

LINCOLN COUNTY FAIR BOARD MINUTES **September 11, 2012**

Board Members Present: Gerry, Josie, Gretchen, Sarah, Greg, Kim

Members Absent: John, Justine, Dale

Others Present: Lydia Widmer, Marcie Breshears, Karrie Schuler, Bailey Wiedmer, Dan Berry and Sharon Nighswonger

Gerry began the meeting at 6:30pm. The minutes were approved.

Gretchen reported that we will need superintendents for a few departments; 4H Family Living and Fine Arts. Sharon read a resignation letter from Terry Connolly as well; she headed up our 4H Craft Department. Gretchen said Susan Jensen will take over Fruits & Vegetables as well as continuing with Grains, Grasses & Weeds.

There was discussion about the requirements for canning. The judges need to be on the same page as the Ball Canning Book. The solution was tabled until later. There was also discussion about having exhibitors observe judging. It was suggested to close the barn until judging is finished, but no decision was made.

The sewing superintendent would like to add a fleece section, and that can be added when the letter goes out to the superintendents in March for changes.

Bailey reported on heading up the Round Robin. She had the exhibitors reshow their animals and met with resistance from one Ag Teacher. Besides that complaint, everything went well.

It was decided to try to sell advertising on the panels in the pig barn for \$20.00. More discussion is needed on how to implement it.

The herdsman ship scores need to be posted in the barns daily.

There was much discussion concerning the chicken BBQ dinner. Some mentioned that fairgoers didn't know the chicken dinner was even going on. The dinner just isn't making the money as it did in the past. Should we go back to serving salmon along with chicken? Having a competitive cook off was also brought up. Make it a competition and serve the dishes entered. Sharon will call Kim at the Health Department to find out about the rules and regulations about a cook off.

Another suggestion that was brought up was to have a dinner for people bringing in their exhibits on Wednesday night. The menu was discussed—spaghetti, hot dogs, corn dogs, chips (something easy for people to carry and not expensive--\$5-\$6). It could be a fund raiser for a group. There needs to be more discussion about this.

We need to make sure breakfast will be served until 9am on Sunday. On the food vendor contract we need ask if the vendor is willing to be open on Wednesday night and if they serve breakfast, Sunday morning.

Many of the vendors can not open on Wednesday night because stock trailers may block their booth. The board needs to do a better job in having people move their vehicles.

Bailey went to the Ritzville & Spokane Interstate rodeos. She will be attending Odessa's Deutschesfest and Harrington Fall Festival. There was discussion about alternating years with Almira and Harrington.

A royalty fundraiser is being planned for November 3rd or November 17th. It would be a dinner and silent auction.

The times for the delivery of shavings didn't work when the kids needed them. After this year we have a better idea of how to make it work.

There was a complaint that the main building was not opened up on Sunday for the kids to get their posters and stall cards. That was an oversight and it usually is open.

It needs to be stated in the premium book that Sunday is the day to set up barns; not Saturday. It needs to coincide with when RVs are brought in.

In the premium book it needs to be changed from "Open Youth" to "Open Teen." It is confusing for the animal exhibitors.

The animal schedules in the premium book needs to be adjusted beginning with the fitting and showing. There needs to be half an hour between species.

Gerry will be contacting carnivals for next year. We may look at Entertainment Warehouse if a carnival is not available. We need to utilize the stage for entertainment, especially bands. If we do get a carnival it will be set up in the grassy area by the silver horse barn.

We need to have more items available in the kid's area----maybe a corn maze?

Josie would like to have a meeting with the livestock superintendents.

Lydia would like to give up handling the ribbons---is anyone interested? No one spoke up.

Lydia mentioned a few things that were brought to her attention by the "Crazy Ladies".

- There was only one place that sold coffee.
- No pie ladies—people were disappointed.
- All the golf carts lined up on the midway made it difficult to maneuver around.
- Could there be lattice around the dumpsters by the kitchen?
- We need to have the dumpsters dumped on Friday.
- There need to be more tables for eating.
- The flowers and trees looked wonderful.
- Parking is still and will always be an issue.

- Slower attendance on Thursday—not as many seniors due to lack of nursing home.

Is there a way to use the bus we have? We would need to have about 4 bus drivers to make it work as a shuttle service off the grounds.

The fair board needs to contact the 4H groups to have them work on projects. They need to be contacted in early spring so that they can schedule projects in May, June and July. We will come up with a list for them to do.

The two booths in the commercial building on each side as you first enter need to cost more. It was moved by Kim and 2nd by Sarah to charge \$100.00 for those two booths. It passed unanimously. The area by the emergency exit can not be used and must be unobstructed.

We have winter storage September 29, October 20 and October 27. Our next garage sale will also be on October 20 from 9-2pm.

Kim is heading up a campaign to choose a new theme for the 2013 fair. She will contact local papers with help from Sharon to put in a press release. Kim will bring the list for the board to choose at the next meeting.

It was suggested to send a thank you letter to Wilbur Ellis with the board's signatures.

Sharon will be sure to send rodeo sponsors a premium book.

The next meeting will be at 6:30pm on October 16, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Nighswonger