

Sanders County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2021
Fair Pavilion, 30 River Rd, Plains MT

Called to order at 7:01 pm by Randy Woods

Present: Randy Woods, Jim Newman, Kim Bergstrom (via phone), Brian Crain, Ted Forkum, Melissa Cady

Also Present: Hailey Coe, Don Burrell, Katie French

Approval of August 25, 2021 meeting minutes and September 1, 2021 special meeting minutes – Motion made by Jim, seconded by Brian 5-0 pass

NON-AGENDA:

Randy Woods asked for public participation in Non-Agenda items. There were a couple letters of complaint sent in to the fair board. One being about the seats that they had purchased being behind a pole; and the other about some cars in the derby that were decorated with Trump memorabilia and a confederate flag. Don Burrell informed the board that the cooler in burger booth 1 needs to be replaced and that they need a three compartment sink to comply with the sanitarian. Katie French had some people complain about the view in the lower aisle seats in the bucking chutes being blocked by the bunting. She would also like the board to consider increasing premiums due to the rising cost of producing items for open class entries.

NEW BUSINESS:

The board did a fair recap and noted some things that could be improved. The ovens and coolers in the pavilion need to be replaced; Brian asked if 4H would cover part of those costs or if it would all fall on the board, this is something that will need to be discussed more later on. There needs to be power outlets installed outside of the barns that can be used during livestock showing so that they do not have to run cords through the barns. The cleaning contract needs to have more detail to it so that the crew knows exactly what is expected of them. Kim thinks that Melissa should have a temporary go-for the week of fair to help with random errands and tasks. It would be nice to have a concrete slab for the hospitality tent for the rodeo and the board should look into purchasing their own tent. The board needs to look into having more cash on hand to keep the ATM loaded in case the ATMs up town are out of service. Kim pointed out that the west bleachers are scary structurally but are some of the best seats in regards to shade and we need to look into possibly rebuilding them and charging more. The ticket takers need better training and need to know where the different sections are; Katie recommended laminating maps and putting them at each gate entry. The commercial vendors need to be reminded of the rules and guidelines that they have to follow in regards to set up/take down times, parking/camping fees, etc.

Juli Thurston was not available to give the 4H report.

Melissa Cady gave the fair manager's report. We are still waiting on payment from a couple of the food vendors; as well as the checks from Pendleton and Coors. Kim McNeil is upset because the carnival dug holes all over to bury their cables. They were all over the place and did not have any consistency this year which needs to be discussed with them before resigning their contract. Johnny is going to meet with Tim and Tyler to help them plan an even better demo. Everything has been returned to Justin Boots and the scanners have been shipped off to Helena per Joe from 168tickets.

Most of the board members would like to change the board meetings to 6 pm instead of 7. Randy is on another board that has their meetings at 6 pm on the third Wednesday; so he recommended moving it to 6 pm on the second Wednesday of every month.

Jim moved to change the fair board meeting to the second Wednesday of every month at 6 pm, seconded by Brian 5-0 pass

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

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

Jim moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 pm, seconded by Ted 5-0 pass