

FLATHEAD COUNTY FAIR COMMISSION
Meeting minutes from October 10, 2013

The October 10, 2013 meeting called to order by Wes McAlpin at 6:30 pm in the 4H Building at the Flathead County Fairgrounds

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

Guest present: Sharon Askelson and Ron Thibert.

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

Previous Meeting Minutes: Two sets of minutes were presented. September Board meeting and the workshop held September 17th. Sam believed Ron Thibert made public comment at the workshop and asked that be checked. Pending any corrections, Sam moved to approve the minutes from September 12th and the workshop on September 17th. Michael seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Public Comment: Sharon was hoping to hear of maintenance plans for the fairgrounds, especially areas that would assist the seniors in movement around the grounds. No further comments were received.

Ron Thibert: He believes the fair is going the wrong direction. A new manager was hired a few years ago with hope for changes to be made that would be better for the horsemen. Stall rent of \$60 per month has been paid for many years. Maintenance of J & K barns has been non-existent. Junk is lying around the barns and should be hauled to the dump. This is unacceptable as far as the horsemen are concerned. Things need to be done and the feel like lepers at the north end. Equipment that is broke should be fixed. Rules should be posted that everybody can live by. Collection from one renter couldn't happen because Mark changed the arrangement. A change is needed and Ron would accept the manager's resignation. He commented on the recent Daily Interlake article about the master plan concept and how the reporter would not take his comments.

Manager's Report: Mark reviewed the Commissioner's update including projects underway, fair matters, and current events scheduled. Fair conventions are approaching and need to finalize attendance. The Chris Young offer is still being considered by his agent. The September financial report was presented with 52% of revenues earned and 47% of expenses.

An equipment CIP presentation packet was shared with the members. The culti-packer has fully broken. The County Commissioners asked to consider other options for repair or similar equipment as time allows with the equipment needed in the spring. Our current item is 30+ years old and severely worn. General discussion followed.

A letter to the newspaper editor regarding the master plan story from Howard Stockwell was shared.

Committee reports: No reports.

Old Business: The draft RFP for Grandstand roof project was shared. The document is with the County Attorney for approval. Timelines and scope of work were reviewed. A Fair Commission member and County Administrator would be on the selection committee. Butch Woolard was chosen. Mike asked how many additional handicapped seats would be desired. Ideally would repeat the existing seating section which would double capacity. Timeline for construction would be April/May. City permits are required. Michael clarified the selection of two separate firms, architect and contractor.

Convention Registrations – Michael would like to attend both RMAF and IAFE. Gary has expressed interest in IAFE. Sam moved to send Michael and Mark to both RMAF and IAFE and Gary to IAFE. Butch seconded the motion. Approved by all members.

The November Fair Commission meeting falls during RMAF Convention. It was moved by Butch and seconded by Sam to move the November Fair Commission meeting back one week to November 21st. Approved by all members.

New Business:

Personnel matter – Wes asked Mark if he wished the personnel matter be held in open or closed session. Mark asked for a closed session. Sam moved to adjourn the general meeting into closed session. Michael seconded the motion.

Before adjourning, Ron Thibert stated that race dates must be into the Horse Racing Board by November 7th. Was seeking direction if they should or shouldn't submit race dates for 2014. He wasn't sure of other track operations but would like to see Missoula operate. Mark shared the 2014 dates of August 13-17th if that would help with their submission.

Question called and all in favor at 7:15 pm.

The meeting was called back to order at 7:33 pm. A motion to approve the manager's contract was made by Michael. Sam seconded the motion. No further discussion was held. Approved by all.

No further business was discussed. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm was made by Sam, seconded by Michael; question was called with all in favor.

Submitted by: mc

Approved as submitted:

W McCall
Chair

11/21/13
Date