

FLATHEAD COUNTY FAIR COMMISSION
Meeting minutes from February 13, 2014

The February 13, 2014 meeting was called to order by Sam Nunnally at 6:30 pm in the 4H Building at the Flathead County Fairgrounds

Roll call of members: Wes McAlpin, Sam Nunnally, Michael Moffitt and Gary Krueger were present. Butch Woolard notified the office he would be out of town and unable to attend.

Guest present: Barb Norlander and Ron Thibert, representing the All Breeds Turf Club.

Agenda approval: Michael Moffett to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Wes. All were in favor.

Previous Meeting Minutes: January 9th board meeting minutes were reviewed. Wes moved to approve the minutes as presented. Michael seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Public Comment: Barb Norlander introduced herself. She has been a race horse trainer at the fairgrounds for over 25 years. Expressed her disgust about communications in respect to the demolition of the barns. Phone calls and letter indicated the potential repair of the stalls. Process was poorly handled. People should be more respectful of others. Hearing no other public comment, Sam closed the comment period.

Ron Thibert: Feels the whole operation of the barns has created mixed emotions. Presented a scenario relating to renting a place and not helping out with the neighbors. Horsemen have put in work to try and help but the fair doesn't communicate well. 7 month rentals each year, feels the fair is out of line. Horsemen believe in taking care of the fair and fairgrounds. He's tired of having to fight for what they believe. They must train somewhere. The surplus material from the barns should be advertised and bid if the people want it. Ron asked what happened to the Relay horses hurt during the fair.

Sam asked if Ron had met with Mark about the stalling situation. He stated he had and they have concerns about the small size of the stalls being proposed. Other barns and stabling should be considered. Feels the barn removal is retaliation against him because of a letter he had previously written. The entrance to turn 1 is very slick and the sand added was just to the arena. It should be done to the entire track and don't forget about the horsemen.

Manager's Report: Watering and layout plans for the north stalls in March. A proposal is coming in soon for moving of J barn to the south. Maintenance will be remodeling stalls in March as well. Commercial exhibitor applications have been sent and are being received. RMAF is holding a spring meeting in Coeur d' Alene, April 17-18th. Those interested in attending please let Mark know.

Missoula has been contacted about the mutually owned rock picker. It's 25' long and would need to be repaired before being used. Mark asked about particular locations and severity of rocks to gauge the time and resources needed for this project. Barb responded that it will need to be done regularly.

The financial report for January was reviewed. The recent heating utility bill exceeded \$5000 for the month. A service rebate for \$100 on the Expo building boiler will be filed for. A new line item in the financial report is credit card charges, reflecting the expenses involved in accepting card payments.

The CIP submittals for the FY 2015 budget process were reviewed. Timing and estimated costs of each project were covered with details and minor discussion.

Committee reports: No reports were heard.

Old Business: FY 2014 CIP projects: Ken Huff with Architects Design Group was introduced. The project contains 4 elements; roofing of upper, middle, and lower areas. Each level was described with access and safety features. Underside painting of all exposed steel, encapsulating existing paint in case it contains lead. Expected life is 10 years for the painting with timing the largest expense. Lighting replacement is another significant project underside of the canopy. Levels should be up to 3 times of current level. Emergency lighting with ½ of the lights coming on is included. ADA seating addition is the 4th part of the overall project. This was explained by Ken with drawings discussed. Discussion followed with changes to the existing ADA seating area being included as an alternate in the bid process. Bids are planned for opening on March 18th with a proceed to start March 25th. This timeline is still fluid and seeking 80-90 days of construction.

Sam asked for any other Old Business. None heard.

New Business: FY 2015 Budget process – the board preferred a workshop format with the date of March 20th at 5:30 pm chosen. Submittal deadline to the County is March 28th.

Sam would like to have Board committee members selected in advance. CIP would include Butch and Mike. Executive committee is Sam and Wes. Livestock is Wes and Gary. No other committees were needed at this time.

Other new business: Mark explained our relationship with Justin Boot Rodeos. We are recognized as one of the top 100. Wes, the past Chair, was recognized with a pair of Justin boots for his contribution and volunteer efforts.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm was made by Wes, seconded by Mike; question was called with all in favor.

Submitted by: mc
Approved as submitted:


Chair

4-13-14
Date