



**NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD
Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 17, 2025**

The meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Friday, October 17, 2025, at 2:30 pm at Mahoney State Park's Peter Kiewit Lodge in Ashland, NE. Public notice of this meeting was published in the Grand Island Independent newspaper on October 9, 2025; 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: Boyd Strobe, Chair; Tom Schellpeper, Vice Chair; John McKeever, Secretary; Lanna Hubbard, Treasurer; Dawn Caldwell; Alan Kahle; and Beth Smith. Absent: Anna Castner-Wightman, Tom Dinsdale, Ryan Hassebrook, Kevin Havlovic, Kevin Jorgensen and Kathleen Lodl.

Others in Attendance: Jaime Parr, Executive Director; Courtney Glock, Marketing Director; Cindy Johnson, Consultant; Breanna Kozisek, Business Administrator; Kourtney Lingeman, Competitive Exhibits Manager; Karli Schulz, Entertainment & Events Director, Nicki Stoltenberg, Sponsorship Director; Joe Stump, AMGL; Tina Thuernagle, Operations Director.

The October 17 meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was called to order by Chairman, Boyd Strobe. Strobe 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 Beth Smith for Approval of Consent Agenda, which included Regular Meeting Minutes of September 1, 2025.

Second by John McKeever.

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

Financial Report by Joe Stump

John McKeever moved to approve August and September Financials as presented.

Second by Alan Kahle.

Upon roll call vote, motion to approve passed unanimously.

Board Committee Reports

Events Report by John McKeever

- No report.

Facilities Report by Tom Schellpeper

- No report.

Agriculture Report by Dawn Caldwell

- Acknowledgement was given to recent 4-H and FFA show animal qualifying test result challenges. An increase in failed drug tests poses concern. Exhibitor sanctions have been delivered, and responses are ongoing.

Finance Report by Boyd Strobe for Lanna Hubbard

- **Consideration was given to increase the 2026 National Entertainment Budget.**
 - **Tom Schellpeper moved to approve the new budget.**
 - **Second by Alan Kahle.**
 - **All in favor. Motion carried.**
 - **Strobe wished good luck to Karli Schulz, Entertainment & Events Director.**
- **Consideration was also given to increase the 2026 Vendor Rates.**
 - **Jaime Parr pitched the outdoor market price increase from \$27.50 per front foot to \$30, a 9% increase. Parr noted that the average cost per vendor booth is about \$66, and the new rate would still be below average.**
 - **Beth Smith moved to approve the new vendor rates.**
 - **Second by Dawn Caldwell.**
 - **All in favor. Motion carried.**

FFA Report by Ryan Hassebrook

- **No report. Ryan was absent.**

4-H Report by Kathleen Lodl

- **No Report. Kathleen was absent.**

Executive Report by Boyd Strobe

- **No report. There was no committee meeting, so nothing to report.**

Staff Department Reports

Event Report by Karli Schulz

- **The events team is wrapping up from the 2025 Nebraska State Fair. No further report was given.**

Operations Report by Tina Thuernagle

- **The operations team has been turning the grounds over to Fonner Park and preparing for 2026. No further report was given.**

Agriculture Report by Vaughn Sievers

- **No report. Vaughn was not present.**

Sales Report by Keaton Irwin

- **No report. Keaton was not present.**

Marketing Report by Courtney Glock

- **No report.**

Sponsorship Report by Nicki Stoltenberg

- **No report.**

1868 Foundation Report by Terry Galloway

- **No report. Terry was not present.**

Executive Director Report by Jaime Parr

- **Reminder was given to be mindful of hackers and fraud.**
- **Fair injury insurance claims were briefly discussed.**
- **Results from a “wrap-up” meeting were highlighted regarding the 2025 State Fair and Aksarben Stock Show. Staff members submitted successes and improvements from this year’s events and each item was discussed. Those items are being addressed as 2026 event preparation progresses.**

- Praise was given to Haley Roush, Volunteer Coordinator & Box Office Manager (not present), with the announcement of 800+ volunteers working at the 2025 Nebraska State Fair. These volunteers equate to over 16,000 hours of service, which the Fair hopes will continue. Volunteers are recognized annually for milestones. Further praise was given to those volunteers.
- Recognition was given to this year's Battle of the Businesses volunteer competition winners. Nova-Tech, Mars and CHI were awarded plaques and cookies for their volunteer contributions to the Fair. Parr expressed her thanks.
- ARPA updates are underway as projects continue. Improvements will include continued storm drainage in parking lots and other State Fair activity areas.
- Updates on campus partners were addressed.
 - The City of Grand Island has not approved the ARPA improvement ask from last spring, but the Fair is not making another ask at this time nor rescinding the original.
 - Agreements are being made with VenuWorks.
 - The Grand Island Casino Resort is planning to be a continued sponsor of the State Fair and Aksarben Stock Show.
 - Fonner Park is joining the State Fair in some campus naming rights meetings and will continue to work together.
- The State Fair will be applying for grants through NEMA for potential contracted security among other items.
- Nebraska State Fair won "Best of GI" this year for best event.
- Our next board meetings will be November 21 and December 19.
- Thanks were given to everyone for all they do, including support from staff and board members.
- Strope also commented on the volunteers never ceasing to amaze, the progress and discussions of the day, and extended thanks to the board.

Adjournment

Motion made by Dawn Caldwell to adjourn.
Second by Tom Schellpeper.
All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes of October 17, 2025
Nebraska State Fair Approved:
Date: November 21, 2025

By: _____
John McKeever, Board Secretary