

Sanders County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2024
Fair Pavilion, 30 River RD, Plains, MT

Call to Order

A board meeting of the Sanders County Fairgrounds was held on June 12, 2024 at the fairgrounds in the bingo area. It began at 6:05 PM and was presided over by Randy Woods, with Kristy Sheehan as fair manager and Rachel Largent as Administrative Assistant.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance included: Ted Forkum, Jim Newman, Jolene Burke

Guests in attendance included Commissioner John Holland, Juli Thurston, Rick Sanders, Ed Moreth, Tracy The Scott.

Members not in attendance included: Brian Crain

Regular Business

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the previous May meeting was made by Jim Newman and seconded by Ted Forkum.

Public Participation

New Business

Introduction of New Fair Board Member: Jolene Burke introduced herself and went on to say she is the owner of Chasing Three Productions and has been a Plains resident for 5-6 years. She has been in Barrel Racing production and competition for over 25 years. She said she looks forward to working with the board.

Vote in a New Vice President: Vice president term will be filled today and continue until January of 2025. Randy Woods nominated Ted Forkum for Vice President. He went on to say Ted Forkum has been very active around here at the fair grounds and he knows what's going on. Jim Newman seconded it. Motion carried.

Request for Bids for Fair Contracts: Kristy Sheehan reported that there was only one bid for the parking contract and it is from the same people who have been doing the parking for us for several years now and it came in at \$12,000. Jim Newman asked what did they charge last year and Kristy Sheehan answered \$10,000. Kristy Sheehan indicated a local group was considering bid but they never came through. She went on to say the next bid was for the ticketing/ushers and the 4-H submitted a bid for \$3,000. Kristy Sheehan added that the 4H submitted the ticket/ushering bid before the concert was added so the final bid price may be slightly higher for the extra event. Motion to approve bid for Ushering by the South Side Sparks was made by Jim Newman and seconded by Jolene Burke. Motion carried.

Fair security bid was from Sanders County Search and Rescue at \$17,000. They would provide 24/7 coverage at the fair. Randy said the search and rescue bid is a \$10,000 increase over their past years bids. After some discussion Jolene Burke made the motion to accept the parking bid and Ted Forkum seconded it. Motion carried. Randy Woods said we'll look into the security bid a little more.

Other Reports

4-H Report was presented by Julie Thurston. Tag day was the first Sunday in June for the pigs, sheep and goats. There are 9 kids showing sheep, 5 or 6 showing goats and 31 showing pigs. There was a sheering session and a beef clinic coming up this Friday. Pat Wilson will be here coordinating that. Hoof trimming next month. Pat Wilson and Mike Erwin will meet here Monday or Tuesday to look at the wash rack area and provide a bid. Firestone Coverings was here today for a bid to cover the floor in the 4H portion and possibly the whole thing. Bid to follow.

Financial

Claims: Kristy Sheehan reported on fair sponsorships and provided a list to the board. Currently \$40,200 in sponsorships. She presented the board with the deposits made in May and then one from June.

Events Update: On the 2-day high school rodeo made \$2,710 which helped because that is about what we lost on the Kelly Hughes Band/Plains Day. There was a good turnout for the barrel race with 93 entries according to Jolene Burke. Team roping had 20 or so entries and were awarded buckles for prizes. There is a Freedom Festival planned for the fourth of July here. Local bands are coming to sing plus 3 food vendors and 25 regular vendors. The VFW, Auxiliary, Veterans Driving service (DAV), mechanical bull, bouncy house for the kids and some other nonprofits will have games such as corn hole. We are working with the fire department to set off the fireworks. Steve Spur from the Lions will be working on the parade. A request was made for a fireworks budget following a discussion. A motion was made by Jolene Burke to allow \$2,000 to purchase fireworks and seconded by Ted Forkum. Motion carried. Advertising options for the Freedom Festival was discussed.

Fair Progress: A few more vendors are needed for fair. Carnival is ready to go. Insurance has been contacted for the parade and event coverage. We have been in communication with the fair foundation regarding the beer garden area. We are working on the ATMs. Randy Woods suggested an additional ATM for the beer garden.

Flags: New flag has been received and we are working on adding an additional pole.

Fair Foundation will be paying for electric upgrades to 3 concession stands. One concession stand needs wiring to accommodate a much needed additional fryer. We will obtain 2 bids from licensed electricians.

The Knights of Columbus have agreed to update lighting to LED's in the bingo area in lieu of vendor fees.

The dump brought out a big container and Rick Sanders came and helped Monday remove all the old appliances from the grounds. Some of these appliances may need replaced.

Tractor is getting some needed maintenance. There was discussion on whether it needs replaced.

River Park is all cleaned up. There is a new maintenance person, Derek VonHeeder. There is an individual that needs 40 hrs of community service that will be cleaning bleachers. Discussion on the damage done by pigeons and possible remedies.

Ted Forkum made a motion to approve the claims and Jolene Burke seconded it. Motion carried.

Ted Forkum made a motion to approve the financials and Jolene Burke seconded it. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Ted Forkum moved that the meeting be adjourned and Jim Newman seconded it. Motion carried at 7:06PM.