

Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds – Fair Board Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2021 – Zoom Meeting – 11:30 am
98 W. Custer Ave., Helena MT 59602

Attendees:

Board members: Phil Porrini, Mark Menke, FayDee Hamilton, Allen Cormany, Greg Pace, Dirk Anderson, Mike Murray, Dave Duffy and Judy Rolfe.

Commissioner Andy Hunthausen.

Guest: Nancy Everson (Finance, L&C County)

Staff: Kevin Tenney, Logan Gustafson, Sandy McIntyre.

Phil Porrini called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

Approval of Minutes:

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes. Mark Menke made the motion to approve the October 2020 minutes, seconded by Judy Rolfe. Motion passed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Fair Board Elections:

- Chair-Judy Rolfe nominated Phil Porrini for Chair. Dave Duffy seconded. The vote passed with one abstention.
- Vice Chair-Dave Duffy nominated Judy Rolfe for Vice Chair. Judy declined the nomination, citing she felt it was inappropriate as her husband is now a seated county commissioner.
 - Mark Menke nominated Allen Cormany as Vice Chair. However, Allen's term ended December 31, 2020. Allen re-applied to the Fair Board in November 2020 and had not received a response about reappointment as of today's meeting.
 - Mike Murray moved that Allen be appointed Vice Chair upon the County Commission's approval and re-appointment to the Fair Board. Dave Duffy seconded and the motion passed.
- FayDee Hamilton's term also ended. She applied for a second term, and is waiting for a response from the County Commission.
- Commissioner Hunthausen noted the County Commission is meeting on February 2, 2021 and re-appointments for both FayDee and Allen should be decided at that meeting.
- There is one more Fair Board position open and it will be advertised.

Financial Report:

- Kevin Tenney reviewed current financials.
 - Expenses have decreased, cash reserves have increased.
 - The Fairgrounds is debt free as remaining debt on the bleachers and main gate has been paid off.

- Phil Porrini asked about CARES Act funds from the YMCA (Exhibit Hall rental for child care) and Pureview (Entry Hall rental for Covid testing and vaccine clinics).
 - Kevin responded that through December 2020, the Fairgrounds received the full daily non-profit rate for the Exhibit Hall from the YMCA. No funds are being received from YMCA at this point.
 - Kevin also noted that the Fairgrounds is receiving the full daily non-profit rate for the Entry Hall, 5 days a week. The VA is exploring holding Saturday vaccination clinics in the Entry Hall.
 - Funding for the Covid overflow tents on the Promenade ran out in December 2020. The decision on removing the tents should be made when the new Disaster and Emergency Services Director is in place. Commissioner Hunthausen said the new DES Director is scheduled to start February 8, 2021.
 - The Board voiced concerns about the tents including damage to the grass and use by unauthorized people, especially as the weather warms up.

Operations Report:

- Kevin Tenney reported on operations:
 - Entry Hall-the rubber floor mats are holding up well. Pureview is paying for new motors for the overhead doors. The original motors were not rated for the heavy use they were getting with the Covid testing/vaccine clinics. New motors were installed January 26 & 27, 2021.
 - Fire Inspection-The YMCA needed a license/fire inspection to receive additional funding. The Fire Marshall inspected the entire Fairgrounds. Maintenance took care of a few minor issues and the Fairgrounds passed the re-inspection.

Events/Fairgrounds Update:

- Kevin Tenney discussed events:
 - We are moving forward as if the 2021 Last Chance Stampede & Fair is happening.
 - Jake Owen is booked for the opening Night Show, and other acts are signed.
 - “Whose Live” at the end of May will be cancelled.
 - All events are cancelled through February. We have signed contracts after that and are keeping people informed about the Exhibit Hall as child care is in there. Events probably will not occur until June.
- Commissioner Hunthausen said the City-County Board of Health may discuss further openings and business capacities, though there will probably be no change in the near future.

Adjournment:

Dave Duffy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Judy Rolfe seconded. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm.