

Sanders County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2024
Fair Pavilion, 30 River RD, Plains, MT

Call to Order

A board meeting of the Sanders County Fairgrounds was held on July 10, 2024 at the fairgrounds in the pavilion. It began at 6:06 PM and was called to order by Ted Forkum, Vice President and presided over by Randy Woods, President with Kristy Sheehan as Fair Manager and Rachel Largent as Administrative Assistant.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance included: Ted Forkum, Jim Newman, Jolene Burke and Brian Crane. Guests in attendance included Commissioner John Holland and Commissioner Dan Rowan.

Regular Business

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the previous June meeting was made by Brian Crane and seconded by Jim Newman.

Public Participation: Commissioner John Holland made the suggestion that we offer a 50/50 raffle during the rodeo for the benefit of the fairgrounds and demo derby nights that could be a fundraiser event for the benefit of Plains City Fire Department as it had been in the past. Fair board members could sell the tickets in the stands. Randy Woods asked why Plains City Fire? Why not Hot Springs Fire or even Trout Creek? John Holland replied that Plains City Fire are the ones that started it years ago and that maybe it could rotate each year going forward among the local various departments.

New Business

BBQ on Wednesday before concert: Kristy Sheehan said that she and Ted Forkum have spoken to Lori from the PRCA Rodeo and that she would like to have a BBQ to have board members, commissioners and their families to do a meet and greet to go over the history of our rodeo which has been coming here for about 39 years now. Jim Newman asked who would be putting it on and Kristy replied that we would be and that we have gotten bids from local caterers. There was a discussion on the different bids offered and the total amount of people to be served. There was further discussion on barbequing for the cowboys before, during the rodeo and after. Ted Forkum said he would be willing to barbeque for the exhibitors after the rodeo. Ted Forkum made a motion to hire caterers for Wednesday night Jolene Burke seconded it. Motion carried.

Security: There was a short discussion on the existing bids from the Sheriff's office and Search and Rescue. Randy Woods suggested that we need to discuss and negotiate with both departments further.

Ticket Booth Mini Split: Kristy Sheehan presented the bid for removal of old ductless mini split and placement of a ductless new mini split. Brian Crane made a motion to accept the bid and Jolene Burke seconded it. Motion carried. Kristy Sheehan then asked the board if they would be interested in getting a bid on putting a ductless mini split system in the pavilion and Randy Woods said that she should go ahead and get bids for it.

4-H Report: Randy Woods said that 4H has been very busy getting everything lined up and ready for fair. Brian Crane reported that a bid for the horse wash rack came in higher than expected.

Fair Managers Report:

Sponsorship Update: Kristy Sheehan reported that sponsorship has increased to over \$53,000.00 now up from last month which was approximately \$40,000. She also reported that three new sponsors have chosen to put their signs up above the fair office on the back side of the grandstands rather than in the arena as space is limited. There was a short discussion about the different sponsors and signs. Ted Forkum and Randy Woods both suggested that we should bring back the hard alcohol again this year and the majority of the board agreed. Discussion ensued on different ways to do this and how it would benefit the fairgrounds.

Event Reports: Randy Woods asked about the Montana Action Paint Ball vendor for the fair. Kristy Sheehan explained that they are new this year coming for fair. Then went on to say that we will have the mechanical bull ride as well.

Kristy Sheehan reported that Freedom Festival was a huge success and that everyone seemed to have a great time. She went on to say the fireworks was a great display and went on for about 20 minutes the music was planned by others. She said the event insurance was waived by Alera Insurance and we had a \$100 that was donated by an individual. The Freedom Festival lost about \$1300 we didn't charge vendors much as this was our first annual event next year fees will be increased.

Kristy continued to say we have a Stock Horse show coming this weekend with a couple vendors and camping.

Ted Forkum reminded everyone that we are still looking for sheep for muttin bustin.

Fair Progress Update: Kristy Sheehan said we have all of food vendor contracts are in and signed and we are full. A lot of rodeo signs are still coming in so those will need to go up. We only have about 4 vendor spots left at this point. Carnival is still ago. Concert is a go. Harvest Church will be putting on the parade again this year. We do need nominations for the grand marshal.

Board Member Shirts for Fair: Discussion on matching shirts for all 3 nights of rodeo and also for use at the PRCA meeting. Ted Forkum made a motion to purchase coordinated shirts. Brian Crane seconded. Motion Carried.

ATM Update: Kristy Sheehan reported that we signed a contract to add an ATM to the beer gardens. The contract includes all the servicing of both ATMs and they pay us ½ of the fees. In addition the ATM in the ticket office will be for use all year round now.

Sanders County Community Development: Kristy Sheehan reported that she has been working with Ray Brown of SCCDC for a grant for Blackfoot to upgrade equipment to enable fiber optics internet for fair.

Kristy Sheehan added that there is an issue with the boat ramp at the park. There was discussion on how to fix the ramp.

Financial

Claims: Claims were reviewed by the board. Ted Forkum made a motion to approve claims and Jim Newman seconded it.

Review Financial Report: Board reviewed the accounts receivable log. Kristy noted that for the month we have brought in over \$27,000. Dan Rowan commented that we are \$25,000 over our expected revenue. There was a short discussion on how the budget works. Financials were reviewed by the board.

Adjournment

Ted Forkum moved that the meeting be adjourned and Jim Newman seconded it. Motion carried at 7:13PM.