



## **NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD**

Nebraska State Fair Board Room, Grand Island, NE

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**October 11, 2019 – 1:00 p.m.**

A regular monthly meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Friday, October 11, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. Public notice of this meeting was published in the October 1, 2019, issue of the Grand Island Independent newspaper and posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website from October 1, 2019 – October 11, 2019.

Roll call was read with the following members present: Stan Brodine; Dawn Caldwell; Bob Haag; Jeremy Jensen; Chris Kircher, Chairman; Jeff Kliment; Kathleen Lodl (via phone); Doug Lukassen, Treasurer; Chuck Rolf, Secretary; Kirk Shane, Vice Chairman; Beth Smith; Steve Wehrbein and Kent Zeller. Others in attendance were: Lori Cox, Executive Director; Tish Eckstrom, Executive Assistant; Laura Hurley, Experiential Partnerships; Greg Harder, Chief Operations Officer and Aksarben Stock Show Director; Chelsey Jungck, Chief of Events & Entertainment; Jamie Parr, Chief of Sales; Patrick Kopke, Chief of Finance; Lori Arterburn, Financial Controller; Scott Yound, Director of Operations; Nebraska State Fair Staff; Lindsey Koepke, director 1868 Foundation; Terry Galloway, 1868 Foundation Board Chairman; Jarrod P. Crouse; Trent Loos; Mark Dreher; Dave Hansen and Dave Wegener, Swanson Russell; various media representatives, and other members of the community.

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.

#### **Amended Minutes of July 12, 2019 meeting**

**Motion made by Rolf to approve the previously adopted minutes of July 12, 2019 as amended.**

**Caldwell seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Minutes of August 24, 2019 meeting**

**Kircher called for a motion to approve the August minutes.**

**Discussion on changes to be made. Lukassen voiced requested changes.**

**Motion made by Shane to approve the August minutes with discussed amendments.**

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

#### **Financial Report**

Kopke, Chief Finance Officer, reported on August and September financials. August total current assets of \$3,366,442; total current liabilities \$2,506,020; total current operating revenues \$2,353,661; total current operating expenses \$4,640,181. September total current assets of \$1,802,775;

total current liabilities \$953,022; total operating revenues \$4,959,540; total current operating expenses \$8,123,078.

Kopke stated the attendance for this year's fair was down 10% from last year's numbers. That led to a 12% decline in gate revenue from the previous year.

**Motion made by Lukassen to approve the Financial Report.**

**Wehrbein seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously**

**Executive Director's Report**

Lori Cox gave a presentation on her role as Executive Director going forward.

Dave Hansen and Dave Wegener of Swanson Russell gave a Marketing results report.

**Aksarben Report**

Harder reported the Aksarben Stock Show added four states to the program this year. That brings the total number of states involved to 14. The 2019 Aksarben Stock Show welcomed 900 exhibitors and 2500 entries from all 14 states.

**Committee Reports**

a. Finance

Jensen reported the committee met and brought forth the need for a revolving line of credit in the amount of \$1.5 Million with Five Points Bank.

**Lukassen made a motion to have Lori Cox request a \$1.5 million revolving line of credit from Five Points Bank.**

**Jensen seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion took place about the names on the checking account. Cox is the only name on the account as of now.

**Lukassen moved to add Patrick Kopke, Chief of Finance, to the checking account and also to remove Harry Hoch (former Treasurer) from all accounts at Five Points Bank and add Doug Lukassen (current Treasurer) to all accounts at Five Points Bank.**

**Rolf seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

b. Public Affairs and Outreach

Lukassen expressed that not all Nebraska State Fair banners were posted at respective County Fairs as requested. New date decals will be handed out at NAFM.

c. Livestock

Shane reported record numbers in 4-H and FFA shows. Had good reviews from Equine shows. Shane recognized Bill Angell, Kelly O'Brien and Scott Yound and the Operations department for all their work.

d. Facilities

Rolf reported there was discussion in Committee about parking issues and possible solutions of grading, asphalt, rocks, etc.

**Rolf motioned to have Scott Yound, Director of Operations, start the process of a cost analysis for grading of parking lots west of Livestock arenas by contacting dirt contractors for bids.**

**Brodine seconded the motion.**

There was discussion about having Fonner involved in the conversation due to the land lease.  
**Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

e. Events

Wehrbein reported on 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. The rain depleted some of the excitement with some bands not able to march. In future, want to keep the Opening Ceremonies at 5 pm. The Grand Marshall program gained three additional counties. The Board and Grand Marshall Reunions were well attended. Need to look into a master plan for the historical display in the first floor of the Nebraska Building which may include a marathon display in the future. Improvements made to the Motorsports resulted in better attendance. Wehrbein recognized Chelsey Jungck and the Entertainment Team. The volleyball tournament had 29 team participate and sold over 1800 tickets. The committee discussed having a marathon display in the future.

f. Executive

Kircher reported the committee had a recap of Finance and discussed what would be covered in the Board meeting.

**1868 Foundation Update**

Galloway reported continued growth and support across Nebraska. The Blue Ribbon Roll Out raised \$100,000 after expenses. Corn Dogs and Cocktails was held during Fair. The Gift Shop sales were up 38%. The year-end giving drive will be coming up. The Foundation's mission is to raise money for major projects of the Nebraska State Fair. Request was made for a joint finance meeting with Nebraska State Fair and Fonner to define what role the Foundation plays in the budget.

**Future Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting Dates, Locations and Other Events**

- a. November 22, 11 am –Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- b. December 13, 11 am—Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- c. January 24, 2 pm—Board meeting, Ramada Convention Center, Palm Room, Kearney, NE
- d. February 14, 11 am – Board meeting, Lincoln

There was discussion on meeting dates and if there would be a December meeting and staff Christmas party. Cox suggested having a Thanksgiving party in November instead of doing one in December because of scheduling. Kircher asked the attorney for Nebraska State Fair, Jarrod P. Crouse, to look into language for lesser requirements of meeting times and dates.

**Executive Session- Performance Evaluations**

**Lukassen made a motion to go into Executive Session at 2:40 pm to discuss performance evaluations.**

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

**Lukassen made a motion to exit Executive Session at 5:02 pm.**

**Jensen seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

**Other Business**

Doug Lukassen, Board Treasurer, resigned his position on the Nebraska State Fair Board effective immediately.

Kicher accepted Lukassen's resignation.

**Adjourn**

**Motion made by Rolf to adjourn.**

**Caldwell seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

**Time adjourned: 5:05 p.m.**