

## Yuma County Fair Board

Minutes 9/16/24

Eckley Community Center

President BJ Mekelburg called the meeting to order at 7pm. Board members in attendance were Micah Seyler, Baylor Buck, Tom Mekelburg, BJ Mekelburg, Justin Crossland, Jessica Murray, Harold Blackham, and David Blach. Others in attendance were John Schaffner, Gary Hoffner, Jalyn Archer, Tatum Soehner, Amber Soehner, Jessica Friedley, Mindy Crossland, Scott Weaver, Shauna Fonte, Mariya Mekelburg, Carrie Wacker, Cassidee Rogers, Michelle Smith, Kaci Porter, Carmen Murray, Joni Turvey, Travis Taylor, Jolynn Midcap, Curt Lapp, Jeremy Blach, Jaden Campbell. Ryan Noble, Ward Deering.

### Public Comment on Fair 2024:

- Night Show
  - Suggestion of Michael Martin Murphy
- Sale
  - Asked not to start with small animals
  - Let beer garden in sale area
  - Cut sale ring down
  - No kids to hang sale banners- adults
    - Permanent sale signs
  - Sound system needs adjusted to hear better
  - Too many mistakes in parade of champions
  - No recognition for carcass awards
  - Sell 2 head suggested
- Livestock
  - Hog top end to be moved to 300lbs
  - Fundraise to get program where kids can get 1500 towards first animal—boost numbers
    - Wackers would sponsor a lamb
    - No one has used Noble's 0% financed steer for a year
    - Homegrown/catch a calf?
  - Liked bringing animals in night before show
  - Wackers to sponsor breeding banner for sheep
  - Remove rule in fair book about having 5 animals to make class
  - Small animal barn
    - Needs anti dust
    - Mouse problem
    - LED lighting, ceiling fans, cement floor would be nice
  - Mentioned there was a lot of outside show help this year and some kids didn't touch animal
  - Beef/Dairy stall set up needs to run smoother next year
  - 1650 max weight on steers "needs to go"

- Cattlemen division issues
- Schedule
  - Mess this year, seemed too long
  - Liked Saturday sale
  - Parents and buyers were exhausted having sale and show on same day
  - Horse show took hit for schedule- no help and less participants mid-week
  - Parade, rodeo, night show suggestion on a weekend
  - Need something for kids carnival etc.
- Other
  - Fair book needs to be out sooner
  - Wants 150X150 warm up arena
  - Need more vendors
  - Todd with mega music out of Sterling offered services

### Regular Meeting

Minutes were presented. Dave motioned to approve the minutes. Harold seconded and motion passed.

### Committee reports

- Extension asked projects be picked up. Extension Administrative staff quit. There is no access to the 4-H Facebook currently.
- Jalyn Archer and Tatum Soehner introduced themselves as 2025 royalty and discussed upcoming events.
- Cassidee got good feedback on the rodeo. Will try for that stock contractor again next year.
- Carmen has premiums out to the kids for projects. Jaden commented they need more time to set up beef barn. He also wants a smaller water truck for arena watering.
- Jessica F. brought up scrapies tag issue this year. Also mentioned there were open class late adds which aren't supposed to be allowed. Ryan is considering doing a Working Ranch Horse circuit for the WRH kids so they get more opportunities than just fair.
- Sale committee is working on getting money collected and checks out. Less than 20% to collect still. Asked if we have any shows on the same day as sale make it small animal species.

Fair dates for 2025 discussed. Micah moved to have fair July 31-August 3. Tom seconded. Dave moved to amend the motion to have the dates be July 31 – August 4. Tom seconded and motion passed.

Board elections were held. Jessica moved to nominate Tom for president, Micah seconded, and motion passed. Dave moved to close nominations and Harold seconded. Motion passed. Dave nominated Justin for vice president, Jessica seconded, and motion passed. Baylor moved to close nomination and Harold seconded. Harold moved to nominate Jessica for secretary, Justin seconded, and motion passed. Micah moved to close nominations and Dave seconded.

Commissioner Weaver discussed the preliminary budget. Not all numbers were finalized. Currently, fair has \$115,000 in revenue and is expected to double. Expenses were up this year at \$185,705.

Commissioner Weaver also discussed changes in the Memorandum of Understanding between Yuma County Board of Commissioners, Yuma County Fair Board, and Colorado State University Extension that would be taking place. Some preliminary changes include deadlines for fair activities, YCFB adopting bylaws, fair board member presence on committees, and required fair book review.

Tom mentioned the parade committee wanting new membership. Ryan asked if the fair board will still sponsor a working ranch horse show if it isn't during fair. Board agreed. Beef weigh-in will be February 22. Lamb and Goat weigh-in will be May 3. Outside cleanup day for fair will be July 21.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.