

February 11, 2016

Members present: Byron Geis, Frank Sickler, Kelly Camino, Kevin Rodriguez, Laci Schiffer. Staff present: Gary Arno & Sandi Hoffman. Guests present: Cretia Ahern, Bob Lepper, Tina Beach, Tiddle Camino, Peter John Camino, Kirby Camino, Ralph Gonzales, John Forbes, Barb Ward, and Jim Dawson.

Cretia approached the board regarding the ¼ mile horse race at JCFR, saying that she wished to sponsor the event again this year. She made a cash donation of \$1,000 towards the purse, and Bob is building a custom trophy bit for the winner. She mentioned that she had heard feedback from several people regarding the start of the race last year. Bob stated that Campbell County has a starting gate which possibly we could borrow. He volunteered to haul it to and from Gillette. Cretia mentioned that the track is extremely hard where vehicles cross at both ends of the track, and asked if it could be worked up. Gary said he will rip it to the best level that he can. An age limit for race participants was discussed for safety reasons. Possibly a limit of 16 years of age to enter the race was the general consensus. The Board will take this into review before printing entries.

Tina Beach and Tiddle Camino spoke on behalf of the 4-H dog project. They wanted to thank the Board for the use of the Community Building for practices. They reported that practices are going well and invited the Board to stop in sometime to see what the kids are doing. Tiddle stated that the front lawn location had worked out great for last year's fair competition, and asked if they could use the lawn again this year. The Board agreed on this. Last year, there was a mix-up in the ribbons, and the 4-H participants had received FFA ribbons. Tiddle also said that the dog project would like to be included in giving buckles as awards. There would be a total of 6-8 buckles. Frank stated that the YES committee is in charge of buckles for 4-H & FFA classes, and they only do livestock. Tina said that the dog project leaders have visited with sponsors, and already have 6 committed buckle sponsors. They would like to order with the Rodeo order. Sandi will get with Tina regarding the buckle order. Tiddle asked if it would be possible to advertise the dog show more.

Peter John & Kirby Camino asked on behalf of the Johnson County Wool Growers to use the facility again on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> for another shearing day for small flock owners. Peter John asked if the Board had come up with a contract regarding this project. This will be the last shearing for this year. The Board agreed to let the Wool Growers use the facility at no charge, and if it materializes into a regular event, terms and fees will be discussed. Kirby said that next year, if possible, the Wool Growers would like to have shearing days once monthly from Dec. – Feb. 90% of the sheep to be sheared in December & January belong to 4-H & FFA kids. The Fair Grounds is a central location to hold this, but there are no enclosed buildings geared to this project if the weather is inclement. Peter John said that there is interest in holding a shearing school, but if the weather is bad, there is currently no building on the grounds that would house an event of this type. Currently, there is no shearing school in the state of Wyoming. This would be an educational opportunity if the venue could be set up to house the event.

Peter John also requested the use of the main kitchen during JCFR to prepare food for the sheep feed. He reported that using the kitchen last year had worked great. The Board agreed to let the Wool Growers use the kitchen once again this year.

Kirby spoke regarding the Sale Committee. We are in need of 2 more computers to run the ShoWorks program used at the livestock sale for the upcoming training in March in Cody. Kirby asked if the Board is going to purchase one computer, or if the Sale Committee could purchase one. Jim Dawson stated that

the extension office will have one laptop available for the training. The Fair Board suggested sending a letter of request to the Sale Committee asking that they purchase a laptop for this purpose. Jim will also make sure that the main data file of last year's fair will be made available to load in all of the computers. Kirby reported that the mandatory meeting for livestock projects is in the planning stages. No judges have been secured as of yet, he asked the Board for price guidelines. The Board set a limit of \$1,000 if a single judge could be obtained for multiple shows.

Ralph Gonzales put in a request to use the back kitchen during Fair week to sell burritos. The Board has taken this request under review and will let Ralph know by the next meeting.

John Forbes approached the Board about once again having night rodeos, possibly once or twice monthly. He was wondering which night would work best, possibly calling the camp grounds to ask when they started filling up with travelers laying over on the route to Yellowstone. Discussion followed with ideas for advertising. Kelly suggested having Gary drive through town & campgrounds on rodeo days with the pickup and bull horn to advertise like they used to in years past. John wondered if it would be possible to get the BATS bus to shuttle guests from the area campgrounds. The possibility of adding a beer stand was discussed. Sandi will contact the campgrounds for information. John is looking at visiting with area dude ranches to see if they would send competitors as well as guests. More will be discussed on this at the next board meeting.

Barb Ward spoke to the Board on behalf of the Buffalo Quilting Gals. She reported that the group feels that some changes need to be made regarding the needlework judging, better judges need to be found for the quilt judging, and a separate judge needs to be hired for the needlework division. She provided a list of suggestions to help make the open class and the overall fair a better experience.

Jim Dawson presented the new MOU for the Livestock Committee. He reported that Barry Crago has reviewed the documents. Kevin moved to accept the MOU. Frank seconded. Motion carried.

Caretaker's Report: Gary updated the Board on the bleacher project. He reported that he has taken the section out along the Northeast corner, and has removed the boards from the section that is to remain. He asked if the Board wanted to go with aluminum or wood on the replacement sections. Wood will be the more economical route, if aluminum is used, everything needs to be reinforced and more braces added. Gary will get prices on both treated and untreated lumber. The Board discussed adding a canopy over the bleachers in the future.

Gary stated that the Commissioner's Office had emailed the Fair Board Office requesting that he plow the extension office area when it snows. He reported that he had plowed the day before the request came, and that the Extension office employees had been watching him as he plowed. Gary reported that the floor cleaning machine purchased for the Community Building floors works great and has cut down on cleaning time. He has just re-waxed the floors for the season. Gary also asked permission to purchase some used tables and chairs from the Congregational Church. They have several heavier-duty folding tables for purchase at \$15 each, along with several sturdy stackable chairs at \$3 each. Gary would like to use the heavier tables in the livestock barns at fair, and to send out as rental tables. The chairs could also be used during fair week. This will help keep the tables and chairs in the Community Building from becoming lost or damaged. Kevin moved to allow \$400 for the purchase of the used tables and chairs, Frank seconded, motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Minutes, payables, payroll and vacation/flex for December and January were reviewed and approved on a motion by Kevin & a second by Kelly.

Old Business: IRS update – Byron had spoken to PMCH. We still have fines outstanding, but the accountants have recommended waiting another few months for a response to an abatement letter sent on the Fair Board's behalf by PMCH.

Facility rental rates were reviewed and discussed. The Board decided to add the Cookshack & Needlecraft buildings to the schedule at \$50 per day. Any organization or individual who is not happy with the charges may petition the Board for a rate reduction. 4-H and FFA functions will need to have a contract through the Extension Office, Sandi will work with Jim and have Barry review a rough draft. Laci moved to approve, Frank seconded, motion carried.

The arena contract for the Johnson Count Cowgirls was discussed. Gary asked if we could add a clause stating that if the rodeo is to be cancelled, one o'clock pm will be the deadline. This is due to the fact that last year, cancellations were made but Gary was not notified.

Byron made a suggestion to the Board regarding the proposed new bathroom/shower house. Due to the outstanding fines with the IRS still owed, and the fact that preliminary bids are coming in high, he proposed searching for a shower unit from one of the defunct oilfield camps. It could be set up near the new restrooms, and the remaining money budgeted for restrooms in this year's budget could be used for paying the IRS fines, refurbishing the catch pens and bleachers. He will visit with Commissioner Novotny to see if this is allowable, and more discussion will follow.

New Business: Election of Officers for the coming year were as follows: Chairman Byron Gies, Vice Chair Frank Sickler, Secretary Kelly Camino, Treasurer Kevin Rodriguez, and Public Relations Laci Schiffer. Laci needs to be added to the bank accounts as an authorized signor and Jackie Benton deleted. Kelly moved to approve the Officers and banking changes. Frank seconded. Motion carried.

Checking Accounts were once again discussed. It would be very helpful to establish separate accounts for Royalty, Rodeo, and Livestock Sale. This will help to keep a more accurate accounting of income and expenditures for each department. Currently, everything is being funneled through the main checking account, with the exception of the Livestock Sale, which was ran through the 4-H Council.

A work day was scheduled for reworking the Exhibitor's Handbooks. It will be Tuesday, February 23 at 1pm. A notice will be published in the Bulletin.

Sandi told the Board that Deb Hepp had inquired if we would consider having a Pony Express race during the rodeo if entries could be found. She would handle getting sponsors. One angle the Board discussed was doing away with the 1/8 mile cow pony race. We could offer a cash prize, with the amount determined by the number of sponsors. More discussion will follow next month.

Fair Vendors were discussed. Sandi has visited with Jenny Wuerker about a face-painting booth, Re-Ride expressed interest in coming back again this year. Byron appointed Laci to be the head contact for lining up vendors.

Bid lists need to go out to stock contractors for the rodeo and team penning. Sandi will send letters to all of last year's contractors, Frank will get the name and mailing info for a contractor from Gillette. Rodeo judges' commitment letters will be sent out to Lee Martinez, Joe Smith and Marcy Cunningham.

We will use both arenas on Thursday night for the team roping slack and Friday night for the remaining slack. Hopefully this will speed things up and make it a more pleasant experience for the competitors and the arena help. We will contact Russ Green regarding announcing the team penning, and Rob Stafford to announce on Friday night slack.

Leo Sampson Security will be contacted to see if he will once again handle security in the exhibit halls.

Sandi will check with the breakfast sponsors from last year to see if they will once again be sponsoring free breakfasts during the week.

The next meeting will be March 10<sup>th</sup>.