

Sanders County Fair Commission
Minutes
September 17, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the pavilion by Chairman Glen Magera with Fair Commission directors Chris McGuigan, Bruce Icenogge and Roberta Smith in attendance. Fair Manager Mike Hashisaki and Fair Secretary Ruth Hamilton were present and guests included County Commissioner Carol Brooker, County Extension Agents John Halpop and Meghan Phillippi, Karen Dwyer, Michele McGuigan and Jim Newman representing 4-H, Larry Revinius, Don Burrell and Nora Verpoorten representing the Fair Concessions Group and Ron, Jesse and Nick Warren representing the Plains Motocross Association.

On a motion by Roberta, seconded by Chris, the Fair Commission minutes of August 20, 2007, were approved.

Mike reviewed the correspondence with the Fair Commission. Please refer to the September 2007 booklet for details.

Mike briefed the Fair Commission on the cashier's report, stating sales were up significantly from the 2006 fair. In 2006, gross income for the fair was \$199,858.45 and this year the income was \$237,143.27, almost a \$38,000.00 increase. That increase was due, in part, to the PBR event and parking. From a money stand-point, the fair was the most successful held to date.

Glen then opened the meeting to the fair critique, setting the guidelines for comments. He requested the audience to tell the Fair Commission about any problems they may have had so corrective action can be taken prior to next year's fair. Glen then started the discussion by addressing the State Fire Marshall's visit on Thursday of the fair. She found only one item of note and that involved the cooler located in the pavilion kitchen which blocked access to the shut-off valve for the fire suppression system located over the two stoves. Mike and Glen moved the cooler so access to the shut-off valve is provided. She also questioned why the fire extinguishers were not present in all the barns and was told they're in the fair office and just haven't got placed yet.

4-H was then asked about any problems and Jim Newman replied there were no major problems. He did note that Rick and Nancy Hulce will not be back next year but that the Livestock Committee already was working on finding replacements for both of them. The County Extension Agents said it was a very good fair. The 4-H dining hall ran smoothly (and had excellent food) and the market stock sale was very good. Mike noted the problem with the wiener pigs that were brought onto the grounds on Saturday afternoon, stating the people were asked to remove them because there was no health certificate and the people did not have permission to vend on the fairgrounds. Chris noted some problems with the 40 cubic yard dumpster placement, but that can be handled by coordinating with Jim Inman prior to the fair to ensure they're placed

properly.

Ron Warren stated the arena motocross ran smoothly and indicated the Plains Motocross Association would like to run a series of arena motocross races next year: one on Plains Day, one on the 4th of July and the final during the fair. He noted an increase in participation by local riders and Mike noted the gate increased by about \$700.

Larry Rivinius stated the Concessions Group didn't run out of buns which brought a round of laughter. He also stated he didn't think there were any major problems. He noted the influx of people on Saturday and Sunday made it very difficult to keep the booths supplied, but said that was a problem he liked to see. Nora Verpoorten stated she had trouble locating the Coke representative when they ran out of product in the Coke booth. She couldn't get a page made by either Search & Rescue or the fair office. Mike stated Search & Rescue only pages for emergencies, but the office is available for general paging. Unfortunately, no one was available in the office who knew how to run the system. Mike suggested the Concessions Group get the cell phone numbers of both Pepsi and Coke, as well as any other on-grounds suppliers, so that when problems arose, they could call the cell and be connected instantly with the supplier. Larry noted they were still having "flare ups" in the burger booths, but that's because it's hard to educate everyone on how to use the grills and how to keep the grease traps cleaned. Glen noted the au jus system worked well in the hamburger booths most of the time.

Carol Brooker said she fielded no complaints during the fair and thought it ran great.

Glen stated our normal 3 p.m. Sunday meeting with both the carnival and rodeo contractor went without interruption, which was quite unusual. Carol stated the fair should look at opening the ticket office sooner because when she visited the fair office the week before the fair, the office was swamped with ticket buyers. Mike will run a cost analysis to see what that would cost. However, next year, the ticket office will open on Monday of the fair instead of Wednesday which is the current practice. And if the cost isn't excessive, it may open the week before the fair. Mike stated he was going to add an additional phone line for ticket sales; we currently have three. And that a separate line will be added just to handle the credit card machine. Also, prior to next year's fair, the fair would purchase a walk-in 6 foot by 6 foot out door freezer unit, placing it very close to the office. This will alleviate the problem which occurred this year with the ice freezer being next to the carnival bathroom.

Glen critiqued the events, stating there was a bit of friction the day of the Junior Rodeo between our rodeo contractor and the O'Herns. We need more holding pens if we intend to continue the Junior Rodeo, the PRCA rodeos and the PBR event. Chris stated we needed at least 20 outdoor pens for the rodeo cowboys since this year they came and used all of the out door open class pens as well as some of the horse barn pens. Roberta stated she has attended the rodeos at both Kalispell and the North Idaho fair, and our rodeo is by far the best - best stock and great cowboys.

After the critique was finished, Mike briefed the Fair Commission on the total of on-line ticket sales, the proposal for traffic control spikes at the exits from the fairgrounds and the two overflow parking areas, as well as a local proposal to purchase a 130 foot by 150 metal building for use as an enclosed, all weather arena.

Finally, Mike briefed the Fair Commission on a quotation from Triple W Equipment of Missoula on a John Deere Gator Utility Vehicle. After discussion, Bruce made a motion, seconded by Roberta, that the fair purchase the vehicle. Mike will work with the County Commissioners to have the fair's budget amended to reflect the purchase.

Mike then briefed the Fair Commission on the fair's financial status and the September claims. On a motion by Bruce, seconded by Chris, the claims were approved for payment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Sanders County Fair Commission
Minutes
October 15, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the pavilion by Chairman Glen Magera with Fair Commission directors Chris McGuigan and Roberta Smith in attendance. Fair Manager Mike Hashisaki and Fair Secretary Ruth Hamilton were present and guests included County Commissioner Carol Brooker, County Extension Agents John Halpop and Meghan Phillippi, Karen Dwyer and Michele McGuigan representing 4-H, Ellen Childress, Lisa Read, and Kristy Sheehan representing a group pursuing an enclosed arena, and Deb Heckman.

On a motion by Roberta, seconded by Chris, the Fair Commission minutes of September 17, 2007, were approved.

Mike reviewed the correspondence with the Fair Commission. Please refer to the October 2007 booklet for details.

Glen asked the delegation which wants to purchase an enclosed arena to address the Fair Commission. Ellen Childress was the spokesperson for the group. Following the presentation and an extensive question and answer period, the Fair Commission took no action on the group's request. However, the Fair Commission did inform those present they would review the proposed site for the building and then contact the group.

Mike briefed the Fair Commission on the financial results of the September 30th Motocross races, as well as the application costs for approvals for a PRCA rodeo and PBR bull riding event for the 2008 fair.

Mike briefed the Fair Commission on the fair's financial status and the October claims. On a motion by Chris, seconded by Roberta, the claims were approved for payment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Sanders County Fair Commission
November 19, 2007 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. in the fair office by Chairman Glen Magera. Directors present included Chris McGuigan and Bruce Icenogge. Fair Manager Mike Hashisaki and Fair Secretary Ruth Hamilton also were present. Guests included Sanders County Commissioner Carol Brooker and Michele McGuigan representing Sanders County 4-H.

There were no changes made to the agenda.

The minutes of the Fair Commission's October 15th meeting were approved on a motion made by Chris and seconded by Bruce.

Mike reviewed the correspondence with the Fair Commission. Please refer to the November 19th booklet for further information.

Bruce asked for a meeting with the Relay for Life since he felt there were unresolved issues with the group. Glen asked where and when Bruce would like to have the meeting adding that they responded negatively to Glen's letter inviting them to the November Fair Commission meeting. Bruce suggested a "neutral" spot for the meeting perhaps sometime during the first week in December, any evening after 5 p.m. One of the issues of contention was the perception the fairgrounds were not held for the Relay. Mike said the fairgrounds are reserved on a "first come, first served" basis, adding Ken Knight (Plains Church of God) had approached Kim after the Church's week-long event, asking to reserve the grounds for the first week and weekend in August for the next three years. Kim told Ken that the first weekend in August had been used in the past by the Relay for Life and he would have to wait to see if they wanted to use the grounds again. The Relay for Life did not contact Kim about using the grounds in 2008, so, after a week, he told Ken the grounds could be reserved for the Church. This discussion led into the leasing of the fairgrounds and the current policy for leasing the grounds.

Mike provided the Fair Commission a copy of the lease agreement, stating they had approved the document over a year ago, adding the document was developed because the county's insurance carrier

requested such a document. The draft was provided to the County Commissioners, who in turn, provided a copy to both MACO (Montana Association of Counties) and the county's insurance carrier. Minor changes were made and then the Fair Commission adopted the agreement. Glen asked the item be tabled and placed on the January agenda for further review, stating he wanted the agreement amended to show: 1) that the facility was not reserved until payment was made; and 2) that each agreement must be accompanied by a refundable cleaning fee. The Facilities Lease Agreement will be placed on the January agenda.

Mike then presented the Fair Commission with the proposed rodeo holding pens design, plus cost estimate, which was compiled in 2005. This could be used as a basis for developing a plan for replacing the current rodeo holding pens since the stock contractor who provides the bucking stock for the PBR event is not satisfied with the rodeo holding pens the fair currently has. This item was tabled until the January 2008 meeting.

The draft five year construction plan was discussed and tabled until the January meeting so the Fair Commission members could prioritize what construction projects they wanted as opposed to the order presented by the Fair Manager.

Mike presented the Fair Commission with the new "boiler plate" for the Fair Concessions Group contract, explaining the fees paid to the fair by the group changes each year, based on a five year average of the previous five fairs. That necessitates a new cover page showing the amount the group owes the fair for selling food stuffs during the annual county fair. Since no one from the Concessions Group was present, Mike stated he would give Larry a call prior to the January meeting to ensure he was there to get the new figures.

Mike then reviewed the financial status of the fair, to include the November claims. Chris made a motion to approve the claims which was seconded by Bruce and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Approved: _____ Date: _____