

**Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds – Fair Board Meeting Minutes**  
**June 23, 2021 – 11:30 am**  
**98 W. Custer Ave., Helena MT 59602**

**Attendees:**

Board members: Allen Cormany, Greg Pace, Dave Duffy, Mark Menke, Judy Rolfe, Linda Grady, Jay Sherley, FayDee Hamilton

Staff: Kevin Tenney, Logan Gustafson, Sandy McIntyre.

Allen Cormany, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

**Approval of Minutes:**

FayDee Hamilton made a correction to the May 26, 2021 minutes. She was in attendance at the May 26, 2021 meeting, and should have been listed as an attendee. There were no other corrections or additions. FayDee Hamilton moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Dave Duffy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:**

- FayDee asked about the status of the Saturday, June 26 Duck Pond cleanup day. There was not enough volunteers, so the cleanup day will not happen.

**Financial Report:**

Kevin Tenney reviewed financials:

- Estimated net income for FY21 is \$130,000.
- Fairgrounds received approval to buy new chairs and tables for events.
- The Fairgrounds is debt-free.

**Operations Report:**

Kevin Tenney reported on operations:

- Roads and Road Repairs
  - A preliminary estimated cost to fix the roads is \$3-5 million.
  - The County Commissioners approved moving forward with the RFQ and scoping.
  - The RFQ to hire engineers for scoping is complete and will be distributed in August.
  - We may not receive all of the requested funds to do all of the desired work, but the major roadwork will get done.
  - Physical road work may get underway in Fall 2022.
- Entry Hall
  - There is floor damage due to the Covid testing and vaccination clinics.
  - We are waiting for a quote on the work.
  - Repair costs will not be paid for by Fairgrounds.
  - Finding time to do the repairs is an issue due to booked events as well as contractor schedules.

- DES Tents have been removed; sod has been replaced. This did not come out of the Fairgrounds budget.
- Vandalism
  - The tank in the Bill Carson Memorial Park was tagged with graffiti, which Fairgrounds maintenance staff was able to clean up. A police report was filed with the cost of damage cleanup incurred.
  - Upper duck pond fence was driven through. There are no fence contractors available right now. It is about a half day job and it should be done by Stampede.
- Power lines
  - Will need to be dug up for road improvements.
  - Suggestion that a grounds lighting plan be considered in conjunction with roads plan.

#### **Events Report:**

- Logan Gustafson gave an update on Events.
  - Gun show was very successful.
  - 50's Dash Dance – elementary school dance
  - MMA Fights – good turnout with little publicity
  - 406 Consignary – signed up for 2 more events in 2022
  - Numerous private events, i.e. graduation parties, memorials, weddings
- Kevin said that 2 dates have been set aside for Fairgrounds sponsored events

#### **Last Chance Stampede and Fair update:**

- Concessions are set.
- Vendors continue to sign up.
- Commercial booth signups are looking good
- Sponsorship is strong.
- Still looking for:
  - Gate security and front/east gate control.
    - Allan said Helena Knights of Columbus will take front and east gates.
  - Parking team
  - Ticket takers
  - 5-6 light towers – with so much construction around the state, light towers are scarce
    - Jay suggested Kevin check with Steed Concrete
- Jake Owen concert ticket sales are strong. Need 2800 tickets sold to break even, hoping for 3500.
- No Sunday ranch rodeo, carnival and concessions will be here on Sunday.
- Calcutta here this year, Friday and Saturday night.
  - 2 events each night, 50% to scholarship, 25% to them, 25% to Fairgrounds
  - Will be done pre-rodeo
- Grounds entertainment is all committed with signed contracts.
- Publicity
  - Radio and TV ads have started

- Would like to have a 5 day fair next year with a Ranch Rodeo and steer and sheep riding.
- Fairgrounds Foundation booth at Stampede
  - Use to promote/sell Cool Alley poster and take orders for metal plates
  - Will get cash bag from Logan for booth.
  - Allen Cormany will send out a schedule to BOD members for booth shifts.

**Other Business:**

- Plaques on the promenade benches have been installed.
- No meeting July, next meeting in August.
- Allen thanked the Fairgrounds staff for all their work
- Horses in criminal case are still here and will be moved for Fair. We pay the Sheriff for their work at the Fair and may exchange their Fair services for the rent owed to house the horses.

**Adjournment:**

- Linda Grady moved to adjourn the meeting. Mark Menke seconded the motion. It passed unanimously and meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm.