

**Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds – Fair Board Meeting Minutes**  
**August 26, 2020 – Upper Conference Room – 11:30 am**  
**98 W. Custer Ave., Helena MT 59602**

**Attendees:**

Board members: Phil Porrini, Mark Menke, Kelly Hanson, FayDee Hamilton, Dave Duffy, Allen Cormany, Mike Murray, and Judy Rolfe.

Guest: Howard Skjerven, Northwestern Energy

Staff: Kevin Tenney, Logan Gustafson, and Sandy McIntyre.

Phil Porrini called the meeting to order at 11:35 am. Guest Howard Skjerven from Northwestern Energy was introduced.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mike Murray made the motion to approve the June minutes, seconded by Dave Duffy. Motion passed.

*Note: Board met virtually 3 times in June and July. Board requested a one page summary of those meetings to be included with August meeting notes. Logan will compile that summary.*

**Promenade Power Pole:**

Howard Skjerven from Northwestern Energy discussed removing the power pole from the Promenade.

- Can't give free service to move power pole as it's a regulated service.
- Can probably move meter to a different pole.
- He will get costs for removing the pole and moving the meter to another pole.
- If the poles and meters can be moved, he will try to get a timeframe for it.
- He will get Kevin a map of the gas lines on the Fairgrounds.
- Phil mentioned that it would be good to get whatever can be done before Fall/next Spring.
- Allen mentioned that NW Energy has come up with partnerships before and asked if there was a NWE grant available for future promenade construction.

Regarding NWE grants, Howard explained:

- NWE Foundation used to meet quarterly, giving grants in the \$20K-\$50K range.
- After 2000 bankruptcy and restructuring, a new philanthropic philosophy was put in place to support small local projects with grants ranging from \$500-\$1500.
- Grant information and applications are on the NWE website.

**Operations Report:**

- Kevin Tenney reported:
  - Maintenance staff is down to 2.5 people. Have job advertised. Maintenance is working hard to keep up the areas visible to the public.

**Financial Report:**

- Kevin Tenney reported there are no revenues coming in right now other than camping and shelter rentals.

- FayDee asked about income from the Covid overflow beds in the Entry Hall. Kevin said we are trying to get money for June and July, and possibly \$100/day for the Covid tents on the Promenade.

#### **School Program in Exhibit Hall:**

- Kevin outlined the SACC (School Age Child Care) set up in the Exhibit Hall.
  - This is a joint project of Lewis & Clark County, City of Helena, YMCA and the school district.
  - Most of the kids will be here 2-3 days/week.
  - County and School District employees can participate at reduced cost of \$20/day/child. YMCA cost is \$40/day/child.
  - There will be 180 kids plus instructors in the Hall.
  - YMCA is handling everything including sanitation procedures and cleaning.
  - Fairgrounds crew goes in at night and sweeps.
  - Fairgrounds should receive \$15,000/month in revenue.
- Discussion about the SACC/Distance Learning Child Care program included following comments and questions.
  - Is the Exhibit Hall committed through the entire school year? What happens when events start to come in?
  - Kevin-This could be problematic in January if things start opening up. Many events that were scheduled for 2020 rescheduled to 2021.
  - Who came up with the idea and made the decision to do this?
  - Kevin-The County.
  - Regardless of the pandemic, day care is an issue and people can become dependent on this program – what will take precedence, day care or revenue generating events?

#### **Other Items:**

- Duck pond – Mike Murray said it looked like some of the blown over trees had been cut down, but not removed. Kevin Tenney said he would look into it.
- VIP Building – Kevin said that just the roof is left.
- Need for monthly meetings:
  - Phil opened a discussion of whether the Board should continue meeting every month since there is not much going on right now. Reaction was mixed with the decision to maintain monthly meetings.

#### **Adjournment:**

Phil Porrini motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mike Murray seconded. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.