

Sanders County Fair Board  
Meeting Minutes  
March 9, 2022  
Fair Pavilion, 30 River Rd, Plains, MT

Called to order at 6:04 pm by Randy Woods

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

Also Present: Hailey Coe, Juli Thurston, Ron Warren

**Approval of February 9, 2022 meeting minutes - Motion made by Kim, seconded by Brian 5-0 pass**

**NON-AGENDA:**

Randy Woods asked for public participation in Non-Agenda items. There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ron Warren explained that the area that Katherin said was high enough out of the flood way for the storage barn to be built is actually not. The area that was looked at for the motocross track is in the flood fringe so that location could work; Randy said that location is pretty far away. Kim pointed out that we could still put a pole barn in the original desired location; Brian likes the idea of having a machine shed closer by. Melissa will reach out to MQS to get a new bid for a 30x60 machine shed.

**Brian moved to change the style of the building and get on MQS's schedule as long as the bid is within the previously agreed upon price, seconded by Ted 5-0 pass**

One of the commercial vendors is using almost four times the space that he pays for so he was sent a letter stating that he must either stay in the 25x25 space allotted to him or pay for all of the space that he takes up. He called Randy and said that he made a deal with a previous fair manager that he only has to pay for one space and can use the rest as he pleases and that if we do not continue allowing him to do so he will never come back to our fair; Randy told him that he would speak with the board. The board decided that this vendor can either pay for the extra space he takes up or stay within the 25x25 space that he pays for.

Hailey has been working on the Sanders County Fair website. The people that have previously been hired on to do the website are falling short of the expectations and Randy would like to have the website designer be in house. This also means that Melissa and Hailey would need to take a trip to Kalispell to learn how to use the Showworks software for open class entries and payouts. We need to figure out who owns the domain of "www.sanderscountyfair.com" and if it does not belong to the fair, we need to find out how to take ownership of it.

**Kim moved to have Hailey takeover management of the fair website and open class registration, seconded by Brian 5-0 pass**

Randy found some ovens online for about half the price of those that we previously were looking at.

**Brian moved to purchase the two ovens from Webstaurant as long as they are under \$6000, seconded by Jim 5-0 pass**

The NFR Convention is November 28 through December 1 and the NFR itself is December 1 through December 10. Ted would like to go to the convention to show that Melissa has the support of her fair board as well as hoping to help network more. Kim said that it makes sense for the board to help pay for Ted to attend the convention part but if he decided to stay for the whole NFR then those expenses would be his responsibility. The board instructed Melissa to reserve two hotel rooms for the week of the convention.

Randy would like to make Thursday the night the 4H kids go to the rodeo for free; after some discussion with Juli, Kim asked if we could wait and see how the presale goes for rodeo tickets and decide which night to give 4H tickets to after looking at that. Randy would like Thursday to be advertised as more of a locals night and see if Sherry would be interested in doing a \$1 ride night again. Because of this, Thursday night rodeo tickets should only be increased by \$2. He thinks that Friday and Saturday rodeo tickets should increase \$2-\$5 and the demolition derby tickets should be increased by \$5. Melissa pointed out that the ticketing website has the \$2 convenience fee so increasing all tickets by \$5 would make the most sense. Hailey would like to stop selling the carnival wristbands online and stop selling wristbands at the office after the presale is over, the board agreed that if that helps alleviate any confusion with Sherry to do it.

**Kim moved to increase Thursday night tickets by \$2 and the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night tickets by \$5, seconded by Ted 5-0 pass**

Juli Thurston gave the 4H report. They received a \$5000 donation and the committee decided to purchase stall mats for the horse barn. She asked if Melissa would like her to look into grants for a cooler and Melissa asked if she could look into grants for the new lighting in the pavilion. They are considering doing a dog show again. She is having a hard time getting a hold of the insurance company to ask about additional coverage.

Melissa Cady gave the fair manager's report. We need to buy six speakers because ours are shot. The ones that she found are about \$1000 a piece and are the ones that Jill uses at her other rodeos. Food and commercial vendor applications have been sent out and we are already receiving them back. Shady Grady is retiring so he will not be returning, the fry bread people do

not have enough help so Taylor Salmi will more than likely be taking over that booth and doing french fries, onion rings, etc. We need to make the timed event holding pens bigger and more enclosed. She is working on the letter to the fire department, it will include that if they are not in the firetruck they have to pay the parking fee. We need to find a way to rope off the area where rodeo contestants are unloading their animals so that people are not parking there. Due to going up to three full performances, we need to find dedicated people to help run the chute gates ahead of time.

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

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

**Kim moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm, seconded by Jim 5-0 pass**