

***Yuma County Fair Board***  
***March 21, 2022***

The regularly scheduled March meeting of the Yuma County Fair Board was called to order by President Dave Blach at 6:42 pm at the YC Commissioners Office in Wray CO.

Present at the meeting were Fair Board members Blach, BJ Mekelburg, Jaden Campbell, Harold Blackham, Robin Schneider; CSU Extension Joy Akey, Jolynn Midcap; Yuma County Commissioners Scott Weaver, Trent Bushner; Rodeo Manager Cassidee Gleghorn; Superintendents/Leaders Mariya Mekelburg, Curt Lapp, Sharon Blackham, Kahlee Lapp. Also present by phone were Fair Board members Michelle Smith, Justin Crossland, Micah Seyler, Baylor Buck; Fair Manager Kim Latoski and Parade Committee Penni Danner, Robin Brown.

The Fair Board welcomed its newest Member Jaden Campbell who replaced Darcy Stallings. Campbell has been working for the county as Fairgrounds Maintenance/Manager in recent years so comes on the board completely up to speed. The minutes from February meeting had a few clarifications and details corrected. B Mekelburg moved to accept the minutes as corrected, J Campbell seconded, motion carried.

**Reports from committees:**

- Parade - Penni Danner & Robin Brown (on phone) responded to requests from the board to move the time of the parade up to 9:00 or 9:30. Online input from the community clearly favored keeping the regular 10 am start and the committee would like to keep it the same as well. (353 responded with approx. 75% keep @10am, 20%@ 9:30, 5%@9:00) They announced the theme: "Through the Decades of High School Nostalgia" and Marilyn Welp will be the Grand Marshall.
- Horse Races- Brian brought to our attention the races have paid for their own security last year and the YC Sheriff only added security around the perimeter of the track, so it does not need to be included in the security budget.
- Jr. Livestock Sale - an additional ShoWorks computer operator is needed to help with the entries for the sale and to update the buyers etc. The committee was notified that Tri-State Livestock Exchange will not help administer the sale for 2022. The Sale Committee and Fair Board need to get additional office help and ShoWorks operators to do the work of the prior sale staff (approx. 4 people). Lori Hoffner has agreed to help with food prior to the sale to draw buyers. The current thoughts are to do hors d'oeuvres or something similar in the west covered barn.
- Sheriff/Security - no report and will update as the beer garden security needs are addressed.
- Commissioners - T Bushner said talks with Rhett Akins have stalled and they are currently looking at other options such as Diamond Rio. He will try to put some pressure on to get something secured. S Weaver said they are working on a job description for the Fairgrounds Maintenance/Manager and will advertise the job and fill once that is completed.
- Fair Manager- K Latoski has been working on a volunteer list and getting golf carts located for the fair. A vendor meeting is set up and they will be laying out vendor booth sizes and various locations to maximize the space and generate other ideas for increasing the number of vendors. Latoski reported advertising started for a Public/Farmers Market on Saturday 11-3. Jackie Seyler has been working on the market and has 15-20 vendors committed and would like to have space for up to 30 with 6-8 ft booth space. Discussion was held about the best location and the west end of the Beef barn was the most favorable location at the meeting with more details to be decided. Latoski has been considering a thank you dinner or some way to support our donors/funders for the fair. Plans are to look at different ways to market the fair and gain additional donors or sponsors. The cleaning crew advertisements have not received any interest from any parties. Suggestions were made to advertise the job, clarifying the split into two crews for trash and cleaning separate and possibly reaching out to school organizations.

- Rodeo - C Gleghorn reported the PRCA has approved the dates for the rodeos. There have been some conflicts with another rodeo and therefore the slack schedule has been updated as follows: Barrel Racing and Break Away Roping on Sunday after the rodeo; Steer Roping @ 1pm Monday; Team Roping, Steer Wrestling and Calf Roping will be after the rodeo on Monday evening. The Board gave her our support to proceed with a BBQ cook-off/competition beginning 12 am Sunday, proceeding on Sunday with judging at 4pm and using the meat to feed the rodeo contestants, staff and volunteers. She would like to set up on the west end of the grandstands. Sunday night performance will likely be “Tough Enough to Wear Pink” and Monday’s performance “Special Forces” themes.
- Extension Office- J Midcap stated she was working on the list of livestock judges given by the committee. J Akey requested we look at checking out projects late on Sunday as it would be easier for working people to help. After discussion it was decided to keep them on Monday and allow the public to have the full day on Sunday to view all the projects on the fairgrounds. It was decided to have HomeEC and General project check out from 8-10 am and livestock check out from 8am - 12pm Monday. Fashion Review was finalized for Wed. July 27<sup>th</sup>. Pending scheduling confirmation, the Senior Day will be held on Friday from 8-10 am.
- Superintendents/4-H Leaders/FFA Advisors - M Mekelburg requested the Dairy champions be able to have buckles as an award as she has sponsors, the Board said to please proceed. Some further clarification was needed about photographer proposals that were brought before the Board and Commissioners at the January meeting. As the exhibitors have had photographers volunteer their services at prior fairs, the Board fielded discussion about the proposals costing the fair. It was recommended to see if we still had photographers willing to take pictures and charge exhibitors for the photos, and if needed find sponsors for the photographer’s fees instead of dipping into the fair budget.

#### Old Business- Open/Tabled Items:

- Beer Garden - a proposal from the committee is attached to the minutes detailing dates and location for the beer garden at the 2022 fair and a few options the committee would like the Board to consider. The main dates are Friday, Aug 5th from 1-5pm at the east covered barn (old Sheep barn) and considering 3 options for Friday evening surrounding the night show/concert. The Board favored option 3, beer garden 6-11pm located west of the grandstands but also allow patrons 21+ with a wristband to take their alcohol into the seats of the grandstands as well as in the beer garden (no alcohol allowed in standing room area). Saturday, Aug. 6th, 1-11pm in the east covered barn. Sunday, Aug 7th 7-11? pm offering 2 beer garden areas: #1-west of grandstands allowing alcohol with wristbands (21+) in the grandstand seats, #2-in the infield area of the rodeo arena also with wristbands (21+). Monday, Aug 8th 7-11? pm for the PRCA rodeo to be the same as Sunday. B Buck made a motion to initially approve the rough beer garden proposal and allow details to be settled or agreed upon between vendors and Commissioners. R Schneider seconded; motion carried.
- Senior Day - The plans are proceeding with Senior Day to be held Friday morning, Aug. 5th and K Latoski will talk to Farm Bureau to coordinate the location of the Exhibitor breakfast that morning with the needs of the Sr. Day activities.
- Golf Carts - golf carts for sale by church members and the Stallings family were checked out by D Blach for possible purchase. No action was taken for the price on the carts and storage, etc. Board members were going to continue to look for options. (Talk to Adam Glanz)
- Community for Unity/Blessings for Hope - no further action was taken other than opening up options for the group to hold their dinner and dance on either Thursday evening (option given from Feb. meeting) or possibly coordinate with and around the Friday Night Show/Concert but not

to compete with that event. The Board will contact the organizers of the event and welcome a proposal at the April meeting.

#### **New Business Items:**

- Retired Beef Showmanship - The event is being scheduled for Friday following the Market Beef Show. Discussion around the fitting of the steers and how to coordinate with the Bucket Calf show and Round Robin was fielded. The consensus was to hold it directly following the Beef show, although some preferred holding it between the Bucket Calf and Round Robin. Rules and details for entry are being drawn up.
- Coordination of additional events - organization of possible Cow-Pie Throwing Contest (hosted by the Idalia athletics) Cornhole Tournament, etc. were discussed and all ideas were welcomed by the Fair Board. As the new additions come to light, they will be listed on the fair book schedule under a TBD section.
- Avian Influenza Outbreak-updates from CSU are forthcoming therefore the Board will wait to see their recommendations. S Weaver would also like the Board to address a “bio-security plan” for situations like these.
- Yuma County Cattlemen’s Association is considering sponsoring a “free” beef at the concessions on Friday. The Board supported their ideas and will look forward to more details from the YCCA.
- Current Age Limit for Open Livestock Show is over 5yrs of age. It was discussed the reason or purpose of the age limit and B Mekelburg moved to eliminate the age limit in the fair book, J Crossland seconded, motion carried.
- Fair book Changes/Corrections - J Midcap brought to the Board updates for the 2022 fair book.
  1. Schedule the Dog Show for Tuesday, Aug 2nd;
  2. Exhibit/project release timeframe on Monday 8-10am for HomeEC/General projects (shortened) and extending later for the livestock 8am-12pm;
  3. Beef clipping shoots must be removed by 8am Saturday;
  4. Make ALL age divisions in the fair book consistent with Senior, Intermediate and Junior designations;
  5. Clarification of names for the 4-H horse show divisions “Ranch Horse” on Thursday and “Working Western Horse” on Sunday. Also, open “Ranch Rodeo” to be held on Saturday.
- Head Leaders offered to judge the livestock records books before fair so they could ensure they were completed according to the rules prior to the livestock shows. It was discussed about the benefits to the livestock program but also how challenging it might be to back up the decisions of the committee if it affected the ability of the exhibitors to show and sell their animals. It was decided to hire judges like we have in the past and not make any changes at this time.
- Showmanship Buckles - it was brought up at the February meeting the possibility of awarding buckles to the winners of the showmanship contests at fair. It was decided that if sponsors were found for all six large animal showmen in both senior and intermediate divisions then please proceed with the awards.

Good Of the Order - Pleasant Valley 4-H Club is holding a Cream Can Dinner April 10th. The earlier oversight at beef weigh-ins has been corrected. The ruling change for “Family Animal” has not gotten out to all the exhibitors.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:35pm by President D Blach.

Respectfully submitted - Robin Schneider (in absence of M Smith, Sec.)

Next Meeting - - Yuma Fairgrounds- Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> (Walk-thru 5:30 pm) (Meeting Start 6:30 pm)