

Yuma County Fair Board Minutes

July 19, 2021

Meeting Called to order by David Blach @ 7:04pm, Yuma County Fair Grounds

Roll Call included Fair Board members David Blach, Darcy Stallings, Jed Gleghorn, BJ Mekelburg, Micah Seyler, Baylor, Buck, Robin Schneider, Michelle Smith ;CSU Extension Travis Taylor, Joy Akey, JoLynn Midcap; Yuma County Commissioner Scott Weaver; Superintendents Tom Mekelburg, Mariya Mekelburg, Lainey Mekelburg, Jill Mekelburg; Fairgrounds Manager Jaden Campbell; Yuma County Sheriff Department Larry Gilliland, William Janisch; Fair Manager Kim Latoski; Guests Dean Yearous, Crystal Yearous.

The approval of May 2021 minutes was needed. After review of the minutes it was moved to accept the May minutes by BJ Mekelburg, M Seyler seconded. Motion carried. The June 2021 minutes were reviewed, motion by H Blakham to approve, second by Mekelburg. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports

No Parade present, Rodeo, Horse Races and Draft Horse Pull were all reported good to go.

Grounds Crew- J Campbell

1. The shade frames are up on the north side of the arena. The fabric shades should be stretched around the end of the week into next week.
2. Dick Mekelburg has decided he is going to step down. Campbell will be taking over that position. He recognized some concerns about his ability to get everything ready without Mekelburg on staff. Campbell has one person already lined out to help, another is supposed to get to the courthouse and fill out their paperwork. He feels confident set up and tear down should be pretty simple this year. Campbell has decided that mowing a couple days before the fair along with the trimming so that everything will be good and hold over during the fair and said he will have everything ready before fair.
3. Campbell has been talking with outfits to provide golf carts for staff to use during the fair, but no one has enough inventory to help out this year. He has one cart for the cleaning crew at this time. Campbell has a few more people to talk to for donation of carts for the fair but encourages anyone with a cart they may use to let him know.
4. Eight pallets of shavings were used in 2020, Campbell has ordered 10 pallets for 2021 and Quality Farm and Ranch has said they will keep some on-hand for the fair.
5. The livestock species signs from the old livestock barns need to be relocated to the new show barn (hog, sheep, goat).
6. Weeds were sprayed once this year already. Spray crew has said once these campers move out that they will spray again once they move.
7. It was requested the arena needs worked really well and have a group of kids walk the arena and pick out large rocks. Some thoughts were to have the 4-H kids do it on work day or possibly have the horse kids come in and pick up rocks, work the arena and then walk it again. S Weaver assured us the County would make sure the arena was ready to go.
8. Champion Alley is planned and will be ready, although the Kids' Korral may need to be moved.
9. The Buckets Calf pens will be brought into the beef barn and placed at the end of the Dairy area.

Fair Manager – Kim Latoski

1. Report from the National Anthem Tryouts- 6 people tried out this year and all have a spot at some point during the fair to sing.
2. Latoski has contacted the area banks and they will help sell tickets at the fair, as well as the Lions taking tickets for the performances.
3. She has been around to all the implement dealers and all of them will at least have 1 item out here during the fair even though their inventory is low.
4. There are 6 confirmed booth vendors as of July 19th
5. Elite Rolloff and Shaw Disposal both have agreed to locate dumpsters for pick up areas.
6. All the food booths are onboard with their own trash out and inside cleaning plan.
7. Ticket sales - both rodeos are a little over 90 each, over 119 for the concert.

Extension Report - JoLynn Midcap

1. Midcap is waiting for Kurt to come back and certify the scale.
2. Record books are due Friday, which will allow us to know the number of exhibitors and pens needed.
3. The Extension has purchased a laptop and it will enable them to do all of the 4-H entries on the Show Works program. The premium money will be sent in checks, with exception of premiums of \$10 and below will be done via cash.
4. They are going to have a mandatory exhibitor meeting like the State Fair so everyone is on the same page and questions answered prior to the shows.

Superintendents Reports-

1. Crops and Garden are working out to have them in the Home Ec building.
2. Someone needs to talk to Dean Wingfield about the Bucket calves being moved, D Blach agreed to talk to him. Extension will get with Campbell next week after record books are in to discuss how many Bucket calves and where to put them.
3. D Stallings will forward a few items from Ryan Noble that need to be fixed to J Campbell.

Security- Larry Gilliland – they are ready to go and all the slots are filled even though they could not find plain shirt staff for the night shifts.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Cleaning Crew - M Smith reported the cleaning contract has been signed for \$5000 and she will email the new contract to everyone so that all fair board members know the updates.
2. Livestock Sale Committee - The Buyers' dinner will be 5pm. We will not be able to do online bidding as all of the equipment is hard-wired to the sale barn. The sale will still be live-streamed.
3. There were a couple of donors that came to D Stallings and they donated funds for a brand-new sound system and speakers in the new show barn. They stated they don't care how much it costs; they want it done. A professional sound company should be installing a system with 13-15 speakers. D Stallings will talk to Aageson about moving the existing speakers into the pen area for calling classes, etc. It was brought to our attention that if we do online bidding, due to the distance, there might be a delay and echoing. That will need to be evaluated once the new system is up and running.
4. D Blach added if we could find a second screen for the beer garden area. D Blach also said he was approached by an anonymous donor who has offered a double-sided scrolling message

board for the new barn so the classes can be placed on there and alert who is up and who is on deck. It is double sided so both sides of the barn are able to see it. – We need to dedicate someone the night of the sale to place the children’s names on the scrolling screen.

5. M Smith had Andrea order the set of 10 radios for the fair and for the livestock sale to aid in communication.
6. Final details for the photo backdrop and Championship Alley were discussed and ready to go by J Campbell prior to the fair.
7. Beer Garden- The Knights of Columbus and the committee are working on details for entry into the concert for the “Standing Room” ticket holders. All Fair Board members are needed to help control this entry. Yuma Lions Club has enough help coming for seating in the seated sections. D Stallings has people to help funnel the standing room only entrance.
8. Golf Carts - The Baptist Church will not be providing golf carts for handicap and public for 2021. The entire church made a decision to not have their golf carts and their members at the fair due to alcohol being on the fairgrounds (ie Beer Garden). Stallings will make a few calls in an attempt to fix this situation and J Gleghorn agreed to help.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Internet - there was no idea where we are on the internet for 2021 during the fair. The last 2 years we have had to hardwire things to make the internet work. Since then no fiber optic has been placed on the northside of Yuma. A. Calhoon has been working on the internet situation. S Weaver spoke with Calhoon during the meeting and confirmed there are 3 dedicated routers for the YCSO and 1 dedicated to the fair. M Seyler will talk to Calhoon with any other needs. Calhoon, Jeremy Weathers, and M Seyler will meet up before the fair to test the internet.
2. The board needs to approve salaries for fair staff in 2021. R Schneider made a motion to request funding from the YC Commissioners to approve salaries for Fair Manager- \$1000 and Rodeo Chairman- \$1000. M Smith seconded and motion carried.
3. Locks for the Horse Stalls for Rodeo Contestants were brought up. M Smith ordered 36 locks to lock down the stalls after the fair contestants leave and charge \$20 per stall for the rodeo contestants. Smith will be in charge of signage, contestant phone calls and unlocking/locking the stalls back up. J Gleghorn suggested \$10 should be kept for cleaning of the stalls to pay the individuals that help clean the stalls and hopefully have the remaining funds go into an earmarked fund for the rodeo and/or horse department. In 2021, \$5.00 per stall will go towards paying for the locks. All additional money going forward will be placed in the fair fund with evaluation in 2022 where funds will go, ie. rodeo, premium money, etc.
4. Concern was brought up that no Parade Committee members have been present at the last few meetings, as well as the Horse Race representative(s). Brian was contacted via phone and confirmation was made that Sunday races will start at 12:30pm with 6 races planned. The purse amount was discussed. M Seyler moved we run the horse races as always. J Gleghorn amended the main motion to accept the purse at \$6000 and races for 2021 with amendment to re-discuss the purse and races for 2022. H Blackham seconded. Amendment passed. Motion was also approved as amended.

Reminder for Fair Board meetings during the fair on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday: meet at the fair office 4pm each day and other meetings may be called if necessary.

For the Good of the Order- (nothing from anyone)

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted - Michelle Smith and Robin Schneider