

Sanders County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
February 08, 2023
Fair Pavilion, 30 River Rd, Plains MT

Call to Order 6:00 p.m. by Randy Woods

Present: Randy Woods, Kim McMahon, Jim Newman, Brian Crain, Ted Forkum, Melissa Cady

Also present: Mason Cottrell, Juli Thurston, John Holland, Dan Rowan

Approval of Minutes from January Meeting – motion made by Brian - seconded by Jim to approve the minutes – unanimously passed.

Randy Woods called for public comments on non-agenda items- No public comment.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Battle of the Scholars update – Ted went to Miles City to help Powder River put this event on for the upcoming riders of saddle bronc (SB) and bareback (BB). Ted said that John Franzen was very appreciative for Ted’s help as well as Plains helping to sponsor this event. Ted was able to take the time to talk to all the new riders about coming to Plains and what we have to offer them. Ted stated the riders were very open to the idea of coming to Plains and looking forward to it. Franzen’s were bucking their 3-4 year-olds. Powder River offered some classes as well as many hands-on opportunities. Overall, Ted felt it was a success for us to have a presence at this event. Randy made a motion for Ted’s expenses of hotel and fuel to be paid. Kim approved this motion and Brian seconded – motion passed unanimously.
- B. Search & Rescue (SAR) Contract discussion. Mason was present as president of SAR as well as one other member. Mason asked if we could work on the contract to better fit their needs and staffing as well as provide what the fair needed for security and help. There was discussion of possibly moving the SAR Office to the empty room next to the fair manager’s office so they are still in a central location, but not directly in the flow of traffic in and out of the arena gates. Discussion also in regards to the security issue from the past year of a booth having some theft and how we can prevent this with SAR patrolling the food and commercial vendor areas from 11pm-6am Thursday-Monday morning of fair. There was a discussion of possible less presence of SAR during the day if needed to facilitate the need for their security at night. Mason asked if they can be approved to be armed and it was discussed that this is at the discretion of the Sheriff and would need to be addressed on a yearly basis. Melissa will work with Mason to get a contract figured out that both parties can agree upon.
- C. Tree Bid – Melissa got a bid from Jennison Tree (Justin) in regards to half the trees on the grounds (\$12,500). This was for 3 trees to be removed as they are dead, 22 trimmed and 5 fruit trees trimmed and fertilized. All debris to be hauled to the fair burn pile. Justin Jennison will bid the remainder of the trees after this job is completed. John Holland and Dan Rowan requested another bid from Rick Jennison and the board agreed that Melissa will call for another bid. We have attempted other bids in the past and have not received return calls. Board will table approval of this bid until next meeting to give Rick Jennison time to come bid and determine which bid the fair will approve.

- D. 4H report – Juli said that they are moving along with bids on the horse wash rack. Randy stated it would be on the NW outside corner of the horse barn and use the first two stalls. They would need to pour concrete for the pads, but the water is already there. They will need to contact Shawn Sorenson, County Sanitarian, to discuss putting in a holding tank and what that will entail. 4H will get bids for that and there are a few parents willing to help. They would also like to replace the roof on the swine barn as it has some holes and rotten boards. They currently have three bids that range from \$10-18K for the rusty section and the rotten boards. Juli is looking into the bleachers and the cost of adding railing to the ones from the bucking chutes and new ones with railings are roughly \$8K each. Currently they have 22 steers now and will likely need all the stalls in the beef barn, which means moving the recently built poultry pens to another location. There was discussion that we cannot block the middle of the barn due to fire restrictions and traffic flow. Possibly moving the rabbits to the sheep barn was brought up and Melissa will look into the changes that were requested for the poultry and then contact both superintendents in regards to either moving the rabbits or coming up with a plan to keep them all in the current location.
- E. Fair Manager's report – Cowboy Channel has made the decision that they are only filming their larger rodeos. Melissa is in talk with them and Justin McKee in regards to being on ProRodeo Tonight. Mutton Busting after looking at many rodeos and following the lead of other rodeos and a majority of them do sign-ups online and do a raffle for the riders nightly to fill their designated spots. Our new ticketing company can do all of this for us so it will alleviate a board member doing the sign-ups nightly. Melissa has been in contact with Cinch and they have signed their sponsor contract and she has been discussing the board getting vests with our names and logo embroidered on them. Cinch has agreed to possibly the full expense but at least half. Melissa will get colors and sizes to our rep with Cinch. RSC Racecraft has sent their payment for the June 2-4th rental of the pavilion and adjacent area. We currently have only a few weekends available in June and July most weekends are completely booked. Newport rodeo is June 23-24th and the board has agreed a few of us will travel there and help Ray with his rodeo. We may take one of the board members campers and fair will use the gas card for fuel. CDA Rodeo possibly would like our help, but being it is August 24-27th Melissa is not able to attend and help, but other board members potentially can. PRCA & WPRA applications are ready and we will need the checks to be sent off this month.

FINANCIALS

- A. Claims motion to approve by Brian and 2nd by Jim
- B. Review of the financial report – approved Kim and 2nd Brian. There is a discrepancy and we will discuss with Lisa to get fixed ASAP

ADJOURNMENT 7:47 adjourn Brian motioned and 2nd by Kim

Melissa Cady 03092023