

## Lincoln County Fair Board Minutes October 15, 2014

**Board Members Present:** Gerry, Josie, Gretchen, John, Justine, Sarah  
**Members Absent:** Todd & Brad  
**Others Present:** Scott Hutsell, Lydia Widmer and Sharon Nighswonger

The meeting began as a round table discussion concerning the budget and how to help support the fair. An email was received from Heather Hansen talking about how there is a very good chance all of Washington State Fairs will not receive money from the Department of Agriculture for 2015. As a result there were lots of fund raising ideas mentioned as how to off-set the loss of \$30,000.00. Some kind of event during Pioneer Days like a junior rodeo, bull bash or ranch rodeo. Another suggestion would be to have a carnival here during Pioneer Days.

There was also discussion about the fair needing to take out a \$25,000.00 loan. There will be a loan request given to the Linda Fisher, Lincoln County Treasurer requesting the loan. Sharon prepared revenue and expense sheets for the meeting, that explicitly showed where we stand financially.

What can we do differently to increase attendance, decrease expenses? Should we move the dates to the weekend after Labor Day, change the dates from a three day fair to two days. Does the Lincoln County Fair board remain in existence or does another entity take over the running of the fair (Friends of the Fair)? There was lots of discussion, without any conclusions.

The minutes from the September 11, 2014 were approved unanimously.

Justine brought up that the kids behind the chutes that were helping needed specific wristbands.

Gretchen suggested that we give the "Junk Nation" people a price break to have them fill up the Commercial Building during the fair. We could also contact DBS to see if they would be willing to have a display of shovels, rakes, buckets for purchase. They could also display some of their animal statues and larger items.

Instead of ads in the premium book, offer banners with the business name on them. We would propose a standard banner size that would list supporter's names on.

Queen Keiten attended Miss Washington Rodeo. She participated in parades at Odessa's Deutchesfest and Harrington Fall Festival.

Justine has information regarding updating the RV parking form for next year. It might work better to have the full hookup RVs move in on Saturday up against the fence. We could move vendors from the spaces north of the horseshoe pits to allow 6-8 more RV spaces.

There was good response concerning the mini bulls, junior steer riding and the ranch bronc riding.

Lydia reported the ribbon count is done for after the fairs' records. The judges were tough this year and a lot of red ribbons were used.

There was lots of appreciation of Danny and his work ethic during the fair. He was a good helper and got things done.

We need to decide soon who we want to have as a livestock judge to get them booked soon. Michael Collie is interested for 2015 if he is in the area.

Sharon mentioned that the uncashed premium checks for 2013 have not been added back into our budget. She is not sure about the status of 2012.

There was discussion regarding when school would start locally in August of 2015 and if that would conflict with our current fair dates. Sharon contacted local districts and they do not make a decision until February 2015.

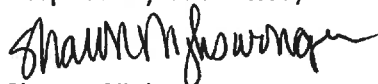
Gerry said people were requesting having an indoor garage sale. A motion was made by John and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sarah to have one on October 25 with tables going for \$15.00 each. An ad would be put in the paper. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Gerry reported that 36 outlets were put in incorrectly in the new RV spaces. He will check with Halme Electric & Pump to get them fixed correctly.

A motion was made by John and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justine to have a Benefit Dinner on December 6 for "Save the Fair." **The motion passed unanimously.** It would be a spaghetti dinner and silent auction. The Friends of the Fair would provide beer. It would be advertised locally, Huckleberry Press, Nickle Nik, and on the 4H website. There was talk of a DJ, having Dick Frost come and a cake sale. More planning will be done at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 12 at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Nighswonger  
Fair Secretary/Office Manager