



NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD

Nebraska State Fair * 501 E Fonner Park Rd, Ste 200 * PO Box 1387 * Grand Island, NE * 68802-1387 * 308-382-1620

MEETING MINUTES

December 9, 2016 –1:00 p.m.

Board room in the Nebraska Building located at Fonner Park, Grand Island NE

A regular monthly meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Friday, December 9, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. Public notice of this meeting was published in the November 28 & 29, 2016, issues of the Grand Island Independent newspaper and posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website from November 15 – December 9, 2016.

Roll call was read with the following members present: Bob Haag; Harry Hoch-joined meeting at 1:17 p.m.; Chris Kircher, Chairperson; Jeff Kliment; Kathleen Lodl; Doug Lukassen; Chuck Rolf, Vice-Chairperson; Marvin Rousey, Secretary; Kirk Shane; Steve Wehrbein and Kent Zeller. Others in attendance were: Joseph McDermott, Executive Director; Kelly O'Brien, Administrative Assistant; Shaun Schleif, Marketing & Sponsorship Director; Jace Robinson, Marketing & Sponsorship Assistant; Jaime Parr, Facility Director; Janna Kuklis, Facility Assistant; Chelsey Jungck, Events & Entertainment Director; Kelsey Brozek, Events & Entertainment Assistant; Grace Childress, Special Events Assistant; Bill Angell, Livestock Superintendent; Scott Yound, Maintenance Director; Jason Fry, Maintenance Assistant; Lindsey Koepke, 1868 Foundation Executive Director; Ryan Hassebrook; Steve White, NTV News and Harold Reuter, the Independent.

Kircher announced the meeting had been properly advertised as an open meeting and informed those in attendance of the posting location of the Open Meetings Act.

Minutes of November 11, 2016

There being no corrections:

**Motion made by Rolf to approve the minutes of November 11, 2016 as printed.
Lukassen seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

Appointment/Election of Executive Committee – Treasurer

McDermott stated an election is needed to fill the Treasurer position until the February 2017 board meeting. Steve Wehrbein, Kirk Shane and Harry Hoch are interested in filling the position.

Ballots for Treasurer were provided to each board member by McDermott and O'Brien.

Ballots were collected, tallied and presented to Kircher. Kircher declared there was a tie between Hoch and Shane.

A second round of ballots were provided to each board member by McDermott and O'Brien. Ballots were collected, tallied and presented to Kircher. Kircher declared Hoch as the Treasurer until February 2017.

Visit with Mayor Jensen

Mayor Jensen expressed his condolences for the loss of board member, Lowell Minert.

Mayor Jensen shared his appreciation as well as the community's appreciation for what the Nebraska State Fair continues to do.

Mayor Jensen wanted the board members to know that the contribution of \$100,000 to the City is being used as community impact money. The Mayor has decided to put the contribution money into a community foundation account. It will be used specifically at the Mayors discretion. Two recent unique opportunities; Victory Place, the new housing development for homeless veterans. The apartments are beautiful and brand new, but they are empty. In working with a local business, Mayor Jensen purchased new mattresses for all the units. The second opportunity, they purchased 225 brand new winter coats for elementary children.

November Financial Report

McDermott reported total current assets of \$1,836,229; payables at \$627,155; total direct revenue at \$4,661,973 and direct expenses at \$7,530,832.

Motion made by Rousey to approve the October Financial Report.

Lukassen seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

McDermott reported he has been working on the budget. McDermott has also met with the Director's regarding their budgets. Each Director has looked at specific areas of their budget that can be reduced. McDermott anticipates having a preliminary budget and Capital Expenditures to the board next week.

Rousey added at some point in early January, they would like to have a Finance committee meeting to review the budget report in order to report to the board at the January board meeting.

Regarding the Transparency website, McDermott reported, we are ready. We have sent the state two sample files. As soon as they are ready to start accepting the information, we will submit to the states website.

Wehrbein asked regarding the budget, if there is just an item for building maintenance. Asking do we have a certain amount of money to maintain and keep up the buildings?

McDermott reminded the board members that Fonner Park is responsible for the upkeep of the barns. We are responsible for the Nebraska Building which is two years old. To answer Wehrbeins question,

McDermott replied, we have not set aside any money yet. A fund set aside for this building, parking lot, etc. probably should be looked at.

Committee Reports

a. Facility Planning

Rolf reported McDermott and the committee met with State Patrol and Mark & Sharon Dreher from Double Locked Security regarding their rolls during the Nebraska State Fair. Some ideas were given to State Patrol and Double Locked Security of additional things we would like them to do.

Rolf also mentioned there was discussion regarding a wireless network.

b. Finance

Rousey reported the Finance committee took into consideration the wireless network and incorporating it into the budget.

c. Public Affairs and Outreach

No report.

d. Livestock

Shane reported the committee looked over the budget. We have a very large bedding bill every year. Bedding cost is \$48K and cleanup of the bedding is \$66K.

Shane mentioned we haven't raised entry fee's in 4-H, FFA and Open Class recently. The committee would like to suggest charging a \$15.00 bedding fee for all cattle (including Dairy cattle) and a \$5.00 bedding fee sheep, goat and swine in 4-H, FFA and Open Class.

Angell shared our entry fees in Open Class are comparable to other fairs and below what some other fairs charge in 4-H/FFA.

Shane reminded the board members that we don't allow exhibitors to bring their own bedding in an attempt to keep the barns dust free and the buildings clean.

Motion made by Shane to charge a \$15.00 bedding fee for cattle (including Dairy cattle) in 4-H, FFA and Open class as well as charging a \$5.00 bedding fee for sheep, goat and swine in 4-H, FFA and Open class.

Haag seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Shane also reported we spend about \$3K on drug testing, yet we pay out \$43K in premium money. It costs over \$100 a head to test an animal. Right now we do not charge for the drug testing. The committee would like to suggest charging \$3.00 on all Market animals (i.e. cattle, sheep, goat and swine) entered.

Angell added this is a minimal charge. When the exhibitors enter, no one knows who is going to be tested.

Motion made by Shane to charge \$3.00 per head on all Market animals (i.e. cattle, sheep, goat and swine) entered.

Rolf seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

e. Events

Wehrbein reported the committee talked about the historical display. Looked at the direction we are going. Planning to visit the State Museum and the Historical Society in Lincoln prior to the January board meeting.

f. Executive

Kircher reported the committee discussed revisions to commercial vendor contracts. They should have more to report on this topic at the January board meeting.

The committee was updated on some opportunities evolving for GILCA.

Future Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting Dates and Location

- a. February 24 – Board meeting/Luncheon with Senators, Lincoln NE
- b. March 3 -5 – IAFE Zone 5 Convention, Peoria IL
- c. March 16 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair board room
- d. April 14 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair board room
- e. May 12 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair board room
- f. June 9 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair board room
- g. July 14 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair board room
- h. August TBD – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair board room
- i. August 25 thru September 4 – “148th Nebraska State Fair”
- j. October 13 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair board room
- k. November 10 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair board room
- l. December 7 – NSF Board, Foundation & Staff Christmas dinner, Riverside Golf Course
- m. December 8 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair board room

Foundation Updates

Koepke expressed her gratitude to the board members for including the Foundation Board members at the Christmas dinner.

Koepke is busy working on year end. She also recently did a large mailing (4,400 pieces) of information telling about the foundation.

Other Business

None

Adjourn

Motion made by Rolf to adjourn.

Wehrbein seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Time adjourned: 2:00 p.m.