



NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD

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

MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 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 Thursday, March 16, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. Public notice of this meeting was published in the March 5 & 6, 2017 issues of the Grand Island Independent newspaper and posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website from February 23 – March 16, 2017.

Roll call was read with the following members present: Mark Fahleson; Bob Haag; Harry Hoch, Treasurer; Denny Hoffman; Chris Kircher, Chairperson; Jeff Kliment; Kathleen Lodi via conference phone; 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 Spiels, Assistant Livestock Superintendent; Shaun Schleif, Marketing & Sponsorship Director; Jace Robinson, Marketing Assistant; Chelsey Jungck, Events & Entertainment Director; Kelsey Brozek, Events & Entertainment Assistant; Jaime Parr, Facility Director; Janna Kuklis, Facility Assistant; Scott Yound, Maintenance Director; Jason Fry, Maintenance Assistant; Lindsey Koepke, 1868 Foundation Executive Director, Fran Romeo and Phil Potter, Romeo Entertainment; Robert Pore, the Independent; Steve White, NTV.

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.

Election of Officers

McDermott opened nominations for the office of Chairperson.

Kircher was nominated by Shane. No other nominations were received and, after due notice, nominations were closed. Kircher was elected to the position of Chairperson by acclamation.

Kircher re-assumed the position of Chairperson and opened nominations for the office of Vice Chairperson.

Shane was nominated by Kircher. No other nominations were received and, after due notice, nominations were closed. Shane was elected to the position of Vice Chairperson by acclamation.

Kircher opened nominations for the office of Secretary.

Rolf was nominated by Lukassen. No other nominations were received and, after due notice, nominations were closed. Rolf was elected to the position of Secretary by acclamation.

Kircher opened nominations for the office of Treasurer.

Hoch was nominated by Rolf. No other nominations were received and, after due notice, nominations were closed. Kircher was elected to the position of Chairperson by acclamation.

Minutes of January 20, 2017

There being no corrections:

Motion made by Lukassen to approve the minutes of January 20, 2017 as printed. Haag seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

February Financial Report

McDermott reported total current assets of \$2,283,250; current liabilities at \$463,771; total direct revenue at \$183,010 and direct expenses \$273,582

Motion made by Kliment to approve the February Financial Report. Hoch seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

McDermott reported the Auditors will be here the first week of May and hopes to have the audit by mid-June.

McDermott asked Angell to talk about the upcoming NALSRMA (North American Livestock Show and Rodeo Managers Association) conference.

Angell shared NALSRMA is a national conference that is held at a different location each year in May. This year the NALSRMA conference will be held here in Grand Island. The conference dates are May 22-25. They are planning on approximately 75-100 people attending.

McDermott added they encourage Board Members to attend the conference as an Ambassador of the Nebraska State Fair.

Angell would particularly like board members to attend the banquet which is Wednesday night, May 24th.

Discussion with Romeo Entertainment

Kircher introduced Fran Romeo and Phil Potter from Romeo Entertainment Group. Both Fran and Phil joined the Executive Committee meeting this morning and answered a questions the board members have regarding concerts. Romeo Entertainment has become a signature piece of what the Nebraska State Fair has become and the Executive Committee got a good feel for some of the challenges of

bringing the best talent available to the fair. Kircher asked Fran and Phil to talk about how the landscape has changed and how it is a different process than it used to be.

Phil Potter thanked the board members for allowing Fran and himself to come talk with them today. Potter enjoys coming out and producing the shows at the fair. Romeo Entertainment has a long tradition with the Nebraska State Fair. Potter stated, twenty years ago, national acts were generally booked by local promoters. But now they're booked by several large, national companies that work with bigger venues. There is more competition to book entertainment acts. Contracts and the paperwork are more complicated than they were decades ago. Many of the bigger acts charge \$1 million or more per show, putting them out of the financial reach of the Nebraska State Fair. There are only so many artists and many more venues that want them. It is all price driven. In 2015, the Nebraska State Fair decided to host outdoor concerts that could accommodate larger crowds and draw bigger acts, such as Keith Urban.

Kircher commented we are excited about the concert announcements we will be making soon. Feels good that we have the right talent coming to the fair.

McDermott added, we have some exciting acts coming to the fair this year.

Kircher thanked Romeo Entertainment for sharing the realities of the entertainment world.

Aksarben 4-H Livestock Show Contract

McDermott shared discussion started in November-December of last year regarding the possibility of the Aksarben 4-H Livestock Show partnering with GILCA (Grand Island Livestock Complex Authority) and moving the show to Grand Island. Today McDermott is presenting to board members a contract that has been drawn up for the Aksarben 4-H Livestock Show.

Motion made by Fahleson to ratify the Aksarben 4-H Livestock Show contract as presented. Shane seconded the motion. Kircher noted that he was abstaining from voting in light of his Relationship with both Aksarben and Nebraska State Fair. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously with Kircher abstaining.

Update on Livestock Rules and Regulations

Angell reported each year the Livestock Department reviews and modifies the Livestock Rules & Regulations. Angell mentioned the addition to the Rules & Regulations this year is on page 3, #6 - Voluntary Waiver. The Livestock Rules & Regulations presented to the board members today have been discussed with and approved by our Attorney.

Motion made by Fahleson to approve the Livestock Rules & Regulations as presented. Haag seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Memorial to Lowell Minert

Shane shared the Livestock Committee discussed a couple different things regarding a memorial to Lowell Minert and asked Angell to share those ideas.

Angell stated Lowell Minert was a lifelong Angus breeder and cattleman who had two major passions – the Angus breed shows and the Thompson Food Outdoor Arena for the High School Rodeo.

The ideas for a memorial they came up with are:

1. Name the State Fair Open Angus Show after Lowell Minert. Would like to call it, “The Lowell Minert R.O.V. Angus Show”.
2. They also want to let people know somehow, that the building of the outdoor arena was built with the help of Lowell Minert. Before doing anything, the Livestock Committee needs to discuss their idea with Koepke and the 1868 Foundation Board to get final approval.

Motion made by Fahleson to name the Open Angus show, The Lowell Minert R.O.V show. Haag seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Fahleson that the Livestock Committee meet with the 1868 Foundation to resolve the recommendation as a possible way to recognize Lowell as part of the Thompson Foods Outdoor Arena. Rolf seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

a. Facility Planning

-Rolf – no meeting

b. Finance

-No Chair – no meeting

Kircher asked board members to let him know what committees they want to participate on. The 2017 committees will be announced prior to the April board meeting.

c. Public Affairs and Outreach

-Fahleson – no meeting

d. Livestock

-Shane reported Livestock discussed the following:

- Livestock Rules & Regulations – presented in #10 on the Agenda.
- Work with a society on having a “Conservation in Ag” day.
- Moving the Longhorns into the Cattle barn.
- Having a Junior Sheep Show in conjunction with the Open Class Sheep Show.
- Celebrity Showman Class.
- Looking for College age kids to manage the Avenue of Breeds as well as educate fair guests about the animals.
- In 2017 the selection of all 4-H/FFA Livestock will take place within two days. Sunday afternoon and Monday. Would like newspaper and media coverage.

Shane closed his report by sharing with board members that Bill Angell, NSF Livestock Superintendent, was inducted into the “Livestock Marketeers Hall of Fame” in Denver and Bob Mills, NSF Open Class Beef Superintendent was inducted into the “Black Hills Stock Show Silver Spur Hall of Fame”. Both of the articles written about the gentlemen and their induction, mentions their participation in the Nebraska State Fair.

e. Events

-Wehrbein reported the committee met this morning. They are excited to see work being done on the 1st floor of the Nebraska Building for the kiosks that will display historical information.

The committee discussed the following topics:

- Opening Ceremony
- Milestones – if you know of one, please get the information to the committee
- Board Reunion
- Board Social

f. Executive

Kircher reported the committee met this morning with Fran Romeo and Phil Potter of Romeo Entertainment Group.

Future Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting Dates and Locations

- a. May 8 – Third Annual NSF Volunteer Appreciation Kick-off, Quilt room, Pinnacle Bank Arena
- b. May 11 – 1868 Foundation - Annual Meeting of Trustees, Riverside Golf Club
- c. May 12 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- d. May 22-25 – NALSRMA Convention, Hotel Grand
- e. June 9 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- f. July 14 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- g. August 12 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- h. August 12 – 1868 Foundation – Blue Ribbon Roll Out, Heartland Event Center
- i. August 25-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, 1868 Foundation Board & NSF Staff Christmas Dinner
- m. December 8 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room

Kircher mentioned the Cattlemen’s Ball is June 2 & 3, 2017, in Merna, NE, which is close to Broken Bow. Kircher asked if we want to host the June board meeting in that area.

McDermott asked Hoffman if he could help with meeting space and hotel availability in the area.

Hoffman mentioned there is a hotel in Thedford as well as a restaurant. We could possibly hold the board meeting in the restaurant. Best option for hotels will be in Broken Bow.

McDermott replied they will look in to it and get back to the board with the outcome.

Kircher thank Hoch for the invitation to dinner last night.

Foundation update

Koepke reported the Foundation currently does not have a big project that they are fund raising for. They are busy working on a CRM (Customer Relation Management) system. It will mimic the look of the NSF website. The system will help keep better track of their donors, their gift giving and volunteers. It will also allow them to sell Nebraska State Fair souvenir merchandise via online. Koepke has been busy migrating data.

The Foundation board is set to meet today after the Nebraska State Fair Board meeting.

Koepke shared a couple of upcoming important dates:

- May 3 - GO BIG GIVE. The Foundation has finished in the top two the last couple of years.
- May 11 – 1868 Foundation Annual Meeting of the Trustees. They will be nominating and voting on a Lifetime Friend of the Fair that will be announced that evening.
- August 12 – 1868 Foundation Blue Ribbon Roll Out.

Other Business

Kircher thanked those board members for attending the GI Chamber Annual Meeting this evening and also those that are participating in the St. Paddy's Day party in Lincoln with the elected officials this evening.

Parr reminded everyone that we sponsor a race at Fonner Park on April 14 as does the Foundation. Their race is right after ours. Everyone is encouraged to join in the photo op after each race.

Adjourn

Motion made by Fahleson to adjourn.

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

Time adjourned: 2:15 p.m.