



## **NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD**

Nebraska State Fair \* PO Box 1387 \* Grand Island, NE \* 68802-1387 \* 308-382-1620

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**April 14, 2017 – 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, April 14, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. Public notice of this meeting was published in the April 3 & 4, 2017 issues of the Grand Island Independent newspaper and posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website from March 30 – April 14, 2017.

Roll call was read with the following members present: Stan Brodine; Mark Fahleson; Bob Haag; Harry Hoch, Treasurer; Denny Hoffman; Chris Kircher, Chairperson; Jeff Kliment; Kathleen Lodi; Doug Lukassen; Chuck Rolf, Secretary; Kirk Shane, Vice Chairperson; Steve Wehrbein and Kent Zeller. Others in attendance were: Joseph McDermott, Executive Director; Kelly O'Brien, Administrative Assistant; Bill Angell, Livestock Superintendent; Sandy Spiehs, Assistant Livestock Superintendent; Shaun Schleif, Marketing & Sponsorship Director; Jace Robinson, Marketing Assistant; Chelsey Jungck, Events & Entertainment Director; Selena Aguilar, Events Assistant; Kayla Crowder, Events Assistant Jaime Parr, Facility Director; Janna Kuklis, Facility Assistant; Scott Yound, Maintenance Director; Jason Fry, Maintenance Assistant; Lindsey Koepke, 1868 Foundation Executive Director; Robert Pore, the Independent; Brett Sinclair, Pierson Wireless; Kim Pederson, NSF Volunteer Coordinator; Tom Bridge, IT Consultant-via phone conference.

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 March 16, 2017**

There being no corrections:

**Motion made by Rolf to approve the minutes of March 16, 2017 as printed.  
Shane seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

#### **March Financial Report**

McDermott reported total current assets of \$3,445,627; current liabilities at \$491,884; total direct revenue at \$235,334 and direct expenses \$520,787.

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

### **Executive Director's Report**

McDermott reported staff has been or will be at all the NAFM District Spring meetings giving a presentation on behalf of the Nebraska State Fair. McDermott reminded the board members they are welcome to attend any of the NAFM District Spring meetings.

McDermott also reported the Nebraska State Fair is a founding member of the Midwest Fair Managers Association. Parr and Schleif attended the Conference that was held April 7 – 9, in Miami FL. Both Parr and Schleif shared a few highlights from the conference.

McDermott shared Yound, Jungck and himself will be attending the IAFE Spring Managers Conference in Spokane WA on April 25 – 28.

### **Raising Nebraska Update**

Lodl gave a report on some highlights from 2016 in Raising Nebraska:

1. In 2016 over one and a half million people had contact with Raising Nebraska through the Nebraska State Fair, Nebraska Tourism Passport Program, education programs, news media, and social media.
2. Over 1385 participants received 190 hours of instructional teaching at *Raising Nebraska* in 44 programs for schools, youth organizations, and daycares.
3. Over 3210 participants received 88 hours of instructional teaching with *Raising Nebraska on the Road* in 22 programs for schools and youth organizations.
4. In a post-program evaluation, youth indicated they learned about Food and Agriculture through their *Raising Nebraska* experience.

-When asked, "Name one thing you learned today", youth commented:

- "I learned that 2,000 kids are waiting for food in Buffalo County"
- "That meat chickens are called broilers"
- "Nebraska grows sugar beets"
- "A lot of jobs deal with agriculture"

-When asked what they will share with someone else as part of the experience, youth commented:

- "How milk only takes 2 days to get to the store"
- "The place is the best place ever and I want to come back"
- "Nebraska has the most irrigated land"
- "It is fun and they should come here"

In 2017 they will have a couple new things in Raising Nebraska. They are also looking at how to get new hype for the space. They will be doing some listening sessions and inviting people to join in conversations about what the next phase for the Raising Nebraska Space should be.

### **NSF Volunteer Update**

McDermott introduced Kim Pederson as the new Volunteer Coordinator and asked her to give an update regarding the NSF Volunteer program.

Pederson reported she has been busy updating the volunteer database. Stated it is a huge database. Has updated all of the job descriptions. Her goal for 2017 is to have 800+ Volunteers. Pederson is going to approach businesses to pick a day to come out and volunteer as a group.

Pederson also shared the Volunteer Appreciation Kick-Off is Monday, May 8. Invites and RSVP's were mailed out Wednesday, April 12.

Pederson is excited for 2017 and will really enjoy working with the Volunteers.

McDermott added, when the Fair moved to GI, the database was all done manually. Now it is done online due in part to money the NSF Board approved for the website.

### **Campus Wireless Project with Security Cameras**

McDermott gave a little background regarding our existing wireless network. McDermott and Tom Bridge, our IT Consultant, developed an RFP for a firm to develop a campus wide wireless mesh. The RFP was sent to the Nebraska State Patrol for their approval and once approved, sent to six different vendors. We received four responses from the RFP. Bridge then evaluated the proposals and recommended the proposal from Pierson Wireless of Omaha. McDermott stated we are at the point where he would like the board members thoughts and approval for funding of the project.

McDermott introduced Brett Sinclair from Pierson Wireless.

Sinclair presented the Pierson Wireless proposal for the campus wireless project, which uses the latest generation 3 equipment. Though most of the equipment on our existing network is of the older generation, there is a limited amount of third generation equipment on our network, and this equipment will be incorporated into the new network. Once completed, we will have the latest equipment across the grounds, which should serve our needs for several years.

Bridge added our current system is a combination of first and second generation equipment. The newer third generation equipment will improve our overall coverage and increase network speeds.

Fahleson asked if this is going to help with our outdoor concert area where you have 12,000 people all with mobile devices.

Sinclair replied, they are only able to install this where power is available. It will help out, but not provide full coverage for that area.

McDermott added if we have a strong pipeline coming in, we should have a good strong signal with the new system. Regarding the cameras, NE State Patrol met with McDermott and told him in their opinion where the 12 cameras should be placed. They can pan, tilt & zoom. Will have the equipment to record activity across the grounds. McDermott stated we can always add cameras as we see fit. This will provide better safety and security to our fair goers.

Fahleson asked Bridge if it is his recommendation to approve the wireless coverage.

Bridge replied, yes, it is.

**Fahleson motioned to approve the proposal from Pierson Wireless in the amount of \$241,221.83, with the addition of cameras in the livestock barns as recommended by the Facilities committee for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.**

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

### **Committee Reports**

**a. Facility Planning**

-Rolf – reported nothing new.

**b. Finance**

-Hoch – no meeting

**c. Public Affairs and Outreach**

-Fahleson – no meeting

**d. Livestock**

-Shane - reported Livestock Committed discussed the High School Rodeo briefly this morning.

**e. Events**

-Wehrbein reported the committee met Thursday evening and discussed the following:

-Excited about more progress on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Eventually would like to have each cove professionally done.

-Historical Society Museum will have a display on the first floor.

-Opening Ceremony

-Grand Marshalls – would like to ask each Board member to remind the County Fairs at their NAFM District Spring meetings about the Grand Marshall nominations.

-Parades – we will have a second parade float in 2017

-County Fair Day

-Board Reunion – will serve Fair food.

**f. Executive**

Kircher reported the committee met this morning and discussed the Wireless Project. The wireless project aligns with our Mission Statement and will be a great addition to have in place on a number of levels.

### **Future Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting Dates and Locations**

- a. May 22-25 – NALSRMA Convention, Hotel Grand
- b. June 2 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- c. June 2-3 – Cattlemen’s Ball, Anselmo NE
- d. July 14 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- e. August 12 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- f. August 12 – 1868 Foundation – Blue Ribbon Roll Out, Heartland Event Center
- g. August 25-September 4 – “148<sup>th</sup> Nebraska State Fair”
- h. October 13 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- i. November 10 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- j. December 7 – NSF Board, 1868 Foundation Board & NSF Staff Christmas Dinner
- k. December 8 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room

Kircher asked Hoffman about having the June board meeting in Thedford, NE. Hoffman replied he will check with the restaurant about holding the Board meeting there or we could also go to the Hoffman ranch. Hoffman mentioned they also have an old school house on their property that they have renovated into a museum. We could hold the board meeting there as well.

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O'Brien mentioned we have ten (10) hotel rooms held in Thedford for June 2 & 3. Thedford is an hour from the 2017 Cattlemen's Ball which is in Anselmo. Please let her know if interested in a hotel room.

O'Brien will send out an email asking who is interested in tickets for the Cattlemen's Ball and will order the tickets.

McDermott stated O'Brien and himself will work with Hoffman to get the details in place for the June 2 Board meeting.

### **Foundation update**

Koepke reminded everyone that May 3 is GO BIG GIVE!! The Foundation raises a good portion of their funds through the GO BIG GIVE campaign. Koepke really like this campaign. The Annual Trustee meeting is Thursday, May 11 at Riverside Golf Club. Koepke would really like the Nebraska State Fair Board members to mix and mingle with their donors. Also, at the Trustee meeting they will announce the Life Time Friend of the Fair. Otherwise, they are in a holding pattern. Giving them time to look through their record keeping. Koepke plans to reach out to some of the past donors that haven't renewed to see if they would be interested in joining again. Blue Ribbon Roll Out is August 12.

### **Other Business**

None

### **Executive Session**

**Rolf motioned to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of Personnel.  
Seconded by Haag. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

**Time: 2:15 p.m.**

**Fahleson motioned to exit Executive Session.  
Wehrbein seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

**Time: 2:22 p.m.**

### **Adjourn**

**Fahleson motioned to adjourn.  
Wehrbein seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

**Time: 2:33 p.m.**