

Lincoln County Fair Board Minutes September 21, 2010

Board members in attendance: Gerry, Josie, Sarah, John, Justine, Phil, Gretchen. Absent: Dale
Other people attending: MARRISA & Brenda Dormaier, Scott Hutsell, Marcie Breshears, Kathy Eastman, Dawn Bennett, Lydia, Dan and Sharon.

Gerry began the meeting at 6:45. Minutes were approved with no changes.

Phil reported that the Commercial Building needs some attention before next year's fair. The lines defining the areas for the vendors need to be repainted. The Inland Empire Railroad needs to set up their trains in another location; it is too noisy for that building with so many vendors in there.

Lydia shared the comments she heard during the fair. People liked the addition of the little trees scattered around the grounds. Good job Dan & Eddie Berry for planting them & protecting them with rock surrounds.

One complaint that many of the board agreed with, was that the campaign people & political parties are positioned at the opening of the Commercial Building. People did not want to enter because of the people running for office had prominent spaces. This could be a problem. The LC Democrats upgraded "their" booth space that they have always been in. This issue will be addressed at a latter date.

Some people wondered if the auction could still be on Sunday morning. The board agreed Saturday is a better fit to keep the fair at three days and the auction will remain on Saturday.

Should we continue to have the "Crazy Ladies Shuttle" if the midway is as crowded as this past year? It was hard to maneuver around the crowds. If we have the shuttle service in the future they need to have a radio to pick up people at the gates.

Lydia also brought up that the PA system in the horse area does not work well. The speakers need some attention. There need to be handrails in grandstands and there is a need for new boards and nails on the seats. Could a vendor provide breakfast sandwiches for those who have to be in the arenas first thing in the morning?

There was also some discussion about shavings. Let the exhibitors put shavings in their stalls to begin with then buy additional shavings as needed. It would cut down on waste and over usage.

Should there be herdsman ship for open exhibitors? At this point in time they get premium points if the barn they are in wins the contest. Doug K. is contacting Spokane Junior Show & Spokane Interstate Fair to see how they handle it.

To help with herdsman ship, the animal superintendents need to give us guidelines for each barn so they may be listed in the premium book. In the sheep department there was some confusion about having the water buckets attached to the pens.

Lydia brought the Davenport Times with a very favorable article in it about the fair.

Some people complained that since we have limited parking, why are the board members taking up the spaces in the front? It was reported by people that have attended other fairs, that is a common practice.

The 4-H horse barn rules should be the same for the open horses as well.

Should we have a port-a-potty in the hog barn area?

A letter needs to be written for the donated trophies.

Josie reported that the Copper Mountain Band really enjoyed our fair. Many of the people attending the meeting responded that they felt that this was one of the best fairs in recent years.

It was reported that the Lincoln County Fair was better than the Coeur d'Alene Fair.

Dan showed pictures of the Poultry Barn during the fair. It was half empty. There was discussion about having the rabbits share the building with the poultry, cats move to the Rabbit Barn and Dan use the current Cat Barn as storage.

Dan also showed pictures of the damaged horseshoe pit. Lonnie Bills hit the horseshoe pit. Dan will find out how much the repair will be and Sharon will bill them.

Brenda brought up there was no mention of the Fair Royalty in the Davenport Times, even though the fair got lots of coverage.

Marrisa did not attend Wheatland Fair (Ritzville) because of the wind & dust storm.

There was discussion about our Beef Superintendents. It was mentioned that people are not bringing their cattle to the fair because of our superintendents (Carol Beaver & Connie McKay). Josie and John will talk to them. It was mentioned that Katie Bageant quit being the Round Robin Superintendent because of the conflicts with Carol.

There needs to be more instructional information to the superintendents. Each barn needs to have a "Barn Meeting." It needs to be determined who is in charge of the barn and if that person is unavailable, who is steps up in that role. The information needed for the superintendents will be included in the initial letter that goes out in February.

The ProWest finals in Yakima are the same weekend as Ag Days in Wilbur. Marrisa requested to not attend the ProWest event but go to Wilbur instead. Since there was no grand entry in Yakima, it was a matter of just being there. The board agreed it was a good idea to represent the Lincoln County Fair & Rodeo in Wilbur.

The chicken dinner made \$102.00, which was better than expected due to the fire. The left over chicken was taken out to the firefighters working the lines. The cost of the left over chicken was approximately \$47.00. **John moved and Gretchen 2nd to eat the cost of the chicken and not bill the fire department for it. The motion passed unanimously.**

Gretchen reported that Sherry Schmidt, one of our Quilt Superintendents will not be returning next year.

Justine brought up the problem of parking for the rodeo contestants. How do we solve the problem? It would be great to have a hospitality tent set up to run through out the fair in the rodeo area. She will also pursue the beer garden. A specific plan needs to be put in place and then meet with Jan.

John discussed how great it would be to have the beer garden. It would be a profitable venture if it could get approved. There have been great strides in improving the arena. It was discussed that if the arena were shortened by 10-12 feet it would be easier to prepare and have better visibility.

There was discussion to make Dan chairman of the Arena Improvement Committee, since he is here and prepares the arena for various events.

Bob Garrett will probably not be coming back if we can not get the necessary equipment to him. He needs help to set up his speakers.

There was discussion about pens for the rodeo. Rock grate covers could be used as screens. There is a need to have more panels for calf sorting pens.

John thought he might be able to locate some ecology blocks to be used where the manure truck is to make it easier to function.

Kathy reported that the livestock sale went well. She mentioned that even though there were fewer animals, more businesses gave this year.

There was discussion of having more than one Teen Dance. The dance generally brings in approximately \$1500.00. Remarks were made that the dance would be well attended if it were on a second night.

It was mentioned that maybe we put on a peewee rodeo on Thursday night. The only event that happens in the arena on Thursday is the Rodeo Royalty tryouts. Could we move the tryouts? Would it be a good event for the fair goers?

Vehicle storage was discussed. The dates are October 2, 16 & 23. Sharon has been taking reservations for the storage spots, so we don't overbook. At this time the new leaseholder tax does not seem to have impacted the people who store their items here.

We are having another garage sale on October 2. Kathy will be selling food items to benefit the Jr. Livestock Sale.

Sharon requested that we have a fax line into the office off the office's computer. We had been using a fee service to receive faxes, but we exceeded our 20 fax limit during the fair. If we want to continue with that service, we need to pay \$165.00 for the year. **Phil made a motion to pay for the fax service and John 2nd. The motion passed unanimously.**

The new gas golf cart needs some work---Dan will work on it. He thinks it needs carburetor work.

The electric golf cart needs new brakes.

Some of the board members attended the Ritzville & Othello fairs and reported that they had as many exhibits as our fair.

Gerry presented that in Oregon, Wallowa County put together a bond to raise funds for their fairgrounds. There was some discussion about how that would work in our county. Scott would do some checking to see if it was something that could work.

There was talk of doing our own Kid's Town. Make a kids zone with straw maze, kids area, small petting zoo with grain dispensers to feed animals. There will be more discussion about this.

Gerry reported that at Adams County Fair at the livestock auction, they sold 10 bales of hay as a fund raiser for the fair. Could we do that?

WE NEED OUR OWN SWINE PENS!!! We need to get the materials to make new ones. A couple of years ago, FFA instructors said that would make a great project.

If Gerry can find materials, Eddie Bageant would weld new rough stock pens.

4-H groups could work together and apply for grants for materials and items for the fairgrounds. They are non-profit, agricultural and youth focused, both categories are high up on the grant ladder.

There is a Patsy Cline singer---Jeanne Coardy from Ellensburg who is very good.

Sharon needs to change the entertainment contract to ask what the entertainers need for performing. Our magician needed to use the PA system.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 19th at 6:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Nighswonger
Secretary