

Yuma County Fair Board Meeting  
February 20, 2023 6:30 pm  
Yuma County Election Center – Wray

The regular scheduled February meeting was called to order at 6:35 at the Yuma County Election Center in Wray. In attendance were Fair Board members Baylor Buck, BJ Mekelburg, Tom Mekelburg, Justin Crossland, David Blach, Harold Blackham and Robin Schneider; Rodeo Manager Cassidee Rogers; YC Commissioners Scott Weaver, Adam Gates; CSU Extension Taylor Travis, JoLynn Midcap; 4-H Superintendents Mariya Mekelburg, R Curt Lapp; and guests Gary and Lori Hoffner. The January minutes were reviewed and a motion by T Mekelburg to accept the minutes as presented was seconded by J Crossland and the motion passed.

Committee and Special Reports – (only committees with action or discussion are listed)

- Rodeo – C Rogers has successfully been working on permits and sponsors. Unfortunately, past support from the Cowboy Channel was not available this year. Rogers is working with the Knights of Columbus to organize the competition BBQ which provided the meat for the rodeo meals. She is brainstorming ideas for improving crowd entertainment to increase ticket sales. Ideas explored were chuckwagon races, drill team and possibly an ATV raffle with both Night Show and Rodeo ticket purchase. The Board gave her the go ahead to explore the ATV giveaway.
- Extension – J Midcap asked for clarification of the “family animal” rule for livestock entries. The actual rule states that each family unit can weigh-in any number of head of livestock as their project and only one (1) additional animal can be weighed in per family unit. The family animal, if designated, must then be specified to a specific family member at check-in of livestock in July before fair. D Blach requested (from Ward Deering, Beef Superintendent) the Board look into raising the top weight limit (or eliminating the limit) for Beef at the YC Fair weigh-in. Following discussions, no action was taken.
- Parade – J Campbell reported that despite some reservations about moving the start time for the parade to 9:30, the committee would go ahead with the proposed time change and asked for some help from the Fair Board. It was noted the Yuma City Manager, Scott Moore, expressed concern about a few items regarding the parade. Items drawing concern were the city crews working on Saturday for street closures, etc and safety around candy being thrown in the streets and large implements in the parade. The theme for the 2023 Parade will be “Rockin’ On The Plains” and the Grand Marshall will be Don and Margaret Marr. The committee has transportation arranged for the Fair Board and requested the members ride in the parade. The committee asked if the county offices would be willing to print the flyers for the parade and the Commissioners suggested they talk to the county office to coordinate. Rodney and Crystal Terrell could possibly handle the Courtesy Carts at the fair and everyone was open to having someone or group take over that.
- Livestock Sale – changes to the Livestock Sale were under discussion including ways the sale could be adjusted to make it run more smoothly and get finished in a shorter time frame if the sale were to start later, 5:00 or 5:30 start, and still be completed around 7 pm. This is necessary to allow minimal overlap with the Ranch Rodeo and potentially allow the Livestock Sale Promotions to hold their buyers dinner after the sale. Things which would be necessary in order to keep this schedule would be 1) reducing the size of the sale ring; 2) getting larger, more visible

buyer numbers on the card and 3) having as many buying groups established and registered before the sale starts. It was confirmed the electrical and AV cords had been added to the north side of the livestock ring in the event the announcer stand would be moved to the north. The location and time of the Buyer's Dinner was under discussion. At the January meeting the Vendor and Marketing Committee had proposed to hold the Public & Farmer's Market in the old hog barn on Friday, Saturday and Sunday which potentially conflicted with the time and area the Livestock Sale Promotions committee typically held the Buyer's Dinner. Organizer of the dinner, Lori Hoffner, said the committee was questioning where and when they could hold the dinner if the Market was in that area. More discussion came about details surrounding the dinner. Ultimately, they would like to keep the Buyer's Dinner under the cover of the barn and adjacent to the Beer Garden and Sale Ring. The Board will work with both committees on the details of how to keep the Vendors Market and Buyer's Dinner utilizing the area. It was also requested the parents' names be posted in the sale bill behind the exhibitor's name. The scale is gone out of the hog barn and it was requested the old wash rack between the hog and calf barn be worked on to utilize that area and make the covered area more accessible from the southwest. Commissioner Weaver stated that it may have to wait until a later year for completion at this point.

- Marketing and Vendor – C Rogers has contacted the high school business and FFA departments to see if they would like to help with the fair marketing. Candy Gilliland is working on updating the Vendor packet for distribution.
- Beer Garden – B Buck presented the update proposal for the beer garden at the 2023 Fair. No beer is planned for Wednesday or Thursday. Friday will have an afternoon beer garden before the night show. The night show will change to allow beer to be served from a station and taken anywhere in the concert venue (sitting or standing) with a concert ticket and wristband. Saturday beer garden will have an expanded area allowing easier bidding for the livestock sale. Lastly, the rodeo performances will both have a beer garden allowing alcohol with a wristband and rodeo ticket on the south side of the rodeo only.

## OLD BUSINESS

The Knights of Columbus may be organizing the BBQ competition. The competition will start Friday night and be completed on Saturday to provide food for the Community BBQ following the parade. C Rogers will follow up with them for finalizing the plans.

For the Night Show, an offer is out to Maddie & Tae with no word coming back. S Weaver will talk with Trent Bushner and put some pressure on to make sure we can get a timely answer on an artist. The Ministerial Alliance has a Nashville act coming for their show, so we look forward to a good act.

The search for livestock judges is continuing. Scheduling individuals with time for travel with a sizable distance for the judge(s) and getting responses from prospective judges seem to be the challenges in securing the judge(s). Initially, a single judge who could judge multiple species was being sought, but now separate judges for the individual species are being considered. As the list is being exhausted, the superintendents and livestock committee will continue to work with J Midcap and T Travis to get the judge(s) secured.

The position of Fair/Event Manager has hopefully been filled and the commissioners office should have the candidate named approximately March 1.

The YC Fair schedule had a couple of finalizations and there was discussion on how best to get the word out to the public. J Crossland will check with the Blessings for Hope committee for a time for their Friday event, which will be only the dinner and auction with no dance following the night show concert.

T Mekelburg will check back with the school FFA chapters to ask for their participation in making metal signs for a donation at the start of the sale and also to seek donors for the materials. Mekelburg will also contact the Dairy judge.

Beef Weigh-In, scheduled for February 25, will be moved to Tri-State Livestock in Wray due to the dangerous icy and muddy conditions according to BJ Mekelburg. The south location at Idler's, volunteers, brand inspections, and other details were confirmed.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Changes to the Fairbook were confirmed including some changes with the Fair Queen program from Michelle Smith. Midcap asked for clarification with the camper reservations on the Fairgrounds. First preference will be given to any exhibitor and immediate family through July 1 and then the available spots will be opened to the public for reservation. Camping fees shall remain the same as 2022 rates.

No further new business so "For Good of Order" was requested. R Schneider gave her plans for distribution of the minutes and other Fair Board correspondence. The approved minutes of the last meeting will be posted on the Yuma County website as well as the schedule. The schedule will be added to the newspaper and Facebook page to reach the public. A brief summary of the current month's minutes will also be posted there. The extension staff will forward meeting reminders and other correspondence to the 4-H Leaders and Superintendents.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. Next meeting will be March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in Wray at the Election Center.

Respectively submitted

Robin Schneider, Secretary