

Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds – Fair Board Meeting

January 22, 2020 – Entry Hall – 11:30 am

98 W Custer Ave; Helena MT 59602

Phil Porrini called the meeting to order at 11:35. Board members present were Mark Menke, Phil Porrini, FayDee Hamilton, Allen Cormany, Mike Murray, Greg Pace, Dirk Andersen, Kelly Hanson and Judy Rolfe. Commissioner Jim McCormick was present. Staff present were Kevin Tenney, and Logan Gustafson. Guests were Mark LaRowe and Caroline Hudnall.

Approval of Minutes: Greg Pace and Kelly Hanson made the correction that they did attend Decembers Fair Board meeting. Mike Murray made the motion to approve the December and November minutes, 2nded by Faydee Hamilton. Motion Passed.

Public Comment: Mark LaRowe was present for Public Comment to discuss the status of the upcoming Skijoring event. Mark mentioned that \$8300.00 had been collected or promised for sponsoring Skijoring. Mark mentioned how every Skijoring event that he knows of has so far cancelled due to the lack of snow. He mentioned that long term forecasts do not show any sign of snow at the moment, and that 8-12 inches of snow is needed to be able to create a Skijoring track. Mark went on to say that the Sheriff Reserve has already been booked for the event, and that they would just need an EMT and a commitment from a veterinarian. Mark suggested if the long term forecast does not change by Monday January 27, that the event should be called off. Kevin Tenney also said sponsorship funds are being held and not cashed until the status of the event is clear. It was agreed that the status of the event should be decided Monday January 27. Mike Murray motioned, Judy Rolfe 2nded. Motion Passed.

User Group Update (Caroline Hudnall/Kennel Club): Caroline Hudnall was present to speak on the Kennel Club and how it used the Fairgrounds, and what they would like to see done in the future to the Fairgrounds. Caroline went on to tell about the events the Kennel Club puts on at the Fairgrounds, which includes a dog show and two dog agility competitions a year, and that the Kennel Club has a long term lease on building #3. Some things she would like improved upon at the Fairgrounds would be attaching the sewer system to building #3, the yard lamp bulb by building #3 to be replaced, and would also like fans to be able to push the hot air out of building #3. Kevin Tenney also said he reached out to the Team Penners to be the next user group to attend the Fair Board meeting in February.

Financials: Kevin Tenney spoke about the Fairgrounds financials, and that they are \$45,000 up in revenue and are down \$70,000 in expenses compared to last year.

Events Report: Kevin Tenney said a thousand kids participated in the Helltown Throwdown wrestling tournament, and that 4-H shooting sports did not leave any holes in the wall. Kevin also said there is an upcoming boat show that always has good turnout.

Operations Report: Kevin Tenney reported that heating units RTU 5 and 6 had both broken and had been repaired by Tri-County Mechanical, and Tri-County says they both should be good to go. Kevin also reported that a part-time administrative support position has been posted. Kevin also spoke about upcoming event ideas including, a straw bale maze, a hot wing festival, and CrossFit competitions. Kelly

Hanson suggested possibly hosting an Archery competition. Kevin also touched on attempted arson of the bathroom facilities and that cameras are needed for extra security.

Footprint Sub-Committee Update: Kevin said Helena College was asked about creating a metal directional sign, and he has yet to get a response from the person in charge of that program. Phil Porrini discussed that he has submitted quotes for rock material for the promenade and that Helena Sand and Gravel gave a quote that was around \$400 cheaper than Valley Sand and Gravel. Faydee Hamilton mentioned that Valley Sand and Gravel might be willing to donate the first truck load. Phil also went over the quotes he got from landscaping companies for the landscaping around the promenade, the quotes received ranged from \$18000.00 to \$24000.00.

Phil asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Mike Murray. Seconded by Mark Menke. Meeting adjourned at 12:32.