

Lincoln County Fair Board Minutes
September 23, 2013

Board Members Present: Gerry, Josie, Gretchen, Justine, Greg

Members Absent: John, Brad, Sarah

Others Present: Marcie Breshears, Cheyenne Thain, Lydia Widmer, Dan Berry, Sharon Nighswonger

Gerry began the meeting at 6:40 pm. The minutes from the August 13, 2013 meeting were approved.

Greg apologized for how the cooking of the salmon turned out. He and Brad are working on ideas for next year's dinner. He reported that the RV parking went well and was pleased how it all came together. WAY TO GO GREG!!!!

Justine introduced Cheyenne Thain as our new Lincoln County Rodeo Royalty.

Everyone one was pleased how the Daniel Beard worked out as the new stock contractor. Lee Daggett worked well and people seemed to be pleased with his performance. It was suggested we have both back next year.

\$149.50 was raised for Tough Enough to Wear Pink. The money will go to Lincoln Hospital. \$49.72 was raised for the Fallen Heroes Project. Justine will provide information as to where to send it.

Justine had comments from John (who could not attend the meeting). We need to do something about the grandstands----they are dangerous. Some work needs to be done on the bucking chutes prior to next year's fair. We need more bodies to help with slack.

Cheyenne will be attending Deutschesfest, Harrington Fall Festival, Wilbur Ag Days, and maybe the ProWest Finals.

Lydia reported that Dorette helped with ribbons and may be assisting in the future.

Open exhibitors using stalls or pens in the horse department will need to pay a \$10.00 stall cleaning deposit. The board agreed it will be listed in the premium book for next year.

The shavings will be used by any exhibitor needing them during the fair, regardless of 4-H, FFA or Open.

Lydia brought a concern from Rhonda Widmer, concerning displays. Some of the exhibitors expect their decorations to be judged. It was decided decorations are not a display and will not be judged separately. Rhonda will make a notation in the rules for the display department.

There needs to be better location sites on the booth exhibitor forms so they can be judged. A lot of time was wasted looking for the specific booths.

There were lots of compliments on the jazz band. It was moved Gretchen and 2nd by Josie to have them back. The motion passed unanimously. Sharon will let Dave know and see if they want to come back next year.

Josie moved and Justine 2nd to ask Chase Hubbard back next year as well. The motion passed unanimously. Sharon will contact him.

There were concerns about having more seating in the shade. Maybe we can get some umbrellas in stands and have them located in the grassy area by the stage.

There also needs to be more seating at the front gate; inside and out.

A big complaint this year was again, all of the cars parked in the front parking lot during the entire fair. We heard complaints that there were too many reserved parking places out front.

There needs to be a map so people know where to park the stock trailers. They are taking up visitor parking across the road from the fairgrounds.

There were a lot of dogs on the grounds, even though it says they are not allowed in the premium book. Large signs need to be made and hung on the gates.

There were a lot of cars on the grounds. The gates need to do a better job not allowing them in.

It needs to be listed in the premium book how many animals make up a class to be awarded a grand champion.

It worked out well to have the flower pots put out early, less stress at the last minute.

It was a consensus by the board that we all need to have better attitudes prior to and during the fair. We need to respect the job that everyone is doing and the fact that they are doing it the best they can. If you see something that needs to be done, do it. We are all in this together. No one is deliberately being left out; we all are trying to work as a team to produce the best possible event we can.

The grounds looked great for fair.

Gerry will work with All Star Jump to see if we can work out a better price for next year.

Marcie reported that the draft horses won't be back next year.

The herdsman's scores should be posted daily in each barn.

Outgoing queen Bailey Wiedmer will be participating in her last event in Ritzville at Wheatland Fair.

Sharon asked if there was a reason we used two different colors for adults & kid wristbands. Everyone agreed if it saved money, use one color for exhibitors. We will not have to buy wristbands for a couple more years as a result.

Who judged the vendor booths? It was decided that the LC Transfer Station booth won. They will only have to pay \$25.00 next year.

We need minutes documenting adding the bull riding to Saturday's rodeo, since we gave away \$500.00 in prize money from the revolving account. Gerry, Brad, Greg, Josie, Gretchen and Justine all voted unanimously to add the event to Saturday's rodeo.

Sharon reported that her computer crashed. The county "Geek Squad" guys have the fair's hard drive and are deciding what to do and trying to retrieve information. It was moved by Josie and 2nd by Greg to upgrade the fair's computer with a new operating system that will be compatible with other programs to be purchased soon. The motion passed unanimously.

Winter vehicle storage will begin on October 12 and run on October 19 and October 26 from 9am – 12 pm each Saturday. It would be great to get a couple of board members to help each time. Gerry, Dan and Sharon will be there.

We are operating on registered warrants. Our grant money hasn't come in yet. We also have tax money available at the end of October and of course the money from winter storage.

Sharon mentioned we have received \$60.00 in donations for the scarecrow and sunflower contests. It was decided the best scarecrow, tallest sunflower and largest sunflower head will all receive \$20.00 in addition to their premium points.

We can apply for another grant worth \$50,000.00 from the Department of Agriculture. It is due in October. Gerry will contact Halme about getting an estimate to redo the grandstands. We will also submit a request for a grant to update the electrical and water in the RV area.

Justine brought up what is the fair responsible for towards royalty. There was some confusion regarding jewelry, shirts, etc. It was decided to table the discussion until next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on October 15 at 6:30 pm and will be a potluck. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Nighswonger
Office Manager/Fair Secretary