

Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds – Fair Board Meeting

February 26, 2020 – Upper Conference Room – 11:30 am

98 W Custer Ave; Helena MT 59602

Phil Porrini called the meeting to order at 11:30. Board members present were Mark Menke, Phil Porrini, FayDee Hamilton, Dave Duffy, Greg Pace, Kelly Hanson and Judy Rolfe. Commissioner Andy Hunthausen was present. Staff present were Kevin Tenney, Sandy McIntyre and Logan Gustafson. Guests were Mark LaRowe, Caroline Hudnall, and Travis Rask.

Approval of Minutes: Greg Pace made the Motion to approve January Minutes, 2nded by FayDee Hamilton. Motion Passed.

Public Comment: Mark LaRowe was present to discuss the cancellation of Skijoring, due to lack of snow. Mark touched on how 7 of 8 races in Montana had to be cancelled and called off for the same reason. Mark went over how he had already raised \$10,000 before halting the collection of donations. Mark also said he had received donations to cover the cost of the Timing Machine.

User Group Update (Travis Rask/ Team Penners): Travis Rask was present to give feedback on the Team Penners use of the Fairgrounds and any improvements they would like to see. Travis said the only thing the Team Penners are really looking for to be improved is the quality of the dirt in the Multi-Purpose Building. Travis suggested putting in sand in order to help the surface.

Fair Board Elections: Fair Board Elections occurred, Phil Porrini was elected as Chairman, and Allen Cormany was elected as Vice Chair. Mark Menke Motioned, 2nded by Greg Pace.

New Employee: The new Fairgrounds employee Sandy McIntyre was introduced.

Financials: Kevin Tenney reported that financials looked good, and costs were down.

Events Report: Logan Gustafson reported on upcoming events touching on a few big ones including, HBIA, a Gun Show, and the Made in Montana Show which draws a large crowd.

Stampede and Fair Update: Kevin Tenney reported that the night show featuring Cole Swindell has generated a lot of buzz. Earl Wear has also been confirmed as the opener.

Operations Report: Kevin Tenney went over the operations report. Kevin mentioned that all the RTU units are now functional and running. He also mentioned that a new lawn mower was purchased for \$17,000 while \$80,000 was budgeted for it saving money for the Fairgrounds. Kevin also said that they are moving forward with plans for a Hot Wing Festival on August 7th and 8th, which he said had a lot of potential to generate revenue. Kevin also said he is working with Montana tourism officials to try and secure a \$25,000 grant in order to also bring in an inflatable race while the festival is going on.

Footprint Sub-Committee Update: Kevin Tenney announced that the Helena College of Technology will be making directional signs for the Fairgrounds. The board came to the decision to go ahead with \$4,500 worth of rock to be delivered and stock piled for the promenade. Phil Porrini also went over the landscaping bids he received ranging from \$8,600 to \$20,000.

Phil asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Mark Menke. Seconded by FayDee Hamilton. Meeting adjourned at 12:34.