

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
Donna Buchmann
Duane Hopfauf
Chandler Sailer
Dawn Sailer
Rita Skraba
Tiffany Weigum
Cody Wiedrich

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Beulah Civic Center
October 30, 2023

The reorganizational meeting was called to order by President Rick Bauman at 7:42 p.m.

Members Present: Billy Anvik, Craig Askim, Rick Bauman, Valerie Bauman, Duane Hopfauf, Jeff Klein, Rick Skraba, Rita Skraba, and Cody Wiedrich.

Members Absent: Chandler Sailer, Dawn Sailer, Donna Buchmann and Tiffany Weigum.

Guests Present: Ashley Rasch, Mark Hafner

Secretary's Minutes – The Secretary's minutes from August 7, 2023 and September 18, 2023 were read. Val moved to accept the reports as emailed to the directors. Rita seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Jeff reported the balance on hand as of October 30, 2023 was \$6,837.98. Rita moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Billy seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business:

- **Tent** – Rick B. and Rick S. talked to The Union Bank about getting a loan to purchase a 40' x 100' tent for sale in Minnesota. The tent used for the Fair costs \$3,000 a year to rent. The bank thought it was a good idea to purchase the tent for the Fair. Purchasing it would give the Board options to rent the tent out. A loan was drafted for \$10,000, for six years. The first payment will be due September 2024.
- **Website** – Cody stated the website has been updated. He will make any changes that need to be done. Information for the website should be sent directly to him.
- **Entertainment** – The following is booked for the 2024 Mercer County Fair:
 - **Tuesday, July 9** – Hairball. This is a stand-alone event and will have its own ticket sales and gate admission. It will not be part of the Fair passes or events.
 - **Thursday, July 11** – The Johnny Holmes Band
 - **Friday, July 12** – Open.
 - **Saturday, July 13** – Petting Zoo, Messy Mania, Montana Premier, Donkey Relays and Ashley Wineland.
 - **Sunday, July 14** – Open
- **Budget** – Jeff moved to set the 2024 Mercer County Fair entertainment budget at \$60,000. Valerie seconded. Motion carried.

- **City of Beulah Building Rental** – Rick B., Jeff, and Rick S. met with the City of Beulah officials regarding a rental agreement for equipment storage. Another meeting will be held in November. A discussion of the matter was held. Rita moved to give permission for Rick B. to present a rental agreement proposal to the City of Beulah for the Fair Board Show Arena. The agreement would be for ten months from August 1 to June 1, for \$1,000 per month or \$10,000 per year. Cody seconded. Motion carried.
- **Boat/Pontoon/Camper Rentals** – Billy reported that boats in the sheep barn have brought in \$5,000 and the boats, campers, and pontoons in the hoop barns have brought in \$4,800. The rate is \$250 for a boat in the sheep barn and \$15 per foot for storage in the hoop barn. There is still room for one camper or pontoon and five boats.
- **Convention** –
 - Rick B. asked that anyone wanting to attend the Heartland of Fairs Convention notify him by October 31, as he will be submitting the conference registration by Friday, November 3. Those attending are responsible for booking their own rooms. Keep receipts and submit them to the Board for reimbursement.
 - The hospitality room is booked. Members attending the convention are requested to assist in serving lunch and refreshments.
- **Fundraiser** – Rick moved to approve up to \$150 for a meat basket for the silent auction for the convention. Jeff seconded. Motion carried.
- **Ribbons** – Rita asked the Board for up to \$500 to purchase open class ribbons for the Fair. She will order them. Rick S. moved to accept this dollar amount. Billy seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

- **Sponsorship Drive** – Starting in December, the Board will need new sponsorship options due to the two different events that will be held at this year's Fair. The Board is considering not printing booklets next year.
- **50th Year Promotions** – 2024 is the 50th year of the Fair. This subject was tabled until the December meeting.
- **Financial Outlook** – Rick B. presented an overview of the 2024 budget. He spoke to the First Security West-Bank regarding naming rights for the hoop barns. The North Dakota State Fair Annual Meeting will be held November 16, at 1 p.m., at the North Dakota State Fairgrounds. Jeff and Rick S. will be attending. Rick will talk to the Leroy Boeckel Family and ask if they would like to give a memorial to the Fair Board.
- **County Payment** – a payment of \$61,000 has been granted to the Fair Board from the County for 2024.
- **2024 Director Election** – Rita moved to cast a unanimous ballot for the same board members and positions as 2023. Billy seconded. Motion carried.
Board positions are:
President - Rick Bauman
Vice President - Rick Skraba
Treasurer - Jeff Klein
Secretary - Craig Askim

- **Business from the floor** – Craig explained the requirements needed to maintain Board membership. Members who are unable to attend a meeting need to contact Craig or Rick B. before the meeting. After missing three meetings with unexcused absences, a member can be removed from the Board. Dawn Sailer has missed the last three meetings without notifying Craig or Rick B. After discussion, Rick S. moved to remove Dawn Sailer from the Board. Rita seconded. Motion carried. Rick S. nominated Mark Hafner to fill the two-year unexpired term. Jeff seconded the nomination. Rick B. nominated Ashley Rasch. Cody seconded. Jeff moved to have Rita assist Craig to tally the votes. Rick S. seconded. Motion carried. Mark Hafner was declared the winner of the ballot. His term will be from January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2026.
- **Spring Extravaganza** –Jeff presented a payment received from Rita Wright from the Spring Extravaganza event held in May at the Fairgrounds. The agreement was to pay the Mercer County Fair Board \$3,500 for the event. Weather conditions caused poor turnout for the event. The Board was paid \$2,250. Jeff moved to waive the remaining balance as the payment was made in good faith and he would prefer to work with them in the future. Rick S. seconded. Motion carried.

Other business - None

The next meeting date is December 6, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., at the Country Kettle in Beulah.

Val moved to adjourn the reorganizational meeting. Jeff seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Submitted by:

Craig Askim,
CEA/Fair Board Secretary