

**Flathead County Fair Commission**  
**November 19, 2009**

The Flathead County Fair Commission met in session November 19, 2009. Members present were Chairman Butch Woolard, Vice Chairman Terry Fosbery, Commission members Ted Dykstra. Manager Jay Scott.

Guests were Paul Holmgren, Jerry Boschee, with Flathead School pole vaulting, JR Hemp with Flathead Soccer, Ron Tripplet with Tripplet's Printing, Ron Theibert, horse racing representative and Raeann Campbell Flathead County HR department.

Chairman Woolard called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Minutes from the October meeting were discussed.

Dykstra moved to approve the minutes as read Fosbery seconded the motion.

Public Comment:

None at this time

Guest:

Jerry Boschee talked about using the Trade Center building for school practice pole vaulting for the off season training. This would be December through March of 2010. Boschee has been one of the coaches for several years and is always looking for a place to hold practice. He handed out a packet to each member of the Fair Commission to read on the needs of pole vaulting. Also he is in the need of a spot for a storage area for when they have to pick up their equipment; he is hoping this could be in the Ag building.

Fosbery asked what temperature is needed because the Fair Grounds turns the heat down when the buildings are not rented.

Boschee said if the building is around 50 degrees it would be good for them. 50 degrees is warm compared to some places they have practiced in.

Fosbery asked if the building was to be rented for several days straight, how much of a hardship this would cause the school.

Boschee replied they would work around all of these types of events.

Dykstra thinks the Trade Center building gets the least amount of use of all of the buildings in the winter months, so if it is to work the building would likely be the Trade Center.

Woolard asked Boschee what type of rent they could pay.

Boschee said they have no money to pay at all, for the use of the building or the storage building, they may be able to help with some of the building cleaning.

Dykstra moved to table any action until there is a full Commission to talk about giving this much building use to any group at no cost.

Woolard asked Raeann Campbell about the insurance on this type of activity.

Raeann thought the insurance issues could be worked out with Robin Boone, she will let Scott know if there are any problems.

Fosbery agreed with Dykstra that a decision would be made at the next Fair Commission meeting on December 10, 2009.

JR Hemp, president of the soccer club, would like a building to use on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays to practice for soccer. He stated that a temperature of 50 degrees would work well for training. The teams would spot mark the floor with tape and would have about 250 players, between the ages of 11 and 18. These players would come in groups of 30 and they would need a time of 5P.M. to 9:30 P.M. each day.

Hemp said this is a club sponsored event, each player is charge a small fee, this is not sponsored by any school. But the fees that are paid are not enough to pay any rents. The money received goes to pay insurance, coaches, referees and some travel. Hemp said players pay to be part of a league but not an organization, this is a non-profit group.

Woolard said the Fair Commission has to see how much rent they can wave for these types of events.

Hemp said they don't want to pay but if rent is required they would try and pay some rent or defray any Fairgrounds cost for the use of the building. They would like to use the Trade Center from December 2009 until April of 2010 they would prefer to have the building without sharing time with any other group. Hemp said his group would be good stewards of the Fairgrounds property and feels this would be a good fit.

Dykstra asked if both groups could share the building. Hemp said they would wait until the pole vaulting is done for the day.

Dykstra moved to table discussion until the next Fair Commission meeting when there will be a full commission, Fosbery second the motion.

Thiebert with the Turf Club addressed the Fair Commission on a new contract, he said they would like to discuss this issue at the January meeting, when there was a new Fair Commission in place. In 2009 the Turf Club has paid the Fairgrounds \$6913.00 for horse stall rent. Thiebert said the Fairgrounds have done no maintenance on the back side of the race track for over 24 months. Theibert also thinks the Fairgrounds needs to do rodent control in all of the horse stalls on the back side. The mice are all over, the trainers have to pickup their own grain pallets and old hay, the mice just run out all over. Theibert feels the Fairgrounds should do this clean up, trainers should not have to pick up their own garbage.

Theibert said the stalls are falling down, posts are rotting off and the doors are in need of repair. Basic poor maintenance on the Fairgrounds staff is causing the falling down condition of all horse stalls on the back side.

Woolard thinks the new contract for 2010 should include the horse trainers doing their own maintenance and clean up of area of horse stalls, maybe even hauling horse waste away.

#### Commission Reports:

Dykstra reported that he is currently working with 168 Tickets on our new on-line ticket service. This project should be up by the end of November. Dykstra reported that the County IT department has a new Web site done for the Fairgrounds.

Fosbery reported that the rodeo committee is putting together a dinner for all 2009 rodeo sponsors and advertisers. This dinner will be held at the Fairgrounds Expo building. Fosbery thinks this is a small way to thank these businesses that have supported us and to help generate new sponsors for the 2010 fair and rodeo, this will be held in January.

Final stage of the new graphic art for a logo for the FLATHEAD ROUNDUP will be done for the next Fair Board meeting in December. The committee is investigating using the logo on apparel that can be sold at the Fair as a revenue source. Fosbery will meet with Munsinger on what she thinks would be marketable.

Fosbery said the committee is starting to contact larger sponsors for new timed event box equipment, he should have some answers in the next two weeks, and he has some meeting set up in Las Vegas December 1, 2009. The Rodeo Committee will meet with the Fair Commission on how and where to install this new equipment.

Woolard reported on the Rocky Mountain Association of Fairs convention held in Great Falls this year. He felt there were some very good meeting and topics that are beneficial to all fairs. Contracts have been signed for the train again this year, the robot and the Kids Zone.

Rocky Mountain Talent Services said the Oak Ridge Boys are available for our dates at this time. The Fair Commission has to approve of the offer they presented to the Oak Ridge Boys earlier this year or move on to another act. No action was taken.

Woolard reported that he talked with the new manager of the Great Falls Fairgrounds on their horse racing and found that the Great Falls Fairgrounds is owed a very large sum of money from the last horse race meet held there. This same group is meeting with the Missoula Commissioners the second week of December to discuss holding horse races in Missoula at the fair.

Old business:

None at this time

New business:

Fosbery knows a group that does Texas swing music. This group is very well known in Texas but not in Montana, Fosbery thinks they can be hired for a concert for \$10,000.00.

Woolard said he would like to get more information on this group and more information on the Christian group Mercy Me. Woolard said the decision was made to only have one concert, but if the Oak Ridge Boys can only be here on Tuesday then we need something on Wednesday.

Managers report:

Scott mentioned there is a Christian group north of White Fish call Potters Field. They have CDs out and are doing a lot of traveling; he will get a CD for the next board meeting.

Scott reported that the poster contest is over do, this is a contest that is advertised in the paper and all of the schools are contacted to put in a poster that will work with this year's theme. Scott thought a good theme would be something to do with dogs and have a couple of dog groups entertain at the fair and have the theme, poster, entertainment, free stage, and activities center around dogs this year.

Fosbery moved to have the theme for 2010 fair be "Flathead Roundup", Dykstra second the motion. Woolard agreed that we have done small animals the last two years, first with the pigs and last year with the sheep, we should do something new.

Scott reported that the Fair office is way behind on daily items, re-invites for commercial booths, [they have to respond and send in a deposit in early March] having an annual audit completed, working on sponsorships for the upcoming fair, meetings with food concessioners, meetings with superintendents and assistants. These are a few of the items that needed to be done in September and October, the

current staff of 1 3/4 cannot get all of this done and continue with daily activities and rental of the Fairgrounds. Fosbery said with the added burden placed on Scott at this time if he could be of any help he is offering when he could.

Scott reported that he had some sponsors he is working with and an advertising brochure that he asked Ron Triplet to describe for the Commission. The new advertising Scott said will get in all local spots that will allow, the local Chambers, restaurants, hotels and casinos. Along with this Scott said when the new Web Site is up and going Gil from the County IT department said he will help Scott in training so Scott will be better equipped at getting advertisers and sponsors to sign on the Web Site also.

Scott is currently working on some grants that could be used for several things to better the Fairgrounds. These grants will be taken to the County Grant writer for help and review, they are for writing a new business plan, grounds safety, and grounds beatification. When this project is complete the Fair Commission will be given some of the tasks as to what part of the grounds needs to be worked on first as safety issues and beatification issues are to make the Fairgrounds more users' friendly and more rentable, helping to raise revenues.

Scott gave each of the Commission a packet of what he has been working on in response to their letter of requests dated November 3, 2009. This packet contains some of the plans that Scott has for going into the next 12 to 18 months. These plans should help market the Fairgrounds in a way that has not been done before.

Scott said he may not complete all that the Commission is asking for in the time frame they are allowing, he has prier commitments to the IAFE Fair Association and will be Las Vegas for four days, this time in Las Vegas has been shortened so more time can be spent working effectively to get given tasks done in a timely manner. At this time Scott has stopped all marketing and sponsorship contact for the 2010 fair to focus on this November 3<sup>rd</sup> request.

Fosbery is going to Las Vegas also, he again relayed to Scott that he would help on the project the Commission has given him when he could.

Dykstra move to adjourn 7:45

Fosbery second

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Chairman

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Secretary/Manager

