



## **NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD**

Tommy Gunz Banquet Venue, Grand Island, NE

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**May 17, 2019, – 11:00 a.m.**

A regular monthly meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Friday, May 17, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. Public notice of this meeting was published in the May 9 & 10, 2019, in the Grand Island Independent and posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website since May 10, 2019.

Roll call was read with the following members present: Stan Brodine; Dawn Caldwell; Bob Haag; Chris Kircher, Chair; Jeremy Jensen; Jeff Kliment; Doug Lukassen, Treasurer; Chuck Rolf, Secretary; Beth Smith; Steve Wehrbein; Kathleen Lodl; Kirk Shane, Vice Chair; and Kent Zeller. Others in attendance were: Lori Cox, Executive Director; Jaime Parr, Chief of Sales; Bill Angell, Director of Livestock; Greg Harder, Chief of Operations; Chelsey Jungck, Chief of Events & Entertainment; Patrick Kopke, Chief of Finance and Administration; Scott Yound, Director of Operations; Jonna Whiting; Kayla Crowder; Sue Tynan, Lindsey Koepke, Executive Director, 1868 Foundation; Lisa Pelofsky; Barb Block.

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.

#### **Guest Introductions**

Cox introduced Lisa Pelofsky and Barb Block from Byrne Pelofsky + Associates LLC. Pelofsky thanked the board and guests present for their time and interest. She presented their plan and interest in doing a capital campaign. She then fielded questions from board members.

#### **Minutes of March 17, 2019 Meeting**

**Motion made by Doug Lukassen to approve the minutes as presented.**

**Rolf seconded the motion.**

**Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Executive Director Report**

Cox brought forward:

1. Sending out an RFP for a new talent agency in June.
2. Staff hours committed to flood relief, Earth Day activities on several campuses, Go Big Give and the 50+ Expo.
3. Sponsors include the addition of the new official auto dealer, Andersen Auto Group. Also, wholesale fuel sponsorship, BossFuel, for estimated \$10,000.
4. Kopke introduced a new HR Policy manual. It will be emailed out Monday to the Board for review.

5. Cox and Hurley met with the Hall County Fair board and proposed solutions to the overlapping GILCA show dates for 2020 and beyond.
6. Nebraska State Fair was the recipient of the Milestone Award from the Greater Omaha Chamber in recognition of 150 years in business; the NAMA Award; and several Addy Awards.
7. Cox presented the new main entry design for 2019 Fair. This semi-permanent modular entry will incorporate art from Swanson Russell at an estimated cost of \$70,000.

**Rolf moves to go ahead with Main Entry at a cost of \$70,000.**

**Wehrbein seconded the motion.**

**Shane asked for a voice vote to approve the motion for the cost of the Main Gate structure.**

**Roll was taken, motion passed 7-3**

### **Financial Report**

Kopke, Chief of Finance and Administration, reported total current assets of \$3,166,419; total current liabilities \$1,047,591; total current operating revenues \$324,452; total current operating expenses \$765,738 for March. For April, total current assets of \$2,981,941; total current liabilities \$1,088,568; total current operating revenues \$555,311; total current operating expenses \$1,119,453. Kopke also reported a saturation of tickets statewide with 18 counties that have not purchased tickets to date. Across the country, 28 states are showing to have purchased tickets.

**Motion made by Lukassen to approve the March Financial Report.**

**Seconded by Haag.**

**Upon voice vote, motion carried.**

**Motion made by Jensen to approve the April Financial Report.**

**Seconded by Wehrbein.**

**Upon voice vote, motion carried.**

### **Committee Report**

1. Facility Planning: Rolf and Shane held a joint meeting with a goal of 2020 to enclose the Aurora Co-op Pavilion transitioning top a Small Animal Barn and building a new Swine Barn on the west side of Sheep Barn. More investigation will need to happen to determine placement.

**Rolf motioned to proceed with plans and investigation**

**Haag seconded the motion.**

**Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

2. Finance: N/A
3. Public Affairs and Outreach: N/A
4. Livestock: Met with Facilities committee. Since the dog show is moving off-site for one year, all entrants will receive them a one-day admission to the Fair.
5. Events: Wehrbein reported on the Push Pullers Tractor Pull Sept. 1. The parade route is altered slightly in celebration style for the Fair. Marching Band and Grand Marshall applications are coming in. Board reunions are being planned. Opening Ceremony is Friday, August 23 at 5 p.m.; two fireworks shows are planned for Aug. 23, 9 p.m. and Sept. 1, 9 p.m.
6. Executive: N/A

**Future Meeting Dates and Locations**

June meeting will start at 11:00am with Committee meetings in the morning.

**Foundation Update**

Koepke thanked the State Fair Board and staff for coming to the 1868 Foundation Annual Meeting. Joe Stump and Tom Dinsdale were appointed to the Foundation Board. There is a \$150,000 goal for Blue Ribbon Roll Out. Their annual report was just completed.

**Other Business**

Hurley distributed table tents to Board members to place in various businesses in their home areas for Fair promotion.

**Executive Session**

**Shane asked for a motion to go into executive session.**

**Wehrbein made the motion**

**Caldwell seconded the motion.**

**Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion made by Shane to exit executive session.**

**Caldwell seconded the motion.**

**Upon voice vote, motion passed.**

**Adjourn**

**Shane asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion made by Rolf. Seconded by Lukassen.**

**Upon voice vote, motion passed.**

**Time adjourned 2:10 p.m.**