

Yuma County Fair Board

Minutes 10/21/24

Yuma County Courthouse

President Tom Mekelburg called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. 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 Travis Taylor, Jolynn Midcap, Kaci Porter, Michelle Smith, Jalyn Archer, Tatum Soehner, Curt Lapp, Cassidee Rogers, Mariya Mekelburg, Shauna Fonte, Adam Gates, Scott Weaver, Randy Mekelburg, Carmen Murray, and John Schaffner.

Minutes were presented. BJ moved to approve the minutes as presented. Micah seconded and motion passed.

Committee reports

- Extension: Still waiting on green cards to get final livestock checks in the mail. Jolynn asked us to consider judges rates increasing for next year. Jessica moved to table discussion until next meeting and Dave seconded.
- Superintendents: There was discussion across the board about fair weights for animals. Dave moved to remove cap on steer weight at fair. Micah seconded and motion passed. Micah moved to lower the bottom weight on goats to 55lbs and Justin seconded. Harold moved to increase top end hog weight at fair to 300lbs. BJ seconded. All weight rules need changed in fair book and sent out to 4-H/FFA. Hog breeds will be classified at fair. Entry cards still need to indicate breed class during May weigh in but the final decision will be called when they walk across the scale at fair. This also needs changed in the fair book and sent out.
- Rodeo: YCF rodeo nominated for small rodeo of the year and most improved rodeo. Cassidee will use the same stock contractor as last year.
- Fair Queen: Royalty will travel to Loveland Circuit Finals to promote YCF. They have also been serving senior dinners and helping at various community events.
- Fairgrounds: Randy updated group on various projects he would like to do that will be going to the commissioners for approval.
- Event Manager: There will be no carnival. Very few companies do carnivals anymore, hard to insure, and we aren't big enough to make a profit. Carmen is heading to CO Association of Fairs meeting next month.
- Parade: Trea said the turnout was miserable this year. Better turnout when county events are the same day.
- Sale: Signs will cost \$10,000 and there is already \$5,000 pledged. BJ moved to pay the other \$5,000 out of the 2% Fund and then fundraise to recoup the expense. Micah seconded and motion passed. Committee also asked for a computer, so they don't have to go through CSU security. Micah moved to approve purchase of laptop using 2% Fund and Baylor seconded.

Fair Committees were established to have at least one board member serve on each.

Committees and Board assignments are as follows:

- Food Booth (Jessica)
- Sponsorship (Justin)
- Vendor (Micah)
- Sounds/ Grounds (Jessica)
- Beer Garden (Baylor and Dave)
- Security (Baylor and Dave)
- Activities (Tom)
- Volunteer (Ruben)
- Budget (Micah)
- Parade (Tom)
- Livestock (BJ, Dave, Baylor, Harold)
- Sale (BJ, Dave, Baylor, Harold)

2025 Fair Schedule was discussed. Tom provided rough draft of his ideas but still needed to fit some events in. Finalizing schedule on hold because we do not have rodeo dates yet as there are a lot of competing rodeos. Queens asked to include queen barrel race into county events.

Public comment review was tabled for November meeting.

MOU was presented by Commissioner Weaver. Board suggested changes that including oversight by extension, adding FFA to be included in duties, clarification, and removal of some verbiage. Micah moved to approve the MOU with changes. Justin seconded and motion carried.

By Laws were presented by Commissioner Weaver. Board suggested changes be made to term length (3 years). Jessica moved to approve with changes. Micah seconded and motion carried. As stated in the adapted by-laws, Fair Board must elect a treasurer. Dave moved to nominate Micah as treasurer and Tom seconded. Jessica moved to close nominations. BJ seconded and motion carried.

Scott presented a budget and went through line by line what was spent last year and what was budgeted this year.

If anyone has special awards for species/project they all need to be recorded by the deadline to have information in the fair book. Money and donations need to be handled by fair management.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:43pm.