

Sanders County Fair Board

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2024

Fair Pavilion, 30 River RD, Plains, MT

Call to Order

A board meeting of the Sanders County Fairgrounds was held on May 8, 2024 at the fairgrounds pavilion. It began at 6:04 PM and was presided over by Randy Woods, with Kristy Sheehan as fair manager.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance included: Brian Crain, Ted Forkum, Jim Newman

Guests in attendance included Commissioner John Holland, Michelle McGuigan, Juli Thurston, Rick Sanders, Derek VonHeeder, Jolene Burke.

Members not in attendance included:

Regular Business

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the previous April meeting was made by Ted Forkum and seconded by Brian Crain.

Public Participation: Derek VonHeeder mentioned the bench at the end of the trail head may wash away if the water get high and there was discussion about what needs to be done. John Holland added that any work on the river bank would need to go through the Army Corp of Engineers. Derek VonHeeder then remarked that there is an approximately 20 inch drop off at the end of the boat launch and there was discussion on who would be responsible to fix it. It was determined this Fish and Game would need to be advised.

Officers' Reports

Fair Manager report was presented by Kristy Sheehan. Bids were requested for contracts via newspaper and Facebook with no response. Randy Woods suggested to reach out to people who have provided these services in the past. Contracts are needed for ticketing/ushering, parking and security. Randy Woods announced that he had a conversation with Undersheriff Johnson of Sanders County Sheriff's Office said that they would be willing to provide security as they did last year in exchange for wages. Events are going good. High school rodeo is on track as well as the back country horseman camping at the same time. Plains Day is a go. Everything for that is scheduled and set. We have a lot of new vendors and food vendors coming for the fair this year. Ted Forkum asked for the concert how will seating be arranged and how will we keep minors separated from the beer gardens. Kristy Sheehan replied that we'll have to have people at the gates it will be similar to the fair. Ted Forkum continued to inquire where the minors will be seated in order to watch the band Kristy Sheehan said there will be picnic tables situated around the area for people to sit and watch. Rachel Largent our new Admin Assistant has been very busy drumming up new businesses for sponsorship this year and we are now currently just under \$30,000 in pledged sponsorships. We have been calling every business in town and they have been very generous. Juli Thurston asked permission to add sponsorship signs on the back of the bleachers at the livestock arena and added that they would be removing them after fair each year for storage. Permission was given for in the 4H area.

Other Reports

4-H Report was presented by Julie Thurston. 4-H Dance Friday night is scheduled in the pavilion and the community is invited to come. We have a beef clinic June 14th. Tag day June 2nd for pigs and sheep and we shear the sheep afterward. Pat Wilson is working with Mike Erwin on the wash rack and will provide an official price. Kids are working hard on their projects. Kristy Sheehan mentioned that 4H offered to cover the cost of the annual scale certification (\$35). Julie Thurston explained further that she has reached to a couple of individuals to get this scheduled to be calibrated and certified annually. Julie informed that she has a bid from Smith Electrical to add an outlets in the rabbit and beef barns and update the lighting to LED's in the beef and rabbit barns for the bid price of \$1317. Brian Crain said we should update lights and outlets that is a good idea and the fair should pay for it Jim Newman agreed. Brian Crain made a motion to approve the bid for electrical upgrades and Jim Newman seconded it.

New Business

Board Member status: Kristy Sheehan asked for clarification on how empty board seats are filled. Randy Woods explained that we advertise the open position and people submit a letter of interest to the commissioners after which interviews are conducted.

Fair Theme: Themes were read by Kristy Sheehan and the board selected "Horse Shoes and Buckaroos". Motion was given by Brian Crain and seconded by Ted Forkum.

Sheep for Muttin Bustin: Randy Woods suggested Kristy Sheehan reach out to Jason MacDonald and he will provide her with contact info. Ted Forkum added that we need atleast 10 and a couple extra for back up to cover just in case illness or other issues. Ted Forkum went on to say that we need figure out how to do sign ups. Kristy Sheehan added that there is a place on our website to sign up. Randy Woods indicated that they did sign ups on the website last year and it worked great and added there should be a firm cut off date. Ted said to make up a roster to give to the announcer that way the kids have their names read correctly. Kristy Sheehan told Randy Woods that he had previously mentioned talking to Powder River about the scheduling of the Muttin Bustin and he went on to say that we should have this event 1st to help draw folks into the stands early on to come in and sit down at the start of the performance vs later. Kristy Sheehan acknowledged and agreed.

Financial

Claims: Jim Newman asked for clarification on garbage fee for the park. Kristy Sheehan answered that it is \$350 per month and there was discussion and it was agreed it is best to continue current garbage services. Claims were reviewed and moved by Jim Newman and Seconded by Brian Crane.

Financial Report: Randy Woods reported that the balance is \$118,888 as of May 8th and we will have some tax money coming in in the next month. We are sitting about where we normally are before the fair. Kristy Sheehan mentioned that repairs and maintenance will be going up beginning next month because we have a maintenance guy at 20 hrs a week. He's fixed the back fences and the cat walk in the arena already and working on a whole bunch of other stuff. Brian Crain asked who the new maintenance worker was and Kristy Sheehan responded that it is Robyn Largent. Motion was made to approve the financial report by Brian Crain and it was seconded by Jim Newman.

Adjournment

Brian Crain moved that the meeting be adjourned and Ted Forkum seconded it.