

Mercer County Fair Association

PO Box 640, Beulah, ND 58523
www.mercercountyfair.com

2023 Fair Board Directors
Rick Bauman, President
Rick Skraba, Vice President
Jeff Klein, Treasurer
Craig Askim, Secretary
Billy Anvik
Valerie Bauman
Kathy Earnest
Mark Hafner
Duane Hopfauf
Roy Rasch
Rita Skraba
Tiffany Weigum
Cody Wiedrich

FAIR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Country Kettle, Beulah

February 21, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Bauman at 6:34 p.m.

Members Present: Billy Anvik, Craig Askim, Rick Bauman, Valerie Bauman, Kathy Earnest, Duane Hopfauf, Mark Hafner, Jeff Klein, Roy Rasch, Rick Skraba, Rita Skraba, Tiffany Weigum and Cody Wiedrich,

Members Absent: Rick Skraba, Rita Skraba

Guests Present: Cora Smith, Alan Geiger

Secretary's Minutes – Craig read the minutes from the 1-17-24 meeting with one correction, that a sponsorship letter was drafted by Tiffany W., not a scholarship letter. Billy moved to accept the minutes with the correction. Mark seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Jeff stated the balance on hand is \$57,461.27. The request of \$61,000 from Mercer County came. The other \$15,000 requested from Mercer County should be coming in about a week. We have four checks not cashed from the 2023 livestock show at the Fair. Jeff will make a payment to the bank for \$46,000 this week for the hoop barns. He sent the first payment to Hairball for \$2,500. Duane moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Val seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Two people reached out to Rick B. about entertainment. Someone from Vison Zero wants to bring a display simulator to the Fair on July 12, at no charge. The Board agreed. The second person was from Freckle Farms for pony rides. They were supposed to come a few years ago but had to cancel because of Covid. The Board stated it is too late, because the petting zoo is already booked.

Old Business:

• Entertainment Update

- A few contracts still need to be signed and hotel rooms need to be booked.
- Moon Cats Band will play Wednesday night for \$1,000.
- Laster tag company is interested in coming to the Fair. The Board needs to figure out days and time. The cost is \$100 per hour.
- Donkey races will do two shows on Saturday. We have a verbal contract but no written contract. The Board needs to work out a price for two shows.
- The Ranch Rodeo is in place for \$3,500. No night was given on when they will perform.
- Lizzy Hoffer's contract will have to be rewritten because the Board has sound and lights for her.

Old Business (continued):

- **Sponsorship** - Tiffany handed out a giving level list to the Board and is working on getting letters mailed. President Bauman stated all board members need to do their part in asking for sponsorships. The Board will try to do announcements and a logo of sponsorships during the fair.
- **ATM Machine** - Billy and Jeff are working with an ATM company on getting the ATM machine set up. The company will get twenty-five cents per transaction, plus charges an \$8 per month service fee and a \$15 charge for a cell phone service line. It should be up and running within two weeks.
- **Open Class Judges** – Calls have been made. No replies to date.
- **West River Judging Contest** - Craig and Cora gave a recap of the West River Judging Contest. Things went well. We had a good turnout with about 435 students participating in the contests. Jeff gave a sponsorship check for \$1,000 from the Board to Craig to help pay event expenses.
- **City of Beulah Contract** - Rick has not had time to work on the contract for the show area. The Board will try to set up a meeting with the City of Beulah.
- **Fair Ground Improvement** – Jeff moved to have the Board put out bids for getting a water line installed to the hoop barns. Tiffany seconded. Motion carried. The Board set up a sub-committee of Roy, Mark, Cody and Billy to work on the project and makes sure it gets completed. A special Board meeting over Zoom will take place to open bids and make a decision on March 6, at 5 p.m.
- **Website** – Control has been given to the board. Tiffany stated the website is old and out of date. Most sales are being done over the internet so the Board is losing out on sales. Tiffany called some web designer companies to get estimates of the cost to make a new website. The estimates came in at \$5,000 to \$7,000 for everything. If the Board approves, it would be a one stop place and clear up a lot of confusion. Mark and Tiffany will explore other options and report back to the Board during the special meeting on March 6.

New Business

- **Born to Banner** – has been announcing their sale on April 13 at the Mercer County Fairgrounds. The issue is they never requested to use the fairgrounds to the Board. The Board stated the Born to Banner group must pay \$1,000 and it must be paid up front. They must sign a contract and provide proof of insurance. Roy moved to charge Born to Banner a flat fee of \$1,000 and they must meet the requirements listed above. Mark seconded. Motion passed eight to one.
- **Entertainment for Wednesday** - Tiffany moved to hold mutton busting on Wednesday night. Billy seconded. Motion carried. Arrangements were not listed from the discussion about who will line this up, where the stock will come from and the cost.
- **Fair Start Times** – The Board discussed many options. They would recommend having the 4-H/FFA static on Wednesday morning and the 4-H horse show on Wednesday afternoon starting around 4 p.m., along with a pet show either Wednesday night or sometime Thursday.

New Business (continued):

- **Gate Fees/Family Passes** - Mark moved to set daily gate fees at \$10 per day and family passes at \$80. Roy seconded. Motion carried.
- **Food Vendors** - Jeff moved that food vendors prices be set at \$500. Roy seconded. Motion carried. Rita and Mark will work on getting letters out in the near future.
- **Commercial Booths** – will be displayed from Thursday to Saturday. No prices were set.
- **Business from floor**
 - **Items at the School** – Jeff said the Board has items stored at the school and the school wants them removed as quickly as possible. The Board stated they will find a day to get it removed in the near future.
 - **Hairball Band/Hazen Chamber Harvest Fest** – The Hairball Band agreement has been signed and the first payment of \$2,500 has been sent. The total cost will be \$25,000 plus stage and lights. The Hazen Chamber has agreed to help with the risk. Tickets are available for sale. Board members need to start promoting event.
 - **Commercial Booths** –will be displayed the same as last year from Thursday to Saturday – No price was set.
 - **Special Meeting** – March 6, at 5 p.m., Zoom - Items on agenda: website and water line bid.

The next meeting will be March 20, at 6:30 p.m., at the Country Kettle in Beulah.

Duane moved to adjourn the meeting. Mark seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Submitted by:

Craig Askim, CEA/Fair Board Secretary