



## **NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD**

Nebraska State Fair Board Room, Grand Island, NE

### **Meeting Minutes**

**January 23, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Saturday, January 23, 2021, at 9 a.m. Public notice of this meeting was published in the January 15 & 16 issues of the Grand Island Independent newspaper and posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website from January 8, 2021 and on the Nebraska State Fair Website. The public and press were invited to attend via Zoom due to Covid-19 social distancing recommendations.

Roll call was read with the following members present: Dawn Caldwell, Vice Chair; Bob Haag, Secretary; Ryan Hassebrook via zoom; Lanna Hubbard; Kevin Jorgensen; Chris Kircher, via Zoom; Jeff Kliment, via Zoom; Beth Smith, Chair; Boyd Strope, Treasurer; Steve Wehrbein; Kathleen Lodi via zoom, Chuck Rolf, Absent. Others in attendance at the board room were: Bill Ogg, Executive Director; Jaime Parr, Deputy Executive Director; Tish Eckstrom, HR Administrator; Laura Hurley, Experiential Partnerships; Judy Trent, Office Administrator/ Board Liaison; Kelly O'Brien, Livestock/Competitive Exhibits Manager; Scott Yound, Director of Operations, via Zoom; Terry Galloway, CPA; Lindsey Koepke, 1868 Foundation, via Zoom; Joe & Jennifer Stump; Janna Kuklis, Deputy of Sales; Ed Meedel, Director of Sales; Kent Zeller.

Smith 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 December Fair Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion made by Bob Hagg to approve December Board meeting minutes as written.

Second by Boyd Strope

Discussion: No Discussion

Upon roll call vote, passed unanimously.

#### **December Financials**

Introduction:

- Terry Galloway, CPA who has voluntarily assisted with the reconciliation and improvement to the fair financials, prefaced presentation of the December financial statement.
- Financials are exceptionally good this year as there were good decisions made for 2020 State Fair.
- Rollover for vendors will get recognized in 2021 not 2020.
- In the need for capital improvements, the fair can borrow with less risk.

### Approval of December Financials

Motion made by Steve Wehrbein that the financial documents through December 31, 2020 be approved by the Board as presented:

1. Balance Sheet
2. YTD Income Statement
3. YTD Income Statement vs. Year-to-Date Budget
4. YTD Statement of Revenue
5. YTD Statement of Expenses

Second by Kevin Jorgensen

Upon voice vote, passed unanimously.

### Discussion Regarding Finances:

- Bill Ogg introduced that AMGL was chosen for the Accounting and Bookkeeping services.
- Welcomed Joe and Jennifer Stump who will be doing the financials.
- Thanked Jennifer for her dedication and ability to come in and quickly identify improvements.
- Joe Stump expressed intent and commitment regarding accounting services.

### Executive Director's Report: Bill Ogg

#### a. Activities

- Nothing More Nebraskan
- YMCA Marathon will be partnering with the State Fair on August 28<sup>th</sup>
- Staff met with Nebraska Sports Council, host of the Nebraska State Games. Their mission is to expand and would like to partner with State Fair. One idea is exhibition of events during the fair that are included in their games.
- Welcomed Ed Meedel the new Sales Director.
- Reported that Gary Kubicek will be the new Marketing Director.
- Agriculture Director position has not been filled.

#### b. NAFM

- With Covid-19 challenges they will be hosting a business meeting at the Nebraska Building January 23, 2021 in Raising Nebraska. They have four NAFM Board member elections. Three State Fair Board members will also be elected.
- Wished Chuck Rolf who has served on the Nebraska State Fair Board for a full nine-year term appreciation.

### Department Reports

- Agriculture: Bill Ogg
  - Working on hiring a Livestock Director.
  - With the cancellation of The Nebraskan the State Fair was able to wait until the new year to hire a director, which best served the 2020 budget.
  - There has been strong recommendation to conduct the 4-H and FFA events on separate weekends as 2020. Included the Nebraska State Fair Board Agriculture Committee involved in discussion and recommendations.

- **Marketing: Laura Hurley**
  - **Holiday Sales of wrist bands and admission tickets.**
  - **Mural of the State Fair at Tommy's carwash.**
  - **Launching of Nothing More Nebraskan.**
- **Operations: Scott Yound**
  - **Shuttles have been repainted.**
  - **Ticket Booths repaired, updated and painted.**
  - **Working on painting in the offices.**
  - **Researching prices for Capital purchases.**
- **Sales: Ed Meedel**
  - **Very appreciative and honored to be part of the State Fair staff.**
  - **Welcome to stop by the office and say hello.**
  - **Vendors are very enthusiastic about the fair in 2021.**
- **Sponsorship: Laura Hurley**
  - **Connecting with Nebraska State Fair and Aksarben sponsors.**
  - **Making connections with new sponsors.**
  - **Aksarben Foundation has been providing 1 million in scholarships and needs since 2017 and secured 3.6 million in grants for central Nebraska (medical science floor in CHI).**
  - **Thank You to the Sponsors that gave to NAFM.**
  - **Working on a wall name for the scrabble board downstairs.**
  - **5 Points Bank will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during the State Fair.**

**Aksarben Report: Bill Ogg**

- **Aksarben will be hosted on the traditional dates already assigned for this year.**
- **There will be a Limit on animals (10 Steers, 20 lambs and 20 hogs) in the Challenge Program**
- **Applicants should be encouraged to be timely about their applications so animals can be delivered to youth.**
- **Workforce and youth development is a major role for the Knights of the Aksarben.**
- **We need to improve Aksarben financially and focus on the revenue side.**
- **GILCA is extremely interested in Aksarben and very supportive.**

## Fair Board Committee Reports

### a. Agriculture: Jeff Kliment

- It was discussed in depth about the State Fair exhibition schedule for 4-H and FFA livestock shows on separate weekends.
- Committee recommends that 4-H livestock shows be the first weekend and FFA livestock shows be the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend.

#### Input from Board:

- Kathleen Lodl and Ryan Hassebrook both showed support for the schedule.
- Board was supportive in the recommendation of the schedule.

### Approval of Schedule Change to Fair Exhibition Schedule

Motion by Jeff Kliment to approve 4-H Exhibit/Livestock Show to 1<sup>st</sup> weekend and FFA Exhibit/Livestock Show to 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of Nebraska State Fair.

Second by Dawn Caldwell

Discussion: Chris Kircher asked if this was how schedules were at other Fairs. Jeff Kliment stated he had researched and found other fairs do have this same kind of schedule. Jeff Kliment also discussed about how it is easier with School schedules to have exhibits on the weekend and open class during the middle of the week. Dawn Caldwell also recommended that there be animals on the fairgrounds during the whole time of the fair.

Upon roll call vote, passed unanimously.

### b. Finance: Boyd Strobe

- Discussion on Capital Outlay Budget
  - Terry and Joe reviewed what good financial planning and operations were needed for capital outlay.
  - Have not spent capital in the last 2 years. Since it is a budgeted item, no need to amend the budget.
  - Procurement policy is in place for capital expenditure.
- Reserves and capital improvement.
- Goals for the future.
- Retreat and sessions for future.

**c. Executive**

- Committee met with Bill Ogg for his 6-month review per employment contract. Full Board will participate in the annual review.
- Committee met with Chris Kotulak regarding LB 371 and asked him to present information to the entire board.
  - Discussion and motion regarding Games of Chance during Fair events
    - Chris Kotulak then presented to the board regarding Games of Chance.
      - The 2021 Fair will not be altered with the passing of LB 371 regarding Fonner Park.
      - Discussed future Fonner Park plans.
      - Continued support for the State Fair.

**Approval of Games of Chance during Fair Events**

Motion by Boyd Strobe to Endorse LB 371 regarding Games of Chance During Fair Events.

Second by Dawn Caldwell

Discussion: Steve Wehrbein asked if any other states have Game of Chance during Fair events. Chris Kotulak stated that there is, and the operators are very involved with the community. Fonner wants to also keep the fair family oriented and wholesome.

Upon roll call vote, passed unanimously.

- Performance of Executive Director by the Executive Committee
  - Great start to year and building relationship skills.

**1868 Foundation Update**

- Lindsey reported on the 1868 Foundation.
  - Thank You for the use of the State Fair Board Room for recent Foundation meeting.
  - History report on the Nebraska State Fair.
  - Tough 2020 year for the foundation.
  - Average was \$553.00 per donation this year.
  - Grow Grand Island contributed to Rock the Lot.
  - \$25,000 for the volunteer coordination effort.
  - \$117,000 invested for the two programs above.
  - Happy to have projects to do and let the supporters know they make a difference.

### Future Board Meetings

- **Discussion and Motion of Future Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting Dates**
  - February 19, 2021 Lincoln, NE
  - March 19, 2021 Grand Island, NE
  - Bill Ogg requests that the Board set a meeting date of the third Friday of the month. This gives time for the financial reports to be ready.

**Motion by Steve Wehrbein for future Nebraska State Fair Board Meetings to be on the third Friday of the month.**

**Second by Bob Haag**

**Discussion: No Discussion**

**Upon roll call vote, passed unanimously.**

### **Other Business:**

- **Thank You to Chuck Rolf for his dedication to the fair.**
- **Question about the capital budget being made public.**
  - **There will be a procurement policy and anything over \$20,000 will need an RFP for the bid process. This will be communicated to the Board.**
  - **Joe Stump was able to provide information on the capital budget policy and procurement policy.**

### Future Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting Dates and Locations (tentative)

- **February 19, 2021 in Lincoln, NE**
- **March 19, 2021 in Grand Island, NE**

### Adjournment

**Motion made by Steve Wehrbein to adjourn the meeting.**

**Second by Kevin Jorgensen**

**Upon raise of hand, motion passed unanimously.**

**Time adjourned: 11:20 am**