

FLATHEAD COUNTY FAIR COMMISSION

Meeting minutes from September 11, 2014

The September 11, 2014 meeting was called to order by Sam Nunnally at 6:30 pm in the Fairgrounds Office at the Flathead County Fairgrounds

Roll call of members: Sam Nunnally, Gary Krueger, Michael Moffitt, Wes McAlpin, and Butch Woolard were present.

Guest present: Sharon Askelson, Tammy Skramovsky, and Ron Thibert were present.

Agenda approval: Wes moved to approve the agenda as presented. Michael seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Previous Meeting Minutes: The July 10th board meeting minutes along with Fair briefing notes from August 13-17th were reviewed. Butch moved to approve the minutes and notes as presented. Michael seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Public Comment: Sam called for public comment. Sharon stated that the Fair Dahlia show went well except for parking was a challenge that can be worked out. Maintenance help to get the building ready was appreciated. A few system problems will be worked through the office as well. No further public comments were made.

2014 Fair: Ron stated there was a problem with the Fair horse show went on Saturday prior to fair. Blue ribbon was \$6; Red was \$4, and White \$2 with an entry fee of \$2. This was supposed to be for stall rent. If horses received this amount, what was paid for Ostrich and Emu's. He was corrected that we didn't have those species and it was Llamas. Ron was told by Renee', the Horse Superintendent, that she had requested an increase. He's not sure who to believe. Ron asked Nuggett if she was entering the Relay Races and she said no. "It should be resolved" he stated. He was told that no discussion of employees would be held in this setting without the employee being notified and the ability to be present.

Manager's Report: A commissioner's update was reviewed. Grandstand is essentially done with punch list items to be completed by next week. A pay notice has been submitted and contract amounts, less retainage, should be settled with them by next week. Further discussions about Outback will be kept close at hand as they have an attorney communicating for them.

Infrastructure phase 1 is done except hydro-seeding and a small patch to complete. All other bills have been paid with retainage still to be settled.

Contract addendum for design elements of phase 2 were submitted to County Attorney and their preferred method is an alternative design format. Several steps need to be met for this process to be applicable. Further discussions and review of the method are taking place now.

Competitive exhibit numbers have changed since earlier report with removing no-show entries at just over 7,000. The exhibitor count remained the same at 1,015. Checks will be mailed before October 1st.

Food concession sales are in with a decrease of 3.2% in gross. 23 food stands were contracted. This represents the second best year on record. A report detailing the numbers was shared with discussion.

A financial review of August was done with updates on targets for Fair revenue and expense positions. Gate and banking procedures were helpful but further work needs to occur and be tightened. Michael asked if it was people or process issue. Mark replied that the challenges were primarily people and some reverting to older ways that caused a ripple affect into Saturday and Sunday.

Committee reports: The discussion focused on a 2014 Fair Review.

Michael stated he spoke with fair guests and the general public. They felt the entertainment was great. Carnival POP wristbands were a big draw and important to the guests. Need more emphasis of “no smoking” in the Grandstands. 4H programs were very strong. Media provided great coverage throughout. The Chris Young concert was excellent and will be hard to top.

Wes – move in and load times worked with hogs able to move from 8 am to 12 noon to line up with Vet check but some small adjustments can be made. Assistant Superintendents want to participate at pre-fair meetings so they have the same information. A conflicting dress code in the Fair Book needs corrected. The Beef Fitting contest needs to be moved to 8:30 on Friday, giving goats the show-ring for the rest of the day. Most departments pulled their class information together from the system, but one did not. Need to work with the departments closer. A 4H Camper requested the 7th Ave gate be closed to pedestrian traffic as they felt we were losing admission money. Butch asked how many animals didn’t make weight. Wes reported 5 lambs and 15 pigs. All the steers made weight. Sam asked if meat goats were still being considered. We replied is a current topic with standards and details still yet to be developed.

Sam – the Demo Derby needs changes to ensure entries. Parking continues to evolve and the Posse stays active in that area. Sound system for concerts has to be better developed. Ushers did a good job with some further adjustments needed for control points. ADA wording still needs improved for customer understanding and seating conformity.

Sharon asked if the flower show signage can be improved. Wes noted a Dairy sign for the trade center. Gary suggested incorporating an overall signage plan into the forthcoming projects.

Michael discussed his early thoughts on hospitality for the Rodeo contestants. WCU could be a possible partner for this.

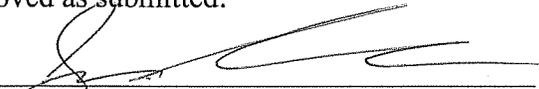
Old Business: FY 2014 CIP projects were previously reviewed. ADA seating signage must be completed for it to work as designed. Timing for phase 2 was discussed with a concept of releasing bid for contract in January through June. This would obtain a commitment early and work could start as weather permits. The Trade Center floor is scheduled to be resealed in December/January. Butch asked if we would use the same material. Many options exist and Gary suggested having a product rep provide recommendations. Life span is 7-10 years of the sealant.

New Business: Two fair related conferences are coming soon. RMAF is in Great Falls 11/12-15th. Interested at this time are Butch, Wes, and Gary. The next conference is IAFE in Las Vegas with Michael and Wes interested in attending. No further new business was heard.

Michael moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. Seconded by Butch with all members in favor.

Submitted by: mc

Approved as submitted:



Chair

10-9-14

Date