



NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD

Nebraska State Fair*501 East Fonner Park Road, Ste 200*PO Box 1387*Grand Island, NE*68803-1387*308-382-1620

MEETING MINUTES June 3, 2016 – 1:00 p.m.

A regular monthly meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Friday, June 3, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. on the Nebraska Innovation Campus in Lincoln, Nebraska. Public notice of this meeting was published in the May 23 – 24, 2016 issues of the Grand Island Independent newspaper and posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website from May 24 – June 2, 2016.

Roll call was read with the following members present: Mark Fahleson; Harry Hoch; Chris Kircher, President; Jeff Kliment; Lowell Minert, Treasurer; Chuck Rolf, Vice President; Marvin Rousey, Secretary; Kirk Shane; Steve Wehrbein; Bob Haag; Doug Lukassen; Kent Zeller and Kathleen Lodi. Others in attendance were: Joseph McDermott, Executive Director; Shaun Schleif, Marketing and Sponsorship Director; Ross Struss, Marketing and Sponsorship Assistant; Chelsey Jungck, Events and Entertainment Director; Grace Childress, Special Events Assistant; Janna Kuklis, Facility Assistant; Ryan Hasebrook, FFA; Bill Angell, Livestock Superintendent; Lindsey Koepke, 1868 Foundation Executive Director.

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

Kircher then thanked Lodi for hosting the meeting at the Innovation Campus at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and asked everyone to give her a round of applause.

Minutes of May 13, 2016

There being no corrections:

**Motion made by Fahleson to approve the minutes of May 13, 2016 as printed.
Rolf seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

May Financial Report

McDermott reported total current assets of \$3,392,638; payables at \$18,815; total direct revenue at \$801,519 and direct expenses \$763,805.

**Motion made by Lukassen to approve the May Financial Report.
Shane seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Directors Report

McDermott reported that Jungck had hired on a new full time assistant per board approval. Grace Childress was introduced as the new member of the staff.

McDermott noted that the Midway Agreement extension with Wade Shows has been signed by Frank Zaitshek of the Wade Shows. Copies were at their seat for their handbook.

McDermott also shared that there is one NAFM spring meeting left on June 12th in Springfield, Nebraska.

McDermott then invited Jungck up to give an update on the Bill Marshall Volleyball Classic.

Jungck reported that the registrations opened last Friday and currently 11 teams have signed up to participate in the tournament with several other schools expressing interest. She mentioned that the NSAA has changed their jamboree guidelines to allow a best of five sets match or two, two set, games. The NSAA will also be hosting an officials clinic which will reduce the cost of officials for the high school matches. Minert asked if there would be any issues with man power to help with the games. Jungck answered that Hastings College was taking care of everything for the college tournament and that they should have no issues with the high school side.

McDermott also noted that Grand Island, at one time, hosted the state high school volleyball tournament and the community was excited to get volleyball back in GI.

Electronic Message Board on Locust Street

McDermott told the board that the Daktronics video board on Locust Street is eight years old and the manufacturer is out of replacement parts. McDermott noted that he discussed with the PR Committee that Fonner Park is willing to pay for half of a new Watchfire sign.

**Fahleson moved to approve \$85,000 to replace the South Locust Street sign.
Rousey seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

Lifetime Membership Policy

McDermott noted that the staff had put together a plan for the Lifetime Membership Policy and the PR Committee reviewed and revised the policy earlier in the morning. He then turned the discussion over to PR Committee Chair Fahleson.

Fahleson went through the policy noting the points and requirements for lifetime membership; he also noted that the PR committee took out one requirement.

**Fahleson moved to approve the Lifetime Membership Policy as presented.
Minert seconded the motion. Upon Voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

Rain Insurance for Outdoor Concerts

McDermott began by noting that there is a difference between rain insurance and event insurance. He said that he has received quotes on rain insurance and would like permission from the Board to work with the Executive Committee to decide what coverage is needed for the 2016 outdoor concerts.

Fahleson moved to allow the Executive Director and the Executive Committee to take appropriate action to prudently reduce the risks of the outdoor concerts which include insurance purchases.

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

Committee Reports

a. Facility Planning

Rolf reported healthy discussion was had and that they were moving on with solutions for issues with the new Outdoor Arena. He noted that the project is currently 2% over budget and that the electrical work and crow's nest are in the process of being completed. He finished by saying that the shade structure is having a timing issue and may not be completed until after the fair this year.

b. Finance

Rousey reported the committee met with the auditors this morning. Each member of the board has received a copy of the audit and that they look to have it approved at the July board meeting.

c. Public Affairs and Outreach

Fahleson reported that the committee discussed having a \$1.50 gate admission at the 2017 Nebraska State Fair to coincide with the state's 150th birthday.

The group also talked about getting a new Nebraska themed float for the daily parades as well as others to also coincide with the 150th birthday of Nebraska.

Fahleson noted that the group received an update on Multicultural inclusion at the fair. Staff has also put together several ticket bundles to offset the price increase of gate admission.

Fahleson moved to approve an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for construction of a new parade float.

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

d. Livestock

Meeting after the day's board meeting

e. Events

Wehrbein reported that they met on Thursday night. They currently have 10 Grand Marshalls and only need nine so one will be on standby.

Invitations have been sent out for the opening ceremony and that there will be a board reunion during the fair.

Wehrbein mentioned the committee also spent time discussing the possibility of placing a kiosk downstairs as a museum exhibit. That will not happen in 2016 but possibly 2017 as they are still gathering information.

Wehrbein mentioned they are still working on policies of accepting and retention of fair historical items.

f. Executive Committee

Kircher – Did not meet

Future Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting Date, Locations and Other Events

- a. July 8 – Board Meeting, The Leadership Center, Aurora
- b. August 13 – Board Meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board Room
- c. August 13 – Blue Ribbon Roll Out – Heartland Event Center
- d. August 26 – September 5 – Nebraska State Fair
- e. October 14 – Board Meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board Room
- f. November 11 – Board Meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board Room
- g. December 8 – Board & Staff Christmas Dinner, Riverside Golf Club
- h. December 9 – Board Meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board Room

Minert encouraged board member to come by the fairground at the July meeting to see the Angus show that will be happening on the grounds.

Foundation Updates

Koepke reported that the naming rights for the Arena have been approved and that the new arena will be called the Thompson Foods Open Air Arena. She is looking at a July timeline for the dedication of the arena. McDermott noted that Fonner Park has also approved the naming rights. Koepke said they have currently raised \$751,000 for the project. Blue Ribbon Roll out is the next big event on the foundation calendar. Thompson Foods in helping out this year. She is looking for Fair Themed/Centered silent auction items.

Other Business

None

**Fahleson moved that the group recess until the lawyer arrived for executive session.
Rousey seconded the motion, upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

**Fahleson moved that the group come out of recess.
Rousey seconded the motion, upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session – Litigation

**Fahleson moved that the board enter executive session to discuss pending litigation.
Rousey seconded the motion, upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Time entered Executive session: 1:43 p.m.

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Rolf moved that the board exit the executive session.

Fahleson seconded the motion, upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Time exited Executive session: 2:39 p.m.

Adjournment

Rousey moved that the board adjourn.

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

Time adjourned: 2:41 p.m.