

2021 Fair Board Directors
Rick Bauman, President
Vern Muscha, Vice President
Liz Simpfinderfer, Treasurer
Craig Askim, Secretary
Jessica Beck
Donna Buchmann
Jeff Klein
Gloria Olheiser
Rick Skraba
Rita Skraba,
Tiffany Weigum

Mercer County Fair Association

PO Box 640, Beulah, ND 58523

MEETING MINUTES

Beulah Civic Center

August 3, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Bauman at 5:31 p.m.

Members Present: Rick Bauman, Donna Buchmann, Jeff Klein, Gloria Olheiser, Liz Simpfinderfer, Rick Skraba, Rita Skraba, Tiffany Weigum and Vern Muscha.

Members Absent: Jessica Beck

Guests Present: Travis Frey, Gaylen Sailer, Val Bauman, Kandie Lindemann and Marla Klein

Secretary's Minutes – Vern made a correction to the bill for the Kids Rodeo. The amount of the bill was \$466.97, not \$422.05. Donna moved to approve with correction. Tiffany seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Liz Simpfinderfer stated the balance on hand as of August 3, 2021 as \$134,119.33. No other information was given. Gloria moved to accept the report. Vern seconded. Motion carried. Liz stated the showcase judges have been paid along with a thank you.

Correspondence: None

Open Discussion: – Rick B. opened the floor to guests present for an open discussion.

- **Gaylen Sailer** stated some things needed to be improved for 2022:
 - ATM is needed on the fairgrounds.
 - Some area city fire departments in Mercer County were not contacted to help in the beer garden.
 - Need to plan ahead more. Start in February.
 - Ticket booths were not manned at times. Gates around the cattle tents were open so people entered freely.
 - Wrong or right, leave politics and differences at the gate.
 - Someone needs to be in the fair office at all times.

- **Kandie Lindemann** from Farmers Union Insurance stated:
 - Liked the set up for the co-op barbecue in the civic center but asked for more room. The board stated they will see what they can do.
 - Hard to find volunteers for anything.
 - Need to reach out more on social media and other internet sources for help and to share what is going on.
 - 450 meals were served.

Old Business:

- **Fair Recap:**

- **Livestock**

- Jeff and Tiffany stated they heard good comments from the livestock show people. The judges were good. Everyone liked the arena set up in the barn instead of outside.
- Need to look at stalling the animals by species and not together next year.
- There were 350 livestock entries, 125 showmen.
- Need internet in the barns if possible.
- Need to have livestock exhibitors pre-pay on ShoWorks and set up a credit card payment option.
- Need to improve scale weigh-ins.

- **Home, Hobby and Garden Showcase (Formally Static)**

- Rita stated numbers were down slightly but everything went well.
- Needs an old computer to do final reporting.

- **Food and Commercial**

- Magic show worked well in the commercial area.
- Need baby changing station.

- **Beer Garden**

- Good crowds Thursday and Saturday night, sales were good. Friday sales were down.
- Bands were good.
- Vern provided a copy of the bank deposit slip for tips received from beer garden on Thursday night that was deposited into the fair board account and not kept by workers.

- **Kids Rodeo Bills/Expenses**

- Rita presented a handwritten bill with a notary stamp to the board along with some receipts for food she bought for the Kids Rodeo on June 19. She stated she has not been paid because a few board members were questioning the amount of expenses was not the same as the submitted receipts. Discussion was held. Vern stated that Rita could not be paid because the treasurer could get into trouble and be charged with a class B misdemeanor. Liz brought up the treasurer's report at this time because it was not reviewed or commented on during the treasurer's report part of the meeting. Rita questioned why Liz paid herself \$700 for sawdust she purchased at TSC in Bismarck on her personal credit card and Rick Bauman and herself have not been paid for panels and food they put on their personal credit cards. There was a long discussion on why it was wrong to pay some of the board members and not wrong to pay to other fair board members. Tiffany moved to reimburse Rita \$466.97 for food expenses from the Kids Rodeo. Jeff seconded. Motion carried. Vern stated since the board agreed to pay Rita this amount, President Rick Bauman would have to sign the check instead of Liz. Rick said he would sign the check. A verbal vote was taken and passed. Vern questioned the verbal vote and asked for a hand vote so Rick B. asked for a hand vote. Five members were in favor of Rick B. signing the check and three members were against. Motion carried. Tiffany moved to pay Rick B. for the panels he purchased for the livestock shows. Jeff seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

- **Bleacher Use Request** – Vern stated that Coleman Entze requested to use the two bleachers for the rodeo events in Golden Valley on August 14 and 15. Rick S. moved to allow Coleman to use the bleachers if he agreed to a \$5,000 deposit, which will be returned if the bleachers are not damaged and returned in a timely manner, plus pay \$150 per day for each bleacher, the total cost for the event will be \$600. Jeff seconded. Motion carried.
- **Stage Use Request** – Vern stated the City of Zap requested to use the stage for an event in the middle of September. Tiffany moved to let them use it and charge \$250 plus a \$250 deposit. Rick S. seconded. Motion carried.
- **Return of Excess Supplies purchased for Fair** – The board decided to keep the excess supplies.
- **Annual Meeting** – Rita moved to set the 2021 Mercer County Fair Board Annual Meeting for Tuesday, October 26 at the Beulah Civic Center, with a starting time to be determined. Donna seconded. Motion carried.
- **Storing Supplies/Equipment on Fairgrounds** – Jeff addressed to the board about Vern storing supplies and an old pickup on the fairgrounds. He asked Vern if he paid rent to do this. Vern stated that he did not. Jeff asked the board to have Vern remove these items from the fairgrounds within ten days. He stated that the board wasted at least half a day moving his things off the fairgrounds during setup. The board agreed that Vern needs to find a different location to store his belongings.
- **Boat Storage** – Jeff asked if the fair board is going to do boat storage again this year. The board stated they would table this and discuss it at the September meeting. Jeff said it would be nice to leave some of the barns in place instead of putting them up and taking them down each year.
- **Other Business** - None

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 14 at 5:30 p.m., at the Beulah Civic Center.

Rick S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeff seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Submitted by: Craig Askim, CEA/Fair Board Secretary