

FAIR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, January 23 2018

TIME: 5:30 pm

LOCATION: Building 3 – Enter through west side

AGENDA: (subject to change at the discretion of the Board)

Time Topic Presenter

05:30:39 PM (00:00:00)

1.0 Welcome Jeff Wade

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Call for Attendance:

Present were Fair Board Members: Chairman Jeff Wade and Ann Marie Moran; Fairgrounds Staff: Interim General Manager Dennis Voeller, Financial Manager Rachel May, Office Manager/Board Secretary Linda Blomback and Operations Foreman Kole Kuntz; Commissioner Joe Skinner. Absent were Fair Board Members: Vice-Chair Brenda York, Michael Everts, Conrad Anker, K.C. McLaughlin.

1.3 Review & Approval of Minutes 9-19-17 & 10-17-17 (no meeting November)-No Quorum

05:31:24 PM (00:00:45)

2.0 Introduction of Interim General Manager

Jeff Wade

- Lori Cox resigned to take a position at the Nebraska State Fair. Dennis Voeller has been formally asked to be the Interim General Manager.
- Dennis comments: Our intent as staff is to keep the same goals that have been laid out previously. We will adjust duties within staff until after the Fair.

3.0 Call for Public Comment - None

Jeff Wade

05:33:53 PM (00:03:14)

4.0 Presentations

4.1 Gallatin County Commission Report

Joe Skinner

- Welcome to Dennis as General Manager
- Discussion happening re: open space bond or mill levy. Could affect the Fairgrounds.

05:37:24 PM (00:06:44)

5.0 Financials Rachel May

5.1 Aging

 City of Bozeman discovered an error in their billing for our restroom utilities since 2010 and have refunded the Fairgrounds \$14,215.00.

05:39:53 PM (00:09:13)

6.0 Big Sky Country State Fair – Programming

- Anderson Arena—3 concerts booked: High Valley & Aaron Watson on Wednesday, Randy Houser on Thursday; rock act in the works for Friday; Ranch Rodeo continuing with performances Saturday and Sunday and will include the Barnyard Brawl this year.
- 6.1 Haynes Pavilion Dennis Voeller
 - Possible programming to include Farmers Market or Home Show vendors; meeting are scheduled.

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6.2 Indoor Arena – Bronze Bonanza, rabbits, goats, sheep

- **Dennis Voeller**
- Bronze Bonanza has been moved to weekend before; rabbits, goats & sheep moving to
 Indoor Arena; buying some pens and equipment to deal with heat
- 6.3 Grounds Acts bears, turkey races, pedal pull, petting zoo, pony rides, hypnotist, kids variety show Dennis Voeller
 - Contracts are done for turkey races, petting zoo, pony rides, pedal pull, kids variety show;
 waiting for bear exhibit and hypnotist contracts to come back.
 - Bear exhibit is an educational exhibit.
- 6.4 Specialty Ag Programming

Dennis Voeller

- Dirt Made My Lunch being expanded into Dirt Made My Beer, intern hired
- 6.5 Commercial Vendors

Rachel May

- Applications sent; outdoor spaces only; received one back so far; Rachel and Linda are working together to process applications
- Discussion on why no indoor offered: Last year commercial vendors in the Haynes were disappointed; outdoor spaces are always the first to be filled.
- 6.6 Competitive Exhibits

Linda Blomback

 Paula Marquardt & Superintendents – new spring workshops planned; contests during Fair include grilled cheese, peanut butter & jelly, seed spitting, wife carrying, etc.; Competitors Guide is in process and will be inserted in the Chronicle and Belgrade News.

05:49:20 PM (00:18:40)

7.0 Interim Events

7.1 Staffing – marketing, sponsorship

Dennis Voeller

- Amanda Moore interned during last year's Fair and worked closely with Lori on sponsorships; she is continuing to work on the sponsorships part time
- Interim marketing/sponsorship position open-we have 2 people interested.
- 7.2 New Sales Rachel May
 - Two new vintage markets, Coleman Lantern show, 3 weddings, art show, WWSRA
 (3x/year), new fundraiser, National Wild Turkey Fundraiser; GotDog; other dog events; up
 25% from this time last year.
- 7.3 Gun Show in July Haynes Pavilion

Dennis Voeller

- Due to needing more time to setup for Fair, the Fairgrounds is planning to move the July Gun Show to the Haynes Pavilion and offering the Farmers Market to be part of Fair.
- Discussion on Farmers Market customers having to pay admission to Fair; Farmers Market being limited to indoor only; possible conflict between Farmers Market food vendors and traditional Fair food vendor; will Farmers Market vendors pay as much as outdoor vendors?; comparison of items sold indoor vs outdoor; Farmers Market will highlight local crafts which is needed at the Fair;
- 7.4 Update on MP Building

Dennis Voeller

 Met with 2 commissioners on Monday. The Fairgrounds has signed an agreement with Northern Rocky Mountain Economic Development District for research. Should have update by early February.

06:07:49 PM (00:37:10)

8.0 Capital Update

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8.1 Rabbit Barn Removal

Dennis Voeller

- Nick Borzak, County Facilities, advised that an environmental assessment is needed; need permit for demolition
- 8.2 Pedestrian Pathways

Dennis Voeller

• Nick also requested running project past City of Bozeman; City engineers requested an updated Master Plan due to ice tower being located off the Fairgrounds

8.3 Landscaping – fence, Denecke

- Planning to remove fence by Motor Sports Area for carnival; fixing entrance gate at Anderson Arena
- Talked to Bill Brownell and City of Bozeman engineers about using millings for paved pathway; communicating with City of Bozeman engineers is as courtesy to help with planning, not an approval authority

06:14:47 PM (00:44:08)

9.0 Business Items-None

Jeff Wade

Announcements:

- Rachel has a friend who is interested in joining the board.
- Dennis was contacted by American Legion Baseball who would like to be on the agenda next month to
 present a construction project for locker rooms. Also an adult baseball league interested in the
 baseball field.

06:19:49 PM (00:49:09)

10.0 Adjournment Jeff Wade