



NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 4, 2023

The regular meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Monday, September 4, 2023, at 9:00 am at the Nebraska State Fair Administrative Offices in Grand Island, NE. Public notice of this meeting was published in the Grand Island Independent newspaper on August 18th & 19^h, 2023; posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website; and on the Nebraska State Fair website. The public was invited to attend in person.

Roll call was read with the following Board members present: Dawn Caldwell, Chair; Jeff Kliment, Vice Chair; Boyd Strobe, Treasurer; Tom Schellpeper, Secretary; Bob Haag; Beth Smith; Kevin Jorgensen; Kathleen Lodi; Lanna Hubbard; Steve Wehrbein; Tom Dinsdale, and Ryan Hassebrook. Absent: Brett Lindstrom.

Others in attendance:

Jaime Parr, Executive Director; Tammy Baker, Business Administrator; Terry Galloway, Lindsey Koepke, both of 1868 Foundation; Jack Sheard, Idea Bank; Ray Massie, Marketing Director.

Dawn Caldwell 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.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion made by Steve Wehrbein for Approval of Consent Agenda which included Regular Meeting Minutes of August 29, 2023.

Second by Bob Haag.

Upon roll call vote, motion to approve consent agenda passed unanimously.

1868 Foundation – Terry Galloway

- Chainsaw carver auction yesterday
- Joe Hedrick, auctioneer
- Update on project starting at Anderson Field as soon as 2023 Fair is over.
 - 3 phases
 - Waiting for City to be added into amendment (MOU) – 30 ft easement south of HEC.
 - Did we hear back from City regarding funding?
- Truck raffle
 - Verifying winner
 - \$44,000 tickets sold.
 - Tom Dinsdale spoke about changing cost of tickets.

Executive Director's Report by Jaime Parr

- Thanked Board for leadership, guidance & support.
- Yesterday's attendance was higher than same day last year.
- Guests were still coming in at 10:30 at night paying \$12 admission.
- Overall attendance still up 11/12% from last year.
- Helicopters landed on grounds this morning.
- Veterans free today (Veterans Day)
- Demo Derby @ 2:00 Anderson Field
- Truck giveaway at 2:30 today
- 2024 Theme Reveal at Earl May Fair Square following truck giveaway.

- Return & fuel golf carts – Fonner Park Shop

Other Business

- Phenomenal Marketing this year
- Applause for Ray and Jack
- Both Jack and Ray spoke a little about background and strategy.
- Announced 2024 theme; builds off this year's theme.

- Etix didn't stop selling Pit tickets, so staff set up 200 more chairs.

- Both 4-H and FFA had a good weekend
- FFA (Ryan Hassebrook) showing at 3:30pm
- 4-H (Kathleen Lodl) 2024 planning – survey with exhibitors directly following 2023 Fair.
 - What works best?
 - What changes are needed?
 - Results report back to Ag Education Committee and will report to Board also.
- Number up 10% because of lower age eligibility.

- Veterans program today at 10:30 am – Board members encouraged to be there early.

- Terry Galloway – 1868 Foundation
 - Solidifying plans for projects
 - Matt Gundersen, new Board member

Motion to adjourn made by Jeff Kliment.

Seconded by Lanna Hubbard.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes of August 29, 2023

Nebraska State Fair Approved:

Date: September 4, 2023

By: _____

Tom Schellpeper, Board Secretary