

FLATHEAD COUNTY FAIR COMMISSION

Meeting minutes from May 12, 2011

The May 12, 2011 meeting called to order by Chair Woolard at 6:30 pm in the 4-H Building at the Flathead County Fairgrounds

Roll call of members in attendance were Butch Woolard, Wes McAlpin, and Joy Struble. Mike Mower, and Butch CM Clark were not present but excused.

Agenda Approval: Chair Woolard asked to move Old Business to follow public comment. No other changes or additions were made to the agenda.

Previous Minutes: Chair Woolard asked for a motion to approve the April 14th minutes. Joy moved and Wes seconded the motion. No discussion. All in favor.

Guests: Ron Theibert, Sam Numally, Laura Wilson, Missy Senner, Melvin Carr, Susan Munsinger, Sharon Askelson, Shelly Ridenaur, Gerry Banzet, Jena Ponti, Bruce Boody, LeAna Sacrison.

Public Comment: Chair Woolard asked if any members of the public wished to comment this evening. Sharon Askelson stated that there doesn't need to have beer and wine at the Fair. Missy Senner shared the results of the recent Flathead Beacon poll where 46% of respondents were in favor of beer and wine at the fair and 56% were opposed from a sampling of 136. LeAna Sacrison stated the fair venue is very family oriented and should be kept free of alcoholic beverages. If it's a money thing, charge the seniors a nominal gate fee instead. Gerry Banzet asked why the Fair Commission was considering this. Why is beer and wine needed? He noted a conversation where somebody from a Milwaukee fair said arrests increased to 38 people per night and were directly associated with alcohol sales. Sam Numally works with the S&R/Posse. While he wasn't speaking professionally, he is personally against it. He also stated that the 2010 operation was operated well. A few improvements were needed and address the closure time. Mel Carter stated he is fully opposed and sales don't need to be included. The Fair could be promoted as a "dry" event successfully.

No other public wished to speak. The public comment period was closed.

Old Business: Beer and Wine sales; Joy reported on research of the 2010 event through Kalispell Police and Flathead Sheriff departments. There were no major changes or issues to last year operations recognized as alcohol related by either department. A consideration of all types of information is being made by the Commission members.

Bruce Boody and Jena Ponti presented the final concepts for exterior fairgrounds improvements that included landscaping, a public access trail, gate entry points, and other considerations. General discussion was done. Right of Way particulars are still being researched and finalized with an expected meeting to include Montana Department of Transportation.

Manager's report: Mark shared the recent activities and financial information. The revenues and expenditures are on target for ending FY 2011. Current reports include results of a budget amendment and transferring Capital Improvement expenditures from general operations to our capital account. Grandstand ticket sales began on-sale May 5th and a report to-date was provided.

Committee reports: No activity to report.

New Business: No new business was brought forward.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm by Joy, seconded by Wes, question called with all in favor.

Submitted by: mc

Approved as submitted:

Chair

Date