

## Meeting Minutes

Date: February, 15, 2024

Meeting was called to order by: BJ Mekelburg

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Baylor Buck, David Blach, Justin Crossland, BJ Mekelburg, Harold Blackham, Tom Mekelburg, Micah Saylor, Jolynn Midcapp, Curt Lapp, Fair Queens/ coordinator, Carmen Murray, Mariya Mekelburg, Treia Means, Travis Taylor, Jolynn Midcap, Robin Schineider, Ruben Richardson, Cassidee Rogers, Robin Schneider

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Ruben to approve the minutes and Robin Seconded.

### **COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL REPORTS:**

Extension Report: Jolynn made a request from the dog showing kids to add an agility contest to the dog show. It is estimated that this would add around an hour to an hour and a half to the show. Dog show will be at the same time but will add agility. She went on to mention that the photo contest the council and the clubs have volunteered to take over doing that. The financial and the work part the clubs will take over doing that. They would also like to add two more locations there will be six photos around. She also mentioned interview judging day is the same day as Logan Counties interview judging day. Board discussed moving interview judging to Monday may be a better choice in order to have judges available. Decision was made to move interview judging to the 29th.

Travis mentioned a plan to go back to a normal poultry show and have live birds at the sale. Rabbit question: In the fair book it is mentioned that in a market pen of rabbits the exhibitor must own the doe that those rabbits are out of. Some counties have gone away from this rule. Mentioned getting rid of that rule or figuring out a way to enforce that rule. Question was raised about what the state fair rule was? A roster class was mentioned in order for kids to be able to show older and heavier rabbits and would be easier for kids to meet the requirements for that class. A discussion was had about if the rule was to be taken out, what rules would be put in place as far as owned by date ect... July first would be the date rabbits would need to be obtained by the kids.

It was moved by Harold to amend the rule in the fairbook regarding the pen of 3 and having kids put in an entry card by July 1st in order for rabbits and poultry to be eligible for pen of 3. It was seconded by Micah.

**Rodeo:** Cassidee mentioned she is forming a rodeo committee. She has 3 people so far and is waiting on 2 more to hear back from.

**Carmen's report:** No carnival is available for this year. Hand out was given with things they can bring. Things such as bouncy houses, and water slides, ect. for 2 days of the fair. Is suggested we do Sunday and Monday. We have the possibility to charge for a wristband per day. We would be in charge of finding people to work on each thing. Carmen will check on insurance and such to run all of these. Possibility on Monday run starting at 1 and running for around 4 hours. If it was decided to do two rooms the company asked for 2 hotel rooms Sunday evening. Board is in agreement that it is important to have something there for the kids to do. It was moved by Micah to allow Carmen to pursue the option of having the bouncy houses and slides with \$15.00 wristbands. It was seconded by Ruben.

**Fairbook:** Carmen asked if the board would like to keep the state fair guidelines in the fairbook or take it out. It was mentioned it is easier to keep those in the fairbook just as an easy access for contestants and their families to look up guidelines and information.

**County events:** Mentioned that Sunday is too bunched and too much going on in the arena leading up to the rodeo. Cassidee mentioned having things in the arena before the rodeo makes it difficult to prepare for the rodeo. Cass feels the county events need to be over by 2 or 3 in order to be prepared for PRCA rodeo. It was mentioned to move the working horse show to a different day but would need to discuss that with Ryan Noble.

**Ranch Rodeo:** Cassidee called around and found someone out of Akron to run the entire rodeo. Ranch rodeo would be Thursday night. This would be a big jump in cost to spend on the ranch rodeo compared to years in the past. It will not be only local teams, they have to be a part of the program. Would have to charge admission to go in order to afford the company to do it. After discussion it was decided to table the ranch rodeo until 2025 and not do the ranch rodeo this year.

**Scott Weaver Commissioner:** War Hippies are on the books for our Night Show. Cost was around 15k. That includes the stage and all the things. Tickets are on sale online. Carmen is currently working on a marketing ad to get out to the radio stations and other outlets.

**Budget:** No up to date budget available

**Superintendents:** Robin has been kicking around idea about another sheep and goat superintendent.

**Fair Queens:** Fair queens were able to attend and host PRCA athletes at the National Western Stock Show hospitality. There were a lot of questions about our fair and our rodeo.

Fair Grounds: No new reports. However, it was mentioned that work is being done in a timely manner.

**Beer Garden:** Beer garden committee met and talked about possible changes. changes could be for the sale opening it up for buyers to be able to sit with their families and such instead of having it segregated to its own area. Discussed having a beer garden over on the other side of the tracks.

**Livestock Sale:** All of the checks have been collected for this year. Everything else is done.

**Parade:** Treia Means report: Grand Marshall ideas are welcome. Asking for you to give us a reason why you think they are deserving of this.

**Livestock:** Nothing new to report

**Marketing and Vendor committee:** Robin handed out a flier about the vendor areas. Having vendors Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Asking for opinions on whether they should require certain hours for each vendor to be there? It was suggested to have an opening time everyday.

**Sponsorships:** Should have a complete sponsorship package ready to go by the end of February. Will be both Yuma county fair and rodeos. Will start with rodeo sponsorships and then go into the general sponsors.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Concessions:** Lutheran's concessions want to stay the entire time on Monday as well as Boosters. Both concessions said they would stay open even if the food trucks came in. Open up for food trucks on Monday afternoon/evening. Times will be from 3:00-until they don't have any more customers.

It was noted that over 80% of people as soon as they left the fair they went to restaurants.

**Premium Sale:** Discussion was had on the pros and cons of having a premium sale. The sale barn is taking over our sale so thinking of ways to make it easier for everyone. It was decided to leave the sale the way it is right now and revisit a different way to do that next year.

**Spanish band:** Ruben talked to someone at la Terraza and he said he could get people out to the fair. Budget would be around 2-5,000 dollars. Mentioned also talking to Todd with Mega Music. Mentioned the need for food, beer, and a lot of security. Thoughts on having it in the main grandstands to allow for people to dance. Will have a beer garden committee check into the availability of a beer garden. It was mentioned, if you have it in the main grandstands you

could charge an entrance. Ruben was asked to pursue the band options further and will contact Todd with mega music for a stage and such.

**Superintendents code of conduct:** Tom presented the board with a rough draft of the code of conduct for superintendents. The purpose is basically to lay out some rules for superintendents. It was discussed that if you have a conflict of interest in the showing it is being enforced that you remove yourself from that class.

The plan is to have something ready to go for superintendents to sign at fair and will work on the wording of this for now.

New business:

Draft horse show: Daryl Hill called Carmen about doing a draft horse show. They would do around 5 events and it takes around 4-5 hours to do the entire show. Trying to find more places to get out and do this. Everything would be furnished and they would do it for donations to get here. \$500-\$1,000 would be what they would want to do this. They would need the arena. They do it evenings a lot of times or the weekends. They would bring all the competitors; they just need a place to do it. Looking at Thursday night as the option for them to come and do it.

Board is in agreement that it is a go and to offer them \$500.00 dollars to get there. Offer it as a free show this year as a first year.

BJ said he would call him back and let him know what was discussed.

**Meeting was adjourned by BJ**

Minutes submitted by Justin Crossland Secretary