



NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD
Meeting Minutes
Friday September 5, 2022

A regular meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Wednesday, September 5, 2022 at 9:00 am at the Nebraska State Fair Board Room, 501 E Fonner Park Rd, Grand Island NE. Public notice of this meeting was published in the Grand Island Independent newspaper on August 18th & 19th, 2022; posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website; and on the Nebraska State Fair website. The public was invited to attend in person.

Roll call was read with the following Board Members present: Bob Haag, Chair; Dawn Caldwell, Vice Chair; Boyd Strope, Treasurer; Tom Schellpeper, Secretary; Kevin Jorgensen; Kathleen Lodi; Beth Smith; Tom Dinsdale; Jeff Kliment; and Steve Wehrbein.

Others in attendance:

Bill Ogg, Executive Director; Jaime Parr, Deputy Executive Director; Tammy Baker, Business Administrator; Arlie & Betty Phillips; Ray Massie, Marketing Director; Barney Cosner; Tom Rechlin, VEO.

Bob Haag 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.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion made by Dawn Caldwell for Approval of Consent Agenda which included the Board Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2022.

Second by Boyd Strope.

Upon roll call vote, motion to approve consent agenda passed unanimously.

Deputy Executive Director Report by Jaime Parr

- Events working hard
- HR, payroll, payables
- Signage
- Front desk
- Marketing – daily emails detailing daily events

Executive Director Report by Bill Ogg

- Introduced Tom Rechlin, VEO (Team tasked with responsibility to receive & deposit fair amount of cash funds, ensure proper dollar amounts, look for anomalies.) Tom reports to staff every morning in briefing.
 - Tom reported Gate sales yesterday \$27,000 above last year
 - 13,000 people above onsite records for Grand Island
 - Beverage solidly up – set all kinds of records
 - Open campus great idea
 - Food vendors report terrific numbers
 - Campground, merchandise up
 - Big job, fun
- Concessions \$289,000 vs \$248,000 last year
- Carnival 271,000 vs 247,000 last year

- **\$219,000 ride gross yesterday – 2nd best all time**
- **Improved how we move people, still work to be done**
- **Concert layout much improved, still work to be done**
- **Concert series went well**
 - **Flo Rida concert – different genre than what we had scheduled**
 - **Young Country crowd (Priscilla Block) enjoyed Flo Rida**
 - **Thought it would be more urban**
 - **Long intermission seemed to be expected by Flo Rida followers**
 - **Dunham crowd – not what we expected**
 - **Overwhelmed with accommodating mobility impaired**
 - **2,000 seats provided in pit**
 - **1,200 in general admission**
 - **Bleachers**
 - **Still many people standing**
 - **Need to do a better job of communicating up front**
- **Changes for next year – Competitive Exhibits leader & superintendents moved space willingly**
- **GREAT Fair – THANK YOU!!**
- **354 days – will hit the ground running**

Other Business

- **Kathleen Lodi reported 3,500 checks written and in packets to send out (4-Hers)**
- **Checks being sent WITH exhibits this year - never happened before**
 - **Final closure, not dragged out**
 - **Save money not having to pay postage**
- **Boyd Strobe reported that he heard nothing but good reports**
- **Everyone more relaxed and comfortable**
- **Great strategic plan – obligated to follow**
- **#1 core strategy to strengthen team engagement & morale, retain staff**
- **Executive board met 360 review this week (Kate Statz – HR Consultant)**
- **Beth Smith – board feedback**
 - **Who to send pics to?**
 - **Asked for 5 highs & 5 lows in past in addition to photos**

Next Board Meeting October 21, 2022 @ 1pm

Adjournment

Motion made by Tom Schellpeper to adjourn the meeting

Second by Kevin Jorgensen

All in favor vote, motion passed.

Minutes of September 5, 2022

Nebraska State Fair Approved:

Date: October 14, 2022

By:


Tom Schellpeper, Board Secretary