



NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD

Nebraska State Fair Board Room, Grand Island, NE

MEETING MINUTES

November 22, 2019 – 11 a.m.

A regular monthly meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Friday, November 22, 2019, at 11:00 am. Public notice of this meeting was published in the November 11 and 12, 2019, issues of the Grand Island Independent newspaper and posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website from November 1, 2019 – November 22, 2019.

Roll call was read with the following members present: Stan Brodine; Dawn Caldwell; Bob Haag; Jeremy Jensen, Chris Kircher; Jeff Kliment; Kathleen Lodi; Chuck Rolf, Secretary; Kirk Shane, Vice President; Steve Wehrbein, and Kent Zeller. Others in attendance were: Lori Cox, Executive Director; Laura Hurley, Experiential Partnerships; Tish Eckstrom, Executive Assistant; Bill Angell, Director of Livestock Division; Greg Harder, Chief Operations Officer and Aksarben Stock Show Director; Chelsey Jungck; Chief of Entertainment and Events; Patrick Kopke, Chief Financial Officer; Lori Arterburn, Financial Controller; Deb Irvine, Accounts Payable Specialist; Kelley O'Brien, Livestock/Domestics Manager; Scott Yound, Director of Operations; Terry Galloway and Lindsey Koepke, 1868 Foundation.

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 October 11, 2019 Meeting

There being no corrections:

**Motion made by Jensen to approve the minutes of October 11, 2019, meeting as printed.
Shane seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Director's Report

Cox reported Nestelive, talent buyer, is searching and securing concerts for the 2020 Fair. Planning up to 9 shows in 2020.

Cox and Harder attended RMAF last week. She reminded the board about NAFM at the end of January.

Laura Hurley reported on the second annual Sponsor Summit held on November 20. 30 of the 53 sponsors were present. Hurley thanked the board members who attended the event.

Financial Report

Kopke reported total current assets of \$702,142; total current liabilities \$1,109,548; total current operating revenues \$5,321,383; total current operating expenses \$9,692,583.

At the end of his report, Kopke tendered his resignation to the board.

Motion made by Jensen to approve the Financial Report.

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

Aksarben Report

Harder reported he is continuing to get positive feedback from the attendees of this year's Aksarben. He would like to see buyers groups added for next year. The Purple Ribbon Auction move to Saturday was successful.

Committee Reports

a. Facility Planning

Chuck Rolf reported the committee expressed its desire to invite Fonner to be a part of this committee meeting going forward.

b. Finance

Jeremy Jensen reported the committee discussed the upcoming budget. He stated the 2019 budget was flawed from the beginning. Going forward the board needs to take ownership of the budget and have the oversight and leadership to make sure the NSF has a budget that can be achieved.

c. Public Affairs and Outreach

Did not meet.

d. Livestock

Kirk Shane reported the committee went over the Equine and Livestock financials. Discussed getting more 4-H and FFA kids to come in. Bob Haag reported the Livestock Superintendent post-fair meeting was positive overall and looked into scheduling for next year.

e. Events

Steve Wehrbein reported committee discussed historical items and motorsports. Also discussed ways to tighten the belt for next year's budget.

f. Executive

Chris Kircher reported the committee Thursday night after the Bill Marshall event. The focus was on getting a realistic budget in place. The members felt good about their ability to do this even though it could be painful.

1868 Foundation

No Update.

Other Business

Terry Galloway spoke, although not representing the foundation, cited Nebraska state statute 84-1412 that any citizen can speak at a public meeting. Galloway went on to discuss the financial state of the Nebraska State Fair.

---BREAK---

2020 Budget Presentation

Cox gave a visual presentation of the proposed 2020 budget.

Executive Session- Personnel

Motion made by Kircher to go into Executive session at 12:50 pm. Caldwell seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Jensen to come out of Executive Session at 2:23 pm. Motion seconded by Rolf. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Jensen made a motion to approve the 2020 budget as presented by Executive Director, Lori Cox. Rolf seconded the motion. Discussion by board and Executive Director. Rolf called for a roll call vote. Motion passed with 8 in favor, 1 against.

Adjourn

Motion made by Shane to adjourn.

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

Time adjourned: 2:26 p.m.