



NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD

Nebraska State Fair Board Room, Grand Island, NE

MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 2019 – 8 a.m.

A regular monthly meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Friday, July 12, 2019, at 8:00 p.m. Public notice of this meeting was published in the July 6 & 7, 2019, issues of the Grand Island Independent newspaper and posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website from July 10, 2019 – July 12, 2019.

Roll call was read with the following members present: Stan Brodine; Dawn Caldwell; Bob Haag; Jeremy Jensen, Chris Kircher (via phone); Jeff Kliment; Kathleen Lodl; Doug Lukassen; Chuck Rolf, Secretary; Kirk Shane, Vice President; Beth Smith (via phone); Steve Wehrbein, and Kent Zeller. Others in attendance were: Lori Cox, Executive Director; Laura Hurley, Experiential Partnerships; Tish Eckstrom, Executive Assistant; Bill Angell, Director of Livestock Division; Greg Harder, Chief Operations Officer and Aksarben Stock Show Director; Chelsey Jungck; Chief of Entertainment and Events; Patrick Kopke, Chief Financial Officer; Jaime Parr, Director of Sales; Gretchen Kirchmann, Aksarben Communication Manager; Lori Arterburn, Financial Controller; Deb Irvine, Accounts Payable Specialist; Kelley O'Brien, Livestock/Domestics Manager; Lindsey Koepke, 1868 Foundation Executive Director; Robert Pore, The Independent; Bob and Michelle Romeo, Romeo Entertainment Group; Randy Merrill, Winterset Concert Events; Chris Lindner, BKD CPA's and Advisors; Gill Cunningham and Ron Pateras, NesteLive! .

Shane 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.

Talent Agency Pitches

Romeo Entertainment Group, Winterset Concert Events, and NesteLive! each presented individual pitches to the board.

2018 Audit Presentation

Chris Lindner, of BKD CPA's and Advisors, presented the audit scope and results to the board.

Minutes of June 13, 2019 Meeting

Read and need amended.

Executive Director's Report

Cox reported on the meeting between the Fonner Board and the Executive Board. Cox spoke about the MOU for Hall County Fair. Nebraska State Fair Board will review and send to the legal team, it then moves to the Hall County Fair Board for review.

Jeffery Byrne, of Byrne Pelofski, was conferenced in and reported on the Capital Campaign planning. Byrne gave the different phases that needed to take place.

**Motion was made by Lukassen to table the Capital Campaign to a later date.
Haag seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

Champion Reunions will be held Monday through Thursday of Fair. Wehrbein, Haag, and Caldwell volunteered to help with this. Golf cart numbers have been reduced. This results in a significant savings for the Fair. Golf carts will be kept out of the Core this year and no carts should be parked on east side of buildings. Carts allowed in the Core include police, medical, and deliveries. There will be six carts available for board members.

The media tour is going well. The Main Entry is scheduled to arrive the 15th of August. The new official beer label, Carnivale, was on display.

Aksarben Report

Harder reported DNA entries ended July 1st. Twenty-five families missed the deadline. All 14 states are represented. ShoWorks is being used for the first time. Harder has received good feedback about the new changes.

Financial Report

Kopke reported \$156,000 over budget this month. This is a change of 9%. Kopke reported total current assets of \$4,222,524; total current liabilities \$1,260,962; total current operating revenues \$1,290,556; total current operating expenses \$1,733,303. The audit came back with only three points of concern.

Shane asked for a motion to approve Financials.

Motion made by Lukassen to approve the Financial Report.

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

2020 Budget Workshop

Kopke presented the 2020 first draft budget. Board will vote in October on budget for the next year.

Marketing Campaign 2019

Mike Losee from Swanson Russell presented the 2019 Marketing Campaign. He showed the Mantra video, along with most creative elements.

Committee Reports

a. Facility Planning

The sidewalk on the south side of Swine Barn, outside of fence from gate 2 to gate 4, was discussed. Part of the sidewalk, from gate 2 to gate 3 has begun without approval. Cox has plans to pursue a grant for the whole project. Cost of this portion will be as much as \$21,000. Discussion commenced on the need for all capital projects needing board approval prior to investment. Rolf Discussed what the Swine facility could look like going forward.

Shane asked for a motion to pay to finish the partial sidewalk project.

Lukassen made the motion to pay to finish the partial sidewalk project.

Jensen seconded the motion.

b. Finance

Kopke reported financials were previously covered. It was requested that all checks over \$5,000 have dual signatures.

Lukassen motioned to approved dual signatures, to include Patrick Kopke, on checks over \$5,000.

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

c. Public Affairs and Outreach

Lukassen discussed the potential for the Fair to have a presence at the College World Series. Massive banners are on display at Sam's Club, Walmart South and Kubota. The Nebraska Lottery scratch ticket for the 150th was released to the public. The committee will gather newsworthy articles.

d. Livestock

Shane gave an update on the ongoing health situation. All animals from Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado will require a 48 hour vet certificate. Only one veterinarian will be coming in from the Department of Ag. The veterinarian provided will be doing an eight hour shift only. Additional veterinarians will need to be staffed to fulfill the mandate from the Department of Ag. Some resistance was received from the State Veterinarian on the non-terminal hog show.

e. Events

Wehrbein reported on the 150th celebration. Schedule includes a beard contest, a butter cow sculpture, a car show Sept 2, and a statewide lawn décor contest. Fireworks are scheduled for August 23 and September 1. Opening Extravaganza will be August 23 at 5 p.m. The parades will have 65 bands, including the UNL band on September 1.

f. Executive

Shane reported the meeting with Fonner Park Executive Board went well. Communication will be a priority going forward. Board members were asked to fill out score sheets for the talent agency presentations and turn them in before they leave.

1868 Foundation

The Blue Ribbon Rollout is close to the goal of \$150,000.

Other Business

No other business to report.

Executive Session- Lease

Time in: 2:45 p.m.

Time out: 3:10 p.m.

Adjourn

Motion made by Lukassen to adjourn.

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

Time adjourned: 3:15 p.m.