

Sanders County Fair Board

February 17, 2021, meeting minutes

Fairgrounds Pavilion, 30 River Rd, Plains, MT

Call to Order: 7:03 pm by Randy Woods

Present: Randy Woods, Kim Bergstrom, Jim Newman, Melissa Cady

Others Present: Juli Thurston, Michele McGuigan

January 2021 meeting minutes: approved unanimously. (Jim, Kim)

Public participation in non-agenda items: No comments

4H Horse Show: Michele McGuigan, 4H Horse Superintendent, proposed that to minimize stress on the 4H horses from being stalled during Fair, the 4H horse show moves to the Saturday before Fair. This is the same schedule as last year when there was no Fair, and a couple of horses would be present on Saturday for the round robin. Kim and other board members expressed concern about a lack of horses on the grounds during Fair, as they are a crowd pleaser. Randy suggested an open class horse show on Saturday, but the challenge is finding help to run it. Other ideas to have a horse presence during Fair were to make it optional for 4H members to bring their horses, do the costume class of the 4H horse show on Saturday, maybe a packing clinic hosted by the backcountry horsemen or other type of educational event, etc. The board supports moving the 4H horse show to the Saturday prior to Fair but will work with Michele and others to have some sort of horse presence during the Fair.

Buildings Update: Melissa reported the siding is done and Josey will be back to finish the remaining doors in the spring and will repair the barn roofs impacted by the windstorm. Mike has looked at the vendor shower area but the other facility will have to wait until spring when the water is on. Bids received for on-demand water heaters seemed exceptionally high so will do more research for options for getting that upgrade done. Heaters for the ag building are a challenge. The Rennai heaters that are in the pavilion are quiet, but take a long time to heat the space. Propane "shop" style heaters are noisy but can heat the place quickly. Need to consider more alternatives.

4H Report: Want to clarify stability of Home Ec building so that interior work can be done, if appropriate. Randy said we need an assessment and determination by John Thurston as he marked walls last year to see if the building continues to settle.

Fair Manager Report: The Lions Club retrieved their belongings. Totes were purchased and Christmas decorations are ready to be put away. Melissa will get with Mark (Kalispell) regarding 168 Tickets by the next meeting. Pendleton's info packet has gone back to them. We may need to do a Pendleton night in the VIP tent; more to come. She is working on food pricing so Coors can sponsor the hospitality tent.

The pump house froze solid last week because heaters failed. There are space heaters in there now and working fine, but new heaters and UV lights are on order. Phil Cook is working on a permanent fix for the well and pump that the road department left on and burned up a couple of years ago. Expenses will be passed along to the road department since their negligence caused the damage.

Hailey Coe may come back as administrative assistant. Kevin Hill will be doing a cattle auction on the grounds the last week of March but they will have to supply their own water.

Derby drivers have been calling to get rules. Tim Denson said he's going to step away from the event. He is concerned about being able to bring drivers and helpers because nobody got to come last year due to cancellation of Fair. The Board is willing to work with Tim to make it worth his time. If he brings drivers and runs the show, the Board will do the rest. Class 3 rules are standard in Montana and will likely be utilized. Melissa will ask Tim to reconsider. Stirrin Dirt may be a backup option. The Board needs to consider pre-registration, the amount of prize money, and how much it will take to pull the show together.

Claims: Approved unanimously. (Kim, Jim)

Financial Report: Approved unanimously. (Jim, Kim)

Adjourn: Approved at 8:24 pm (Jim, Kim)