

Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds – Fair Board Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2021 – 11:30 am
98 W. Custer Ave., Helena MT 59602

Attendees:

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

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. Mike Murray made the motion to approve the January 2021 minutes, seconded by FayDee Hamilton. Motion passed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Financial Report:

Kevin Tenney reviewed current financials:

- Operating revenue is down from last year and operating expenses are significantly down from last year.
- The Fairgrounds may be able to collect last year's lost revenue through the most recent Covid-19 relief legislation.
 - This would allow needed equipment replacement.
- Pureview is paying full rental rates for use of the Entry Hall.
- YMCA is currently not paying for use of the Exhibit Hall, though they may receive additional Covid relief funding.
- We will review the draft FY22 budget at the April Fair Board meeting.

Operations Report:

Kevin Tenney reported on operations:

- Maintenance is getting equipment ready for spring and filling potholes.
- The increased traffic from the vaccination clinics is causing significant road damage and a plan is needed for fixing the roads.
 - Public Works is going to do an assessment. It's possible that Covid relief money will cover the cost of road repair.
 - Phil would like to meet with Public Works when they do the assessment with Kevin. Kevin will contact Phil when that date is set up.
- Junior/Senior High School Prom-The Fairgrounds will host a high school prom this year on May 14th in the Exhibit Hall at no cost to the schools. A committee of parents are working on the details.

- A ticket system will be utilized so there will be a list of attendees' names and Covid safety protocols will be in place.
- Judy Rolfe will check with the Kiwanis about providing beverage service. Judy also volunteered herself and her husband Tom to take tickets.
- The Exhibit Hall is booked solid for May and June events. YMCA knows which days they can't use the Exhibit Hall, and they have an approved plan to operate without the pipe and drape.
- Removal of Covid overflow tents on the Promenade: Kevin has emailed the new Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator about removing the tents. The Board voiced concerns about damage to the grass and if DES would pay for re-seeding/re-sodding.
- Fairgrounds Trees: Ann McCalley, Grants Coordinator for the City would like to spend some grant funds on trees and is looking for options at the Fairgrounds.
- Other operations questions/issues:
 - Duck Pond: Mike Murray voiced concerns about cleaning up the duck pond area and removing fallen trees. Kevin said maintenance will work on that later this spring.
 - Entry Hall garage doors: Phil asked how those were holding up with heavy use. Kevin said the motors have been replaced, which Pureview will pay for.
 - Allen brought up publicity to let the public know what's happening at the Fairgrounds. Kevin does a radio spot every first Thursday of the month.

Last Chance Stampede and Fair Update:

Kevin Tenney reported on progress with the Stampede and Fair.

- We received 7 bids from stock providers and have decided on C5 Rodeo. They have local ties, award winning horses and come highly recommended. They have provided stock to the National Western Stock Show and Calgary Stampede.
 - The contract with C5 will be for one year with the possibility of extending it to three years.
 - C-5 will pay for the new "Cool Alley Arena" sign in the arena.
- Wayne Brooks will be the rodeo announcer again this year.
- Kevin met with Montana Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame reps who are interested in running a Calcutta with a 50/50 split, and they would handle everything. This will be discussed with the Fair and Rodeo steering committees.
- North Star will provide the carnival this year.
- Phil showed a Stampede poster example that can be used every year.
- Phil asked if we have cancellation insurance for Jake Owen (concert). Kevin said we do.
- We are moving forward and the final decision will be made by June 1. With the uncertain Covid situation, the Stampede and Fair could still be shut down at any time.
- Publicity will ramp up in early June.

Promenade Update:

Phil Porrini gave an update of work on the Promenade.

- Last of the granite has been placed on the north end.
- Silvertip Landscaping will wait until later this spring to replace plants if needed.

Other Business:

- Fair Board Openings: Kelly Hanson resigned from the Fair Board for personal reasons, leaving 3 vacant seats. 5-6 applications have been received and the seats should be filled by the April 2021 meeting. Allen asked if the County Commission was okay with 2-3 year terms. Kevin will follow up with Nadine.
- Phil handed out a draft list of Fair Board and Foundation Board projects (2018-2020), which will be useful for new Board members. He asked current Board members to review and send any suggestions to him.

Adjournment:

Mike Murray motioned to adjourn the meeting. Greg Pace seconded. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.