



NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD
Meeting Minutes
Friday August 26, 2022

A regular meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Friday, August 26, 2022 at 9:00 am at the Nebraska State Fair Board Room, 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 Strobe, Treasurer; Tom Schellpeper, Secretary; Lanna Hubbard; Kevin Jorgensen; Kathleen Lodi; Beth Smith; Tom Dinsdale; Ryan Hassebrook; and Steve Wehrbein.

Others in attendance:

Bill Ogg, Executive Director; Jaime Parr, Deputy Executive Director; Tammy Baker, Business Administrator; Jennifer Stump, AMGL- State Fair contracted accounting firm (representative); Barney Cotton; Terry Galloway, 1868 Foundation; Arlie & Betty Phillips.

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 Steve Wehrbein for Approval of Consent Agenda which included the Board Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2022.

Second by Tom Dinsdale.

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

Approval of June Financial Report as presented by Jennifer Stump (balance sheet) and Jaime Parr (Profit/Loss)

Motion made by Tom Schellpeper to approve the Financial Report.

Second by Boyd Strobe.

Upon roll call vote, motion to approve the Financial Report passed unanimously.

1868 Foundation update by Terry Galloway

- Great Steak Debate tonight should raise around \$100,000
- Showed slides of ideas for new projects anticipated - Rooftop Barn Bar (estimate 2.3 mil)

Deputy Executive Director Report by Jaime Parr

- Referred to “cubbies” for Board members to retrieve pertinent information and store belongings
- Daily sheets give specific times for all events happening on daily basis
- Walk-around license has been approved
 - Watch for things that we can improve on next year
 - We are being assessed by a lot of eyes – four groups spoke in opposition
 - Make sure we adhere to “rules” & guidelines

- If outside the “tavern proper”, make sure their beverage is in an approved container (blue koozie (two different sizes) or blue cup
- Green wristband for today, says “Age Verified” on it
- Staff Team is first line of enforcement
- Be kind & discreet
- Gates are enforcing, with backup by Security (Double Locked Security)
- Beverage department will be extra mindful of wrist-banding and ID checking
- Allowing guests to “walk out of established area” is new this year
- Compliance logs will be kept by Double Locked Security and Nebraska State Patrol

Whitney (front desk) received a call from 84 year old “Bob” who was initially against the Fair moving to Grand Island. He now feels that it was the BEST move!

Executive Director Report by Bill Ogg

- **First Day! – Electrical issues – all resolved now.**
- **Board members ambassadors for State Fair – show off what we’ve done**
 - If you drink, make sure you follow rules, be an example
 - Guests won’t really notice a difference this year from last
 - Long-time Fair partner noticed that Earl May Fair Square not fenced in this year
- **Board packets – Credentials (all access), guest passes, food vouchers, drink tickets**
 - Fairs ahead of us have done really well this year, Wade Shows also
 - Use food vouchers in packets as rewards – give them out to families
 - Use your yellow drink tickets for others also
 - Badge will get you into everything – all access added to guest badges
- **Dunham tickets – sold out of chairs**
- **Will share attendance numbers every day**
 - Estimates as there still 80,000 tickets out to Pump & Pantry on consignment
 - They will bring back what didn’t sell
 - Reconcile at end of Fair
- **Grand Kubota has rented loft tonight – they are hosting (\$18,000 contribution)**
 - Wednesday in the Loft – Corn Dogs & Cocktails
 - Monday – Chamber of Commerce Annual Hospitality Event
- **Emergency Action Plan – worked hard with law enforcement, first responders**
 - We’ve been through plan at least five different times with staff
 - If we’re ready, we won’t need it. If we need it, we’re ready.
 - 52 pages includes active shooter, fire, weather, etc.
 - Protocols to take care of staff & guests as efficiently as possible
 - Escort people to appropriate gate – get them out
 - Thunderstorms, tornado, hail – bad weather
 - 10’s of thousands of people on grounds at one time
 - Safe places – livestock buildings, wash racks, bathrooms
 - NWS on site monitoring all day, every day
- **Staff works well together, excellent support from Fonner staff also**
- **Monday, August 29, 2022 – staff photo – wear blue shirts**
- **Final Monday (Labor Day) Board photo – wear red shirts**
- **Governor will be here next Friday**
- **Golf cart training**
 - Stay out of core after 9am
 - Loop around outside
- **Don’t underestimate financials – we’re in great shape**
- **Next year all colors/signage will match**
- **Lot 5 hang tags in packets – do not part there tomorrow (Marathon)**

4-H – Kathleen Lodi

- 13,000 entries this year – rock solid numbers
- Around 4,400 different exhibitors – quite high
- 72 hours – 30 different contests & live events
- Exhibit hall to north looks fantastic
- More space, more exhibits
- New galleries – childhood, photography, everything condensed
- Participants develop *spark on grounds, engagement, sense of belonging, like-minded

FFA – Ryan Hasebrook

- Numbers – 500 entry increase this year
- Supervised Ag Experience – this is their opportunity to showcase
- Appreciates your willingness to invest in them

Other business

Jaime Parr made motion to add Connie Decker to Lifetime Membership roster.

- Second by _____
- Roll call vote passed unanimously

Adjournment

Motion made by Boyd Strobe to adjourn the meeting

Second by Tom Dinsdale

All in favor vote, motion passed.

Minutes of August 26, 2022

Nebraska State Fair Approved:

Date: August 31, 2022

By: 
Tom Schellpeper, Board Secretary