next year. He started by asking if we can get a drivers list for the demolition derby, similar to the day sheets for the rodeos, and he would like to get our own t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hats made for the demo. Kim and Randy discussed getting extra speakers in the bleachers for the demo because it is so much louder than the rodeos. The rodeo bathrooms need a vent fan put in and a couple other repairs. The gates in to the grandstands need to be looked at and the arena lights need to be repaired; the bleachers above the bucking chutes need to

be raised about three feet so people can see better and a roof needs to be put over them. We need to put in more area lights around the stock pens in the back and in the beer garden. The stands need to be washed and repainted so that people can find their seats; he also mentioned that there should be some sort of hand rails put in. He would like to have more garbage cans for next year, out in the parking/camping areas and the bucking chutes. There were a lot of people asking about a water bottle fill station so we might want to look into that for next year. A lot of the signage needs to be redone in the arena to help direct people and we should consider hiring ushers that know the seating chart to help as well. Kim discussed the preliminary results from the poll that we put on Facebook; there were a lot of good comments about the 4H barns and the cleanliness of the grounds in general, the majority of complaints were about the carnival.

Juli Thurston gave the 4H report. She said that fair went well and that they had a record market sale; she does not have exact numbers yet because they are still receiving checks.

Melissa Cady gave the fair manager's report. She had a department head meeting and the commissioners would like a copy of the preliminary numbers. The timed event chute has some repairs that need to be made so she is going to have Matt work on that and fixing the Northwest grandstand gate. Josh is going to put dusk-to-dawn lights back by the holding pens and in the beer garden as well as five multiplugs along the stock fence. The Cowboy Channel has agreed to come back next year, she has already signed the contract. The phones and internet in the office are going to be switched back to Blackfoot. She has been looking into a new ticketing service for next year called RodeoTickets, she will be meeting with them in Vegas. Jason has agreed to provide the sheep for mutton busting next year and will work on having more and larger sheep; all he wants in return is a parking pass and rodeo tickets. She would like to have a meeting with Mike and Caleb because the trash cans did not get put away and the bathroom sinks weren't cleaned. Randy and Melissa feel that we should consider paying Search & Rescue for at least showing up Saturday and Sunday. Jerren quit on Monday after fair, she has somebody in mind that can take over his job and the river park. Katie French said that their nonprofit group might be interested in being seating ushers for the events next year. Chris Mull is going to put a lockbox over the cooler dial in the beer garden booth so that it cannot be messed with.

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

Kim moved to approve the financial report, seconded by Brian 5-0 pass

Kim moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm, seconded by Brian 5-0 pass