

Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting

8/24/2019 11:00 am

Fonner Park Café

Kircher called meeting to order at 11:05.

Roll call was read with following members present: Stan Brodine, Dawn Caldwell, Jeff Kliment, Chris Kircher, Chuck Rolf, Steve Wehrbein, Bob Haag, Doug Lukassen, Kirk Shane, Kathleen Lodl, Beth Smith, Kent Zeller. Also present were: Lori Cox, Greg Harder, Laura Hurley, Patrick Kopke, Lori Arterburn, Chelsey Jungck, and Tish Eckstrom.

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.

Grand Kubota, first time sponsor of Roughstock rodeo, is very happy about their sponsorship. Rodeo was a great show that lasted about an hour and 40 minutes.

Granger Smith concert had good turnout.

Opening Extravaganza went great with recognition of UNL 150th and presenting the carousel horse. Overall biggest challenge is the shuttles for weather. Had a plan in place ahead of time, so just had to implement it.

Running additional busses: 3 from Arrow; 3 from Advantage; 5 mini ADA capable; plus a fleet of 8.

Good feedback on shuttles. Don't have numbers yet on amount of people coming in on shuttles.

Shuttles start on hour before gate opens. Older Nebraskans Day shuttles start at 8 am. Board will need to help older people into grounds. Busses drop off at North gate now and will run until midnight. Bus superintendents will call when no more patrons need to be shuttled and they are shutting down for the night. They can call for reinforcements when needed. May need one site to open at 7 am for livestock events on Sunday or other days that start at 8 am. Walmart site was the suggested site to use for this.

Party Pit open until 1 am- load out of South gate.

Clip reports from media show at least 1 Billion impressions before Fair opened on website. GI

Independent tweet had no times or a link to follow for more information.

Media alert today at 1 pm.

The West lot has been closed at this point.

Chelsey-

Marathon went on as scheduled.

Line workers going on as scheduled.

Kids Pedal tractor pull moved inside. Had a large crowd.

Cheer and Dance cancelled.

Some marching bands have cancelled.

Grounds and strolling acts have been cancelled for this morning.

Parade still on for now—will decide by 12:30 if it is cancelled or not.

Reined cow horse show moved to noon or possibly 4 if weather is still bad.

Roughstock rodeo at 7pm.

Kirk—make sure nothing is not hauled in or driven in the arena at Thompson.

Dr. Krull said there may be issues with having the polo match. Ike Sankey asked to have two sleds available. Greg harder said this is just good operating procedures and encouraged having two sleds. Going forward need to have procedures in place. We do not have a 'Ride at your own risk' sign posted in Equine as was required by Cox, so ride risk signage will be posted today.

Patrick-

Gave preliminary numbers for attendance and sales.

Concert rundown:

Eldredge-sold out Drifters-sold out Little Big Town-sold out

Maren close to sell out Trace close to sell out

We have rain insurance for all 11 days from 10am to 8 pm. It pays by escalation if it rains more. Cost us \$25,000 for the insurance.

Laura-

Sponsors bought 250 concert tickets. We provide VIP for them.

Tonight's VIP room for Greenline, Anderson Ford and Bosselman.

Golden Harvest planned for September 1 up to 500 people.

Cock Pit is room #5 at Bosselman's from 2-6 pm. For sponsors and only. Can enter through outside.

Strictly hospitality.

Danger Zone is pre-concert party from 6-9 pm. Go through concert gate 4, security guides you to room.

Board encouraged to attend these and network with sponsors.

Board meetings at 11am each day of the fair starting on the 24th. Need to move location for executive sessions.

Lukassen move to go into Executive session at 11:48 to discuss personnel issues.

Smith seconded the motion.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously

Rolf motioned to come out of Executive session at 12:40.

Lukassen seconded the motion.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously

Shane made a motion at 12:42 to recess meeting until August 25 at 11:00 am.

Kliment seconded the motion.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Board meeting Notes 8/25/19

Small Conference Room

11:03 meeting called back to order by Kircher.

All board members present.

Also present, Lori Cox, Greg Harder, Patrick Kopke, Jaime Parr, Chelsey Jungck, Tish Eckstrom.

Good event attendance at last night's VIP events.

Had a last minute sponsor – MFS/AGI

Sponsorships up from last year 39%

Accomplishments—

Concert- all 5000 fans were shuttled in on a shuttle bus. Amazing work by our teams. Lori and Greg handled logistics, kudos to Mick from Holiday for being very flexible and working with us. Just a few hundred shy of a sellout.

Adding a 7 am shuttle from Walmart South for today due to early livestock shows.

Roughstock rodeo had a good turnout and a great show.

Will always have some grumbles, but Mayor Steele and Cindy Johnson had nothing but great things to say about the Fair.

Jaime—

Gave an update vendors. Vendors appreciative for weather alerts.

Lori—

Chris Kotulak has been instrumental in leak and arena issues that have arisen. Also has let us use 2 LED signs at no charge. Steps made by the board earlier this year have been instrumental to repairing relationship.

Lori thanked the board for their support during the ongoing issues that have arisen.

Greg—

Outside shuttles have had overall positive feedback.

Chelsey—

4-H Fashion Show and Governor's breakfast happening today. Needs help for set up of Cody Jinks after Fashion Show is over. There is a lot of flipping of space for events. Also needs help for Monday, Older Nebraskans Day, with setting up pit. She thinks 12:30 or 1, but will email exact time.

Board asked about having a group text. Adding them to Band that was set up already for directors.

Beard Contest at 4 today. Then Nebraskappella.

Need a meeting for Older Nebraskans Day about weather, will move bleachers for drop off.

Arcy arrives tomorrow for live mural. Make sure to get a sand room selfie.

Compliments from Sheep Barn to AV crew for their work.

Patrick—

Kopke gave a preliminary attendance and revenue report.

Shuttle alert for next weekend working to provide more buses.

Will net \$175,000 so far on rain insurance.

Need to discuss an early bus for next weekend livestock shows.

Request for service to the handicap doors downstairs in the Nebraska Building; Cox will address this Fall.

During the week Patrick will get the conference phone working in small conference room.

Also publish the number for conference calls

Lukassen made a motion to go into Executive session for personnel issues at 11:32 am.

Haag seconded the motion.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Rolf motioned to come out of Executive Session at 12:30pm.

Shane seconded motion.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Lukassen moved to recess meeting until August 26 at 11 am.

Wehrbein seconded the motion.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting

8/26/19

Small conference room

Rolf made a motion to come back from recess at 11:15 am.

Lukassen seconded the motion.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Gate 5a is flooded. Will make a break in the gate so busses can come through. Gate 7 is bringing in buses. Dropping people as close to Heartland Events Center as possible. Main gate- two tractor trams will circle Pinnacle Expo to get people to regular trams and then to south side of Heartland Events Center. Scooter corral is handled.

Report on busing- 400 people at Walmart South waiting. Issues with people parking at Walmart. Even with all buses on deck, we will still have wait times and issues getting the large numbers of people in. Mick added three more buses. We have three bus companies working together on this. We need to check and see how much time Mick is spending actually driving the buses.

Polo match had a good turnout. There was good response to activities connected with event. Our tractor trams shuttled people to the polo match. Dusty Trails is doing well. The arena will have to be monitored to see if Tractor Pull can go on as scheduled.

Security--

Had call from Security about people standing by main gate wanting people to sign the medical marijuana petition. Older person fell and broke pelvis. Mats in Five Points Arena need to be taped down on both ends. Several people tripped and fell. Concern was expressed about cord covers and people falling.

Patrick—

Kopke gave a preliminary attendance and revenue report.

Laura—

Hurley gave sponsorship report. At next meeting, board will be presented with details on sponsorships. We will have a sponsor summit in October to go over fulfillment report and have one-on-ones with sponsors.

Motion made by Jensen to go into Executive Session for personnel issues at 11:41 am.

Motion seconded by Shane.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Lukassen to come out of Executive Session at 12:08 pm.

Motion seconded by Wehrbein.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Haag to recess meeting until August 29 at 11 am.

Seconded by Wehrbein.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting

8/27/19

Bosselman's Conference center

Motion made by Wehrbein to come out of recess at 11:01 am.

Motion seconded by Rolf.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Board members present: Stan Brodine, Dawn Caldwell, Bob Haag, Jeremy Jensen, Jeff Kliment, Doug Lukassen, Chuck Rolf, Kirk Shane, Beth Smith, Steve Wehrbein, and Kent Zeller. Kathleen Lodi and Chris Kircher present via phone. Special guests present are Lt. Governor Foley and Congressman Bacon. Also present were Lori Cox, Laura Hurley, Patrick Kopke, Chelsey Jungck, and Tish Eckstrom.

Lt. Governor Foley and Congressman Bacon each gave a greeting to the board.

Lori spoke about expanding to Omaha and Lincoln focus for buses for coming weekend.

Chelsey—

Jungck reported on concerts and shuttling of concert goers. Offsite parking was utilized. She also gave a rundown of today's events.

Laura—

Hurley reported on sponsorships and the VIP area. Sponsors have been given rosettes to hand out for Sponsor Choice awards around the Fairgrounds.

Patrick—

Kopke gave a preliminary attendance and revenue report; Volleyball brought in \$17,000 in revenue without the Hastings numbers included. Concert goers have been from all across the country.

Lori—

Cox discussed sponsorship packet handout. 56 sponsors this year, the sponsorship summit which is held in October, about 80% attended.

Zeller talked to vendors about water situation. For the most part, all were ok and dealing with it. Discussed moving more back to the East end of fair grounds, but cannot go back East without infrastructure.

Rolf made a motion at 12:17 to recess meeting until August 28 at 11:00 am.

Seconded by Shane.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting

August 28, 2019

Bosselman's Conference Center

Motion made by Rolf to bring meeting out of recess at 11 am.

Motion seconded by Kliment.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Members present: Bob Haag, Kathleen Lodl, Chock Rolf, Beth Smith, Jeff Kliment, and Stan Brodine. Joining via phone Jeremy Jensen, Chris Kircher. Also present: Lori Cox, Laura Hurley, Chelsey Jungck, Lori Arterburn, Tish Eckstrom, Phil Potter, and Terry Galloway.

Absent: Dawn Caldwell, Doug Lukassen, Kent Zeller, Steve Wehrbein, Kirk Shane.

Phil Potter spoke about the concerts.

Lori Aterburn--

Gave a preliminary report on attendance and revenue.

Chelsey Jungck—

Gave overview of yesterday's concerts and a rundown of today's upcoming events.

Greg Harder—

Reported on managing the busses with Mick and Lori. Discussed adding a couple more stops for busses to pick up patrons. Also reported on condition of parking lots on grounds and the partial closure of Stolley Park Rd for livestock loading and unloading to avoid backing up Stolley.

Laura Hurley—

Reported on sponsorships and VIP events.

Rolf made a motion at 11:41 am to recess meeting until August 29 at 11:00 am.

Motion seconded by Smith.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting

8/29/2019

Bosselman's Conference Center

Rolf made a motion to come out of recess at 11:01 am

Haag seconded the motion.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Board members present: Stan Brodine, Bob Haag, Jeremy Jensen, Kathleen Lodi, Chuck Rolf, Beth Smith, and Kent Zeller. Chris Kircher was present via phone. Dawn Caldwell arrived at 11:34. Absent: Kirk Shane, Jeff Kliment, Steve Wehrbein, and Doug Lukassen. Also present were, Lori Cox, Laura Hurley, Patrick Kopke, Chelsey Jungck, Greg Harder, Lori Arterburn, Tish Eckstrom, and Terry Galloway.

Quick briefing on the Governor attending the fair today. The Proclamation will be happening at 11:30. Board needs to plan on being at the Ferris wheel at 3:15 to ride with the Governor. The Governor will be at the Supreme Drive at 6 pm today also.

Tomorrow's guests at the board meeting will be Frank and Gary Zaitshik, and Mike Thomas of Wade Shows.

Cox—

Gave an update on the busing. She is on the phone nationally now to get busses to use for shuttling patrons. Finding enough drivers remains an issue. Board was given a handout of local school district's that had busses. Discussed the parking on site and condition of grass lots.

Kopke—

Reported on preliminary attendance and revenue.

Don Adams has requested a storage container be purchased to store the Main Entry in. The container he found was about \$7500. It is 53' and is on wheels to be moved easily and leak proof. It will reduce set up time next year if the main pieces can be stored intact.

Lukassen stated that he was sure he could find a storage container at a lesser cost and would make some phone calls to find one.

Kircher discussed the history of Wade Shows contract. This board signed a 5 year contract with Wade Shows that will expire the end of 2020.

Hurley—

Reported on sponsorships.

Jungck—

Reported on concerts and how shuttling after the concerts was going.

Zeller gave kudos to security for keeping carts out of the Core.

The Carousel horse that will be given to UNL will most likely be put at the old fairgrounds in Lincoln. The board will meet in Lincoln for this dedication.

Jensen made a motion at 11:52 am to recess meeting until August 30 at 11:00 am.

Motion seconded by Rolf.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting

8/30/2019

Bosselman's Conference Center

Motion made by Caldwell to come out of recess at 10:55.

Lukassen seconded the motion.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Board members present: Stan Brodine, Dawn Caldwell, Bob Haag, Jeremy Jensen, Chris Kircher, Jeff Kliment, Kathleen Lodi, Doug Lukassen, Chuck Rolf, Kirk Shane, Beth Smith, and Steve Wehrbein. Kent Zeller arrived late to the meeting at 11:14. Chris Kircher left the meeting early at 11:14. Also present: Lori Cox, Laura Hurley, Patrick Kopke, Lori Arterburn, Chelsey Jungck, Greg Harder, Tish Eckstrom, and Terry Galloway. Guests present: Frank Zaitshik, Gary Zaitshik, and Mike Thomas from Wade Shows.

Frank Zaitshik spoke about his company's history with the Nebraska State Fair and his desire to continue being a partner of the Nebraska State Fair. Zaitshik stated the Nebraska State Fair has the full support of Wade Shows and he looks forward to restructuring a new contract and even help out the Fair financially if needed.

Cox spoke about parking onsite and the busing situation. Sending out message to the public to come early to allow for shuttle travel time. Some onsite parking lots might be able to open up if rain stops. The web team has been great getting the message out about shuttling and keeping things up to date as changes happen.

Harder has been out at shuttle stops daily making sure operations are running smoothly. We have 23 buses to run this weekend. We will be adding another shuttle stop at the Liederkrantz parking lot with 2 buses running from there. There was discussion about Grand Island residents having a friend or relative drop them off at the gates instead of overloading shuttle system. Mick Brown has been instrumental in the organization of the buses. His wife, Lori, has been taking lunches out to the bus drivers on her own accord.

Zeller stated FFA numbers were a little lower due to weather.

Cox discussed an incident that happened in one of the Barns. A contracted employee was injured and taken to the hospital. If there is an accident going forward, let Cox know first, as she was not immediately alerted.

Kopke gave a report on preliminary numbers for attendance and revenue.

Lukassen requested a report from Harder about Aksarben.

Jungck reported on entertainment and busing for concerts. Jungck also gave a rundown of today's events. She thanked the board for their support of the daily parades.

Hurley reported on sponsorships and the VIP numbers.

Cox thanked all staff for their hard work.

Kopke added that Don Adams has located a 53' leak-proof storage container on wheels to house the Main Entry in after the fair. The cost is approximately \$7500. The container could be parked behind the operations shop.

Haag made a motion at 12:00 pm to recess meeting until August 31 at 11:00 am.

Motion seconded by Brodine.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting

8/31/19

Bosselman's Conference Center

Motion made by Jensen to bring meeting out of recess at 11:00 am

Motion seconded by Wehrbein.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Members present: Stan Brodine, Dawn Caldwell, Bob Haag, Jeremy Jensen, Chris Kircher, Jeff Kliment, Kathleen Lodl, Doug Lukassen, Chuck Rolf, Kirk Shane, Beth Smith, Steve Wehrbein, and Kent Zeller.

Also present at the meeting were Lori Cox, Chelsey Jungck, Laura Hurley, Patrick Kopke, Gretchen Kirschmann, Greg Harder, Tish Eckstrom, Terry Galloway, Mark and Sharon Dreher of Double Lock Security.

Mark Dreher spoke about the closure of Stolley Park Rd for 4-H and FFA. Great cooperation with GIPD and GI Fire. Sherriff's Posse was a huge part on south side of barns. JBS allowing staging of 200 plus rodeo trailers.

Kopke presented financials for the previous day. Will have a complete analysis at end of Fair.

Chelsey Jungck discussed last night's concert. Tomorrow is the Firefighters challenge at 11 am. Chelsey encouraged board members to come to the Opening Ceremonies at 11 am. Board agreed to attend Opening Ceremonies and then move to Cockpit for the board meeting at 11:30. .

Laura Hurley spoke about the Danger Zone attendance. Up to 1300 people have visited the Danger Zone so far. Heartland Casa was grateful for tickets provided to underprivileged children. Wade Shows provided wrist bands for the carnival to match those tickets. Presented this idea to Fonner as well, as a pay it forward. Fonner returned 62 tickets that had been provided to them for us to give to underprivileged children.

Lori Cox said the mounted shooting event last night was a great success. The mounted shooting event will be in the outdoor arena today.

Greg Harder gave a report on how busing patrons to the Fair was going. We will have 23 buses running over the weekend.

Harder gave a report on Aksarben Stock Show happening on September 26-29. Number of entries for this year is up considerably. Fourteen states are involved with more wanting to join.

There was discussion on a storage container to store the main gate entry in off-season. The storage container was ordered already and delivered on Aug 30. Don Adams ordered the container without approval from board. Cost of container was \$7700.00. Patrick produced a written statement from Karlyn about a conversation with her, Don Adams and Cox. Lukassen stated this was a wrongful misuse of funds. Shane signed for the container. Nebraska State Fair is in possession of the title and purchase agreement. Kopke requested the trailer be sent back. Take down of the Main Entry needs to happen on Tuesday after the Fair and will take 3 to 4 hours. Lukassen stated bids should have been taken for this

purchase. Cox had a discussion with Don Adams on the 29th about obtaining a storage container, but expressed to Don Adams this would need board approval. As of August 15th, \$417,000 over budget. Per Kopke, the sidewalk to south of property, Dusty Trails, Emspace, and Roughstock rodeo were not approved by the Board. Cox stated that Dusty Trails and the Rodeo were discussed last winter with the board. She stated that she and Kircher discussed hiring Emspace to handle emerging P.R. needs. Mark Dreher stated the security always comes in under budget. The Drehers stated they had suggested a \$2 vouchers for food to be given to people shuttled in on buses. The ticket would be good this year only; Cox praised Drehers for the idea stating she and Kopke discussed the idea for one free gate admission for the 2020 Fair, Monday through Thursday. The gate admission equates to \$2 that does not require cash out of pocket. Jensen asked what the expected retention rate might be; Cox estimated a high of 10%

Motion made by Shane to pay for the container out of the Operating Account-Equipment.

Motion seconded by Kliment.

Discussion followed: Cox stated she did not have knowledge of storage container arriving Friday and there was no discussion of price.

Shane called for a vote on the motion to pay for the container out of the Operating Account-Equipment.

Upon voice vote, motion passed. Dissenting: Lukassen

Discussion ensued about internal process for approving purchases. Kopke stated a concern that the state could find the process for contracts was not followed in all departments. Cox stated there was a complete evaluation of contracts by Baylor-Evnen and each Director is responsible for each division he/she oversees. Templates were given to each department head to use for contracts.

Kopke stated that there were clothing purchases made by Cox on the company credit card. Cox stated those purchases were made as a direct result of a request made by Shane, in a previous conversation, for her to dress differently. Cox stated that she was asked to stop wearing ball caps, shorts, and sleeveless shirts and no tight shirts. Cox stated that she purchased clothing to meet the board requirements and will return any garments that do not fit. Any garments kept, Cox will pay for.

Lukassen made a motion to put Lori Cox on administrative leave pending investigation for misuse of budget and credit card.

Haag seconded motion.

Discussion followed: The State Fair attorney was contacted on the credit card purchases. Jensen stated the attorney advised the board that the purchases on the company credit card would be covered under Cox's employment contract, section 3. Jeremy Jensen also stated that following a review of her contract, there is no formal process for purchases. Based on the conversation with the attorney, Jensen wants the clothing purchases taken off the table for review. Kircher stated the board needs to get more facts to

make a decision on the motion. Beth Smith said the board may need to look at contract to amend language in the contract.

Lukassen made a motion to amend the original motion to put Lori Cox on administrative leave for misuse of funds used to purchase a storage container only.

Haag seconded the motion

Upon voice vote, motion was passed unanimously to amend wording of original motion.

Lukassen made a motion to place Executive Director, Lori Cox, on administrative leave for further review of budget performance.

Motion seconded by Haag.

Discussion: Jensen requested a review of all processes and budget, including an examination of the board, itself. This needs to be done at the September meeting. Lukassen stated he was going to wait until Monday meeting to present this to the board. Suggestion of tabling the motion presents its own issues and was discouraged. Wehrbein stated he agrees with Jensen about continuing on until the board has more information. The board does not typically meet in September. The board meeting could be recessed until a September date.

Shane called for a vote for the motion on the table.

Upon voice vote, motion failed. Dissenting: Brodine, Caldwell, Jensen, Kircher, Kliment, Rolf, Shane, Smith, and Wehrbein.

It was requested that at the October meeting, there be an operational review discussion.

Rolf made a motion at 1:07 to recess meeting until Saturday, September 1st at 11 am.

Caldwell seconded the motion.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting

9/1/2019

Bosselman's Conference Center

Lukassen made a motion to come out of recess at 11:30 am.

Wehrbein seconded the motion.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Board members present: Stan Brodine, Dawn Caldwell, Bob Haag, Jeremy Jensen, Chris Kircher, Kathleen Lodi, Doug Lukassen, Kirk Shane, Beth Smith, Steve Wehrbein, and Kent Zeller.

Absent: Chuck Rolf and Jeff Kliment.

Also present: Lori Cox, Patrick Kopke, Laura Hurley, Greg Harder, Chelsey Jungck, Terry Galloway, Gretchen Kirschmann, Mark Dreher, Sharon Dreher, and Tish Eckstrom.

Cox went over preliminary carnival numbers.

Harder reported on busing operation.

Hurley discussed sponsorships and VIP numbers. Kubota sponsored the Ranch Rodeo. Gretchen Kirchmann was helpful in handling sponsors for this event. Union Bank has come on as a new sponsor.

Jungck gave an overview of last night's concert. Little Big Town is approaching sold out numbers for tonight's concert. Jungck also gave a rundown of today's events. UNL pep band is here on grounds today performing.

Kopke gave a preliminary report on attendance and revenue numbers.

Zeller reminded the board of the Parade of Champions at 4:00 pm today.

Brodine requested the meeting be at 9:00 am Monday morning due to the veterans program happening at 11:00 am. Board agreed to meet then.

Lukassen stated the Loft is open if anyone needs to use that space on Monday.

Red jacket presentation has been postponed until further notice.

Jungck has had questions about the murals that have been painted on grounds and what we would be doing with those. Suggestions were: 1. Auction off for 1868 Foundation. 2. Keep and display in buildings. The Board expressed the desire to keep and display in the buildings for now.

Lukassen made a motion at 11:59 am to go in to recess until 9:00 am on September 2.

Wehrbein seconded the motion.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting

9/2/2019

Bosselman's Conference Center

Motion made by Caldwell to come out of recess at 9:05.

Motion seconded by Brodine.

Upon voice vote, motion, passed unanimously.

Board members present: Stan Brodine, Dawn Caldwell, Bob Haag, Jeremy Jensen, Chris Kircher, Doug Lukassen, Kirk Shane, Beth Smith, Steve Wehbein, and Kent Zeller. Jeff Kliment and Kathleen Lodi arrived late to the meeting. Absent: Chuck Rolf.

Also present: Lori Cox, Laura Hurley, Chelsey Jungck, Linda Lovgren, Mark Dreher, Sharon Dreher, Patrick Kopke, Lori Arterburn, Terry Galloway, and Tish Eckstrom.

Cox presented the Proclamation of Nebraska State Fair Day from the Governor that she was given. She also brought a pair of sunglasses made of hemp that were a gift from Alan Biermann.

Cox discussed the Sky Tram that stopped running for a time the night before. Harder provided a narrative of events. Kopke and Jungck were also present at the location. Linda Lovgren prepared a media alert. Wade Shows took appropriate steps to unload the 45 passengers from the Sky Tram. All got off the ride safely. All rides are inspected every morning. The Sky Tram pony motor, and auxiliary backup, did not engage. It is unlikely the Sky Tram will run today. Security provided concern that no one from administration was on scene. Harder responded that he was present with Mike Thomas, Wade Shows, during the entire event. Cox stated that she was in the office working with Lovgren on media regarding messaging.

Jungck spoke about the tractor pull and how 4 entities came together to produce the show. The fireworks were postponed due to the tractor pull going over the allotted time. The UNL pep rally was a big success and would like to see it happen again next year.

Kopke reported on the preliminary attendance and revenue figures, stating Sunday's numbers looked incredibly strong.

Harder gave a report on the busing and parking lot use. Mark Dreher requested to be a part of any parking lot discussions going forward.

Hurley reported on VIP numbers and sponsorships.

Linda Lovgren of Emspace, spoke about her actions during the Sky Tram incident. Lovgren headed up the media room this year at the Fair. Her group has had a critical relationship with the social media team.

Minutes of May 17, 2019 and June 13, 2019 meetings

Motion made by Lukassen to approve amended minutes from May and June meetings.

Motion seconded by Wehrbein.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of July 12, 2019 meeting

Motion made by Lukassen to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion seconded by Haag.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Sharon Dreher stated she called Cox at 8:57 regarding the Sky Tram incident and got no answer. She then tried calling Harder and could not reach him. Kopke and Jungck were contacted next and they arrived at location of the Sky Tram. Harder stated he received a call from Sharon, having missed the first call; he was seated in the Barn Bar at the time. Also present were GI Fire and GIPD. Mark Dreher stated there is an Emergency Action Plan in place with actions to follow in this type of incident. Kircher addressed having a contact tree in the future. Discussion moved to how communicated: by security radio or cell phone. Mark Dreher called Kircher and Shane about the Sky Tram. Kopke questioned Harder concerning his whereabouts and produced still shots from security cameras of Harder in the Barn Bar.

Motion made by Lukassen at 9:51 am to go into Executive Session for personnel issues.

Motion seconded by Shane.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Haag at 10:30 am to come out of Executive Session.

Motion seconded by Jensen.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by hag at 10:32 am to recess meeting until September 3 at 7:30 am.

Motion seconded by Smith.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting

9/3/2019

Nebraska State Fair offices- Large Board Room

Board members present: Stan Brodine, Bob hag, Jeremy Jensen, Chris Kircher, Jeff Kliment, Kathleen Lodi, Doug Lukassen, Chuck Rolf, Kirk Shane, Beth Smith, Steve Wehrbein, and Kent Zeller. Absent: Dawn Caldwell.

Also present: Patrick Kopke, Chelsey Jungck, Laura Hurley, Gretchen Kirchmann, Lindsey Koepke, Heidi Davis, Terry Galloway, and Tish Eckstrom.

Motion made by Lukassen to come out of recess at 7:30 am.

Motion seconded by Wehrbein.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Rolf to go into Executive Session for personnel issues at 7:36 am.

Motion seconded by Shane.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Lukassen at 9:24 am to come out of Executive Session.

Motion seconded by Rolf.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Rolf at 9:25 am to recess meeting until 11:30 am.

Motion seconded by Smith.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Lukassen at 11:29 am to come out of recess.

Motion seconded by Wehrbein.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Shane at 11:30 am to go into Executive Session for personnel issues.

Motion seconded by Jensen.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Haag at 12:11 pm to come out of Executive Session.

Motion seconded by Lukassen.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Lindsey Koepke spoke about the 1868 Foundation and their success at the Fair.

Jungck reported on the entertainment side of the Fair. It was an overall great concert lineup.

Hurley reported on sponsorships and VIP experiences. She is starting talks already with new and existing sponsors about next year. Hurley has reached out to fourteen sponsors concerning Aksarben and already heard back from five wanting to extend their sponsorships to Aksarben.

Kopke- no report.

Kircher thanked the board, staff and security for all their hard work making the Fair successful.

Shane thanked the Ops crew for dealing with all the weather related issue that came up.

Lukassen thanked Shane for his 9 years of service to the Nebraska State Fair Board.

Motion made by Shane to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 pm.

Motion seconded by Jensen.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.