

Mercer County Fair Association

1400 Hwy 49 N #103
Beulah, ND 58523

MEETING MINUTES

Beulah Civic Center
March 17, 2020

2020 Fair Board Directors

Vacant Position, President
Vern Muscha, Vice President
Rita Skraba, Treasurer
Craig Askim, Secretary
Rick Bauman
Scott Bauman
Donna Buchmann
Trever Erickson
Gloria Olheiser
Liz Simpfenderfer
Allison Skraba
Rick Skraba
Corey Voegele
Tiffany Weigum

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Vern Muscha at 7:04 p.m.

Members Present: Craig Askim, Rick Bauman, Scott Bauman, Donna Buchmann, Vern Muscha, Gloria Olheiser, Liz Simpfenderfer, Allison Skraba, Rick Skraba, Rita Skraba, Tiffany Weigum

Members Absent: Trever Erickson, Corey Voegele

Guests Present: None

Secretary's Minutes - Craig read the minutes from the February 11, 2020 meeting. Gloria moved to approve the minutes as read. Seconded by Rick S. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report –Rita reported the balance on hand as of March 17, 2020 was \$105,556.23. The increase was from the \$50,000 yearly payment received from the county commission. Donna moved to accept the report. Liz seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Old Business:

- **Mercer County Fair Facebook and Web Page** –Allison and Gloria said they received the password information for the Mercer County Fair web page from Travis Frey so they will take over the administrator role. They have not received administrator control from Laura Benz for the Facebook page. They discussed other options.
- **Mercer County Fair Email Address** – The fair board will look at obtaining an email address for the fair.
- **Passes for Volunteers at the Fair** – Gloria asked about giving passes to volunteer helpers during the fair. The board thought it was a good idea, but not sure how they would put a limit on it. There is a large number of volunteers.
- **Ticket Booth** – Vern asked the board if they wanted the Beulah Vo. Ag. Class to make a small 6' x 6' x 8' ticket booth to use by the southwest gate located by the fire hall. Liz moved to have the class build the ticket booth. Rick B. seconded. Motion carried

Old Business (continued):

- **Moving Ticket Booth** – Vern suggested moving the ticket booth by the south side of the civic center to the southeast corner so people might flow through the civic center better, make an easier emergency route out of the fairgrounds if needed and it would provide closer handicap parking. The board approved to try moving the ticket booth for one year.
- **Commercial Vendors** – Gloria moved to change the vendor fee from \$70 for four days plus two gate passes to \$100 for four days plus one gate pass, or vendors can have the option to select which days they want the booth and the fees would be \$25 for Thursday; \$40 for Friday or Saturday; and \$25 for Sunday. Rick B. seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Food Vendors** – Donna sent letters out two weeks ago and all of the spots are spoken for including the kitchen in the civic center.
- **Advertising Budget** – Gloria asked if there were options to increase the advertising budget to get more coverage to a larger area. The board decided to keep the budget at \$6,000 and if more is needed it can be requested at the next meeting. Gloria and Allison will look at the best options for advertising. Posters and flyers will still be used to promote the fair but half as many will be ordered. Allison will add a scan code to the posters.
- **Livestock Shows Update:**
 - Banners and T-shirts** – Tiffany sent sponsorship letters to several out of the county businesses requesting donations for the banners and t-shirts that will be given as awards at the junior livestock shows on Saturday and Sunday. She has received \$1,100. Donna contacted a vendor in Center that could print the t-shirts for \$12-\$15 per shirt. She and Tiffany will work together to explore the best options.
 - Livestock Judges** – Tiffany has all judges in place for the open class livestock shows on Saturday and Sunday.
 - Registration Fee** – Tiffany is working on creating a pre-registration entry fee form.
 - Junior Livestock Point Show** – The application and payment has been sent but the association has not received it as of yet. Vern will check into it.

New Business:

- **Request to Commissioners:** Vern gave a brief overview of what he presented to the county commission March 11 on behalf of the fair board's request to receive annual funding for the Mercer County Fair. The commissioners were thankful for the report and welcomed the face-to-face meeting.

New Business (cont.)

- **Entertainment** – Total entertainment expenses to date, \$35,000.

Booked to date:

Thursday-Sunday

Thomas Carnival, \$30,000

Thursday

The Johnny Holm Band, \$6,500, have contract

Friday

Brianna Helbling, \$2,200, have contract

Bull-A-Rama, \$7,800, have verbal contract

Saturday

Freddy Prez, \$3,200, have contract

Miss Bows Messy Mania, \$1,300, have verbal confirmation

Magic Joe, \$1,500, have verbal confirmation

Rocky Top Petting Zoo, \$1,700, have verbal confirmation

Iron Will, \$1,850, have contract

Nasty Habit "Get Hooked" Band, \$4,000, have contract

Still looking for some type of entertainment for Saturday night from 5 to 7 p.m.

Sunday

Ranch Rodeo, \$3,000, have verbal confirmation.

- **Farmers Union Request** – Mike Eslinger asked if Farmers Union could display the motorcycle that was commissioned by North Dakota Farmers Union and unveiled on American Choppers, at the Mercer County Fair. The bike promotes family farming.
- **Records/Contracts** – Vern visited with former board members Lenny Tesky and Laura Benz and asked if they would provide the records and contracts for the entertainment they booked during the November 2019 convention and any other records the fair board needs to maintain based on open record laws and century code. Lenny provided his records to the board. Laura did not provide the records and said she discarded the ones she had. She asked Vern to leave their business. Vern asked the fair board for guidance on how to handle this. Scott moved to have the Mercer County States Attorney draft a certified letter asking Laura to turn over the records or state in writing that she no longer has them and turn over the administrator rights for the Mercer County Fair Facebook page. Rita seconded the motion. Motion carried. If there are no results from the certified letter, the board may take further legal action.

New Business (cont.)

- **Fair Board Member Meeting Attendance**
 - Trever Erickson missed three meetings in a row without giving notice why. Due to a family member passing away within the last week Liz moved to not remove him from the board at this time. Allison seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vern will visit with Trever before the next meeting to see what his wishes are.
 - The board will act at the April meeting on Corey Voegele's verbal intention of not finishing his director term if he does not submit a resignation in writing before the meeting.
- **Coronavirus Outbreak** – Vern stated he will look into increasing insurance options if any are possible and talk to entertainers on what policies we have in case the fair is canceled.
- **Election - Open President Position** – Since the board received Lenny Tesky's resignation letter at the February meeting, the board acted on the open position. Vice President Vern Muscha asked for nominations. Donna nominated Rick Bauman. Vern nominated Rick Skraba. No other nominations. A written ballot was taken. Rick Bauman was elected to the President position.
- Next Meeting Date – April 14, at the Beulah Civic Center, at 7 p.m.
- Other Business: None

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Submitted by: Craig Askim,
CEA/Fair Board Secretary