



NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD

Palm Room, Ramada Conference Center, 301 2nd. Ave., Kearney, NE

MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.

A regular monthly meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Friday, January 18, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. Public notice of this meeting was published in the January 10 & 11, 2019, issues of the Grand Island Independent newspaper and posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website from January 10, 2019 – January 31, 2019.

Roll call was read with the following members present: Stan Brodine; Bob Haag; Chris Kircher, President; Jeff Kliment; Kathleen Lodi (via phone); Doug Lukassen; Chuck Rolf, Secretary; Kirk Shane, Vice President; Steve Wehrbein and Kent Zeller. Others in attendance were: Lori Cox, Executive Director; Laura Hurley, Executive Assistant; Bill Angell, Director of Livestock Division; Kelly O'Brien, Livestock/Domestics Manager; Greg Harder, Chief Operations Officer and Aksarben Stock Show Director; Chelsey Jungck, Chief of Events & Entertainment; Jamie Parr, Chief of Sales; Lori Arterburn, Financial Controller; Scott Yound, Director of Operations; Stephen Christensen; Dawson Nellson; Lindsey Koepke, 1868 Foundation Director; Roger Henrichs; Doug Brand; Marvin Rousey.

Kircher announced the meeting had been properly advertised as an open meeting and informed those in attendance of the posting location of the Open Meetings Act.

Minutes of December 14, 2018

There being no corrections:

Motion made by Lukassen to approve the minutes of October 26, 2018 as printed.

Haag seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Cox reported on the radio blitz for State Fair Announce Week, including a positive social media response. Specialty concerts will be announced in February through The Independent.

Cox recognized Yound and his team, Christensen and Nellson, for the great job on the new State Fair Box Office. Concert tickets go on sale Friday January 25th at 10am.

Meetings with our Fonner Park partners are continuing with discussions on planning, budgets, labor, and GILCA.

Our first FairShare newsletter went out to our volunteers, team leads, sponsors, board, and partners.

Aksarben Report

Harder reported Aksarben is working with Fonner to budget a more fiscally efficient 2019. Letters have gone out to superintendents about the 2019 show. Harder and Kirchmann have plans to canvas Omaha to increase marketing in that region.

Financial Report

Arterburn, Controller, reported total current assets of \$2,463,401; total current liabilities \$853,021; total current operating revenues \$4,497,557; total current operating expenses \$8,462,043.

Motion made by Rolf to approve the Financial Report.

Brodine seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Preparation for Capital Budget

Cox will present a formal capital budget in February. Capital targets are listed on a handout Cox distributed. At least \$300,000 in reserves is expected.

Gate Prices

Cox passed out a total list of gate, carnival, and bundle prices. Discounts will only be offered through presale. Ticket sales will be available on the website, at the box office, and starting Memorial Day weekend, at Pump and Pantry locations. We expect to not charge for draft shows, motorsports, or rodeos. Shane expressed concern about over loading the capacity of these events. Cox replied that discussion has begun regarding security on ushering to control occupancies.

Board Meeting Frequency

Motion made by Shane to take this discussion off the table.

Roth seconded the motion. By hand signal, motion passed 5 vs. 4.

Lukassen was concerned about not meeting monthly with all the 150th celebration planning. Wehrbein agreed. Kircher suggested we amend the bylaws to meet as many times as the board determines necessary. Smith commented there's a natural rhythm and we could skip with it being up to the chair's discretion. Kircher suggested we revisit this issue in the fall.

Committee Reports

a. Facility Planning

Rolf reported that they are working on several campus upgrades: on the west side for parking, arena dirt, concrete path south of the Aurora Coop Pavilion and moving dirt to exhibitor parking. They are waiting for capital budget approval to enact.

b. Finance

Arterburn reported financials were previously covered.

c. Public Affairs and Outreach

Lukassen reported that plans are being made to have NSF banners at all the county fairs. Also the NSF Board will have increased communication with the 1868 Foundation Board.

d. Livestock

Shane reported they are making the hog show non-terminal except for champions. Work is being done on a new animal welfare policy. The committee went over the new rules and regulations, which has been reviewed by legal.

Motion made by Shane to accept the new amended livestock rules and regulations.

Haag seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

e. Events

Wehrbein noted that the Grand Marshal applications are available online. Labor Day will be County Fair Day.

Work is being done on a master plan for the historical timeline. They are planning to combine the state's sesquicentennial programming. Opening Ceremony will be on Friday August 23rd at 4 or 5 pm. Many ideas are circulating.

f. Executive

Kircher reported Cox and Harder walked the executive board through some of the bills to close out the fiscal year. Talks have begun sourcing a capital fundraising group.

1868 Foundation

Koepke reported they are launching a new website with donate and invest tabs. They have brought on new strong candidates to their board. They will release a 26 page annual report in May. Work is in progress to re-vamp their donor levels and packages. 1868 Foundation thanked Lodi for offering the Raising Nebraska Space for this year's Blue Ribbon Rollout. Their goal is to raise \$150,000 in honor of the Fair's 150th anniversary..

Other Business

No other business.

Adjourn

Motion made by Kliment to adjourn.

Lukassen seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Time adjourned: 4:10 p.m.