

Lincoln County Fair Board Minutes
September 11, 2014

Board Members Present: Gerry, Josie, Gretchen, John & Brad

Members Absent: Justine & Sarah

Others Present: Mark Stedman, Lydia Widmer, Todd Albertson, Emma Wiedmer, Loren Reinbold and Sharon Nighswonger

Gerry began the meeting at 6:45pm. The minutes of the August 5, 2014 meeting were approved with corrected amount regarding the new panels at the red horse barn. The corrected amount should be \$2494.42.

There was discussion as to who owns the panels mentioned above. Money has been donated to purchase them; the fair has not spent any money on them. How should it be handled regarding inventory?

John brought up utilizing more areas for signage. He suggested using the following areas for signage: arena out gates: \$200-\$500; Arena gates: \$200-500; Roping chutes \$175.00. We should have a sign or banner hung: "Your Business Name Here."

The arena area by the beer garden needs to be fixed up for the water truck.

It was brought up to add a man gate at the back gate. This would help eliminate vehicles attempting to enter the grounds. We would have more control especially on the days of the rodeo. An option would be to offer a \$50.00 parking pass on the grounds by the back gate.

We were coming up with ideas that would help bring people in on Thursday. Some of the ideas are Farm Hand Rodeo, Extreme Motocross. Sharon received a call from a previous Davenport resident who is sending an article to share with the board for ideas for fair events. She will share that at the next meeting.

Lydia reported that some of the complaints she heard about the fair were:

*There needed to be someone manning the parking lot out front to insure better parking.

*Seating needed to be provided by the front gate for people waiting to be picked up.

*The window in the office needed to be manned at all times.

*The fair board members needed to park their golf carts and phones and walk around and visit with the public.

Some other concerns were the lines in the parking lot were a good idea, but they need to be better executed. The fans need to be cleaned before they are put away or cleaned in the spring before they get a lot of usage. The RV parking was challenging and will be improved upon for next year.

One idea was to have the Floral Department information available at DBS in July so people would be aware of the various display options.

There was quite a bit of discussion concerning the commercial building. The interior of the building is quite pathetic and we lose vendors yearly because of the condition of it. Should we spruce up the side walls, hang curtains? What would be a good solution?

In addition to updating the commercial building, we will contact Ag Enterprises or Ag Link to see if they would be willing to display farm equipment in part of the building.

The Photography Department Superintendents, Gina Boutain and Jill Morrison will be back again next year as superintendents. Should there be a framed photo class added to the department. Sharon received an anonymous letter stating framed photos were judged and according to the premium book they should not have been.

We need to work on getting an ice machine for next year.

Gerry mentioned trading in our old tractor for a 6 person golf cart. The tractor is valued at \$2500.00-2800.00.

A motion was made by Gretchen and 2nd by John to surplus our school bus. The motion passed.

Mark brought up that the exhibits were down this year. What can we do to encourage more entries? Many of the departments exhibits were impacted by the hot weather in the weeks prior to the fair.

He also suggested changing the dates of the fair to September to accommodate having a carnival here. There was a lot of discussion regarding switching of dates and how that would impact the area and the volunteers.

The upstairs window in the SE corner of the main building is broken and needs to be boarded up. Loren will take care of it using one of the old animal signs that used to hang on the front of the building.

We will begin parking RV's and boats on October 11 and continue on the 18th and 25th from 9am-12pm.

Gerry reported that the PU truck used during the rodeo from Elliott's Motors has a scraped bed. It is being repaired at Repair Masters for \$400.00 plus tax.

There was quite a bit of discussion about the outdoor wedding on September 13. Since there will be an arena event going on when the wedding is to begin, they will take a break from announcing at 4pm to not interfere with the wedding. This is the best that can be done, considering the wedding went from an indoor event to an outdoor one, with no notification to the fair office.


It was decided that if a party wants a guarantee no other events will be going on while they rent the fairgrounds, they can pay the standard fire camp fee of \$1000.00 per day. This allows them to use any buildings on the fairgrounds without interruption.

The fair dates for next year are August 27-29, 2015 if use the same weeks as usual. Sharon will call local schools to see if dates have been set for the start of school in 2015.

John introduced Todd Albertson as a potential new board member. Todd told us about himself and in interest in being a fair board member. He has good ideas for the rodeo and would be a good addition. **John made a motion to accept him as a new board member and Josie 2nd it. The motion passed.**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 15 at 6:30 pm after the superintendent's meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon Nighswonger
Fair Secretary/Office Manager