

FLATHEAD COUNTY FAIR COMMISSION

Meeting minutes from November 16, 2011

The November 16, 2011 meeting called to order by Butch Woolard at 6:30 pm in the 4-H Building at the Flathead County Fairgrounds

Roll call of members; Wes McAlpin, Butch Woolard, CM Clark Mike Mower and Joy Struble all in attendance.

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

Previous Minutes: CM moved to approve the October 19, 2011 minutes as presented. Mike seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor.

Staff & Guests: Sharon Askelson, Eloise Hill, and Angie Olsen were present.

Public Comment: Butch asked if any members of the public wished to comment this evening. Sharon appreciated the changed date of the meeting, allowing her to attend. Eloise Hill introduced herself and is a neighbor of the Fairgrounds. She was watching the City Planning Board meeting and felt their description of “transform” the fairgrounds in relation to West Side Urban Plan discussions was a strong term. The Fairgrounds is a personal interest of hers and she will be attending meetings to understand the potential changes.

Manager’s report: Mark reviewed recent activities and fairground projects. A brief discussion on priorities of the concept plan was held. The proposed budget for concert entertainment was shared and discussed. The Fair has offers submitted for Christian and Country performers. The Tuesday Christian concert format must be changed to increase interest and participation as it has been marginal the past three years. A general discussion was held. Updates will be provided as they occur.

The October monthly financial statements were reviewed.

The Kalispell Turf Club has submitted date request to the Montana Horse Racing Board. This application will be reviewed December 2nd and a decision by the Board will follow. If approved, the Fair will negotiate for a facility use agreement. A discussion on the financial impact to the fair was held. Mike requested validation of the financial returns be conducted so best decisions can be made. Mark will follow with a report on the 2011 Horse Racing impact and capture better data if the 2012 meet occurs.

Mark introduced Angie Olsen and the American Cancer Society’s request to conduct their “Kick-Off” event in the Expo Building again this year. Angie explained there were 400+ people who attended the 2011 event and more than 1,500 volunteers who participated in the 4 local walk-a-thons where the Fair was recognized as a sponsor. She talked about the benefits provided victims and their families by American Cancer Society. CM moved to approve the Cancer Society’s Kick-Off event with the Fair as a sponsor, motion seconded by Joy. All were in favor.

Committee reports: Joy has spoken with the County grant writer and will work with her on possible grants for Fairground projects as soon as she is settled in her relocated office. Wes attended the Chamber Ag Committee meeting this past Wednesday. Sponsorship will be focused on the youth selling animals rather than the overall sale. The decision process on removal of dangerous animals has been clarified. The Livestock coordinator will make the decision. Appeals will first go to the Advisor/Leaders group. If appealed again, the final decision will be considered by the Fair Commission as outlined in the Fair Book.

Old Business: Facility Planning – the LiDAR topography mapping and utility identification occurred last week. A copy of the map will be made available to those who wish it once completed. Mark is staging the exterior plan costs in preparation for consideration by the County Commissioners. A RFQ for engineering services is being readied.

No additional old business was heard.

New Business

December meeting: A brief discussion was held about the regularly scheduled December meeting. CM moved to cancel the December meeting due to the holiday season. Wes seconded the motion. All were in favor.

2012 Facility rental rates: Mark gave a brief overview of the proposed 2012 rates. Only minor changes were made. Mike moved to approve the 2012 Facility rental rates as a guideline, leaving Fair management with the prerogative to work with the clients for the best arrangement. CM seconded the motion. The vote was 4 to 1 with Joy opposing.

No additional new business was brought forward or discussed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm was made by Wes, seconded by CM, question called with all in favor.

Submitted by: mc

Approved as submitted:

Chair

Date