



**Western Montana Fair Commission Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2006, 1 p.m.
Western Montana Fair—Chamber of Commerce**

ATTENDANCE: Scot Meader, Manager, Buck Smith, Chairperson, Kim Latrielle, Fair Commission Member, Julie Gemar-Williams, Fair Commission Member, Betty Jo Johnson, Fair Commission Member, Charlie Deschamps, Fair Commission Member, Eunice Misbe, Fair Office.

GUESTS: Ann Mary Dussault – Bylaws, Maxine Lane, 5 Valley Kennel Club, Rolf Tandberg, Sons of Norway, Madeline Heitzman, Funnbiz Marketing,Carolynn Richardson, Culinary Superintendent, Reece Halverson, Western Montana Turf Club.

Ann Mary Dussault reviewed the draft of the Fair Commission bylaws, which have not been approved by the BCC. Changes presented were:

1. Inclusion of the Fair Manager to any references to Personnel. Julie Gemar- Williams noted, however, that it has never been the Fair Commission's responsibility to hire, supervise, or terminate office and grounds personnel. The Board's responsibility is to hire, supervise, or terminate the Fair Manager only, and part of the Fair Manager's duties is to oversee operations.
2. Non-voting alternates may vote on a discretionary basis in order to break a tie or have a quorum.
3. Term of office is increased to a period of three years. There is a transition period for current board members.
4. The term limit was removed, but the BCC may want it reinstated.
5. Two new members will be appointed January 2007.
6. Ex-Officio provision was deleted.
7. Expanded duties to other times rather than just fair time.

4-H: There were no 4-H representatives present since their presentation was not on the agenda. A presentation for the 2007 Country Fair will be made at the October meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Maxine Lane, 5 Valley Kennel Club representative, thanked the Fair for hosting the Dog Show for the past several years. The Dog Show has been the third week of June for 51 years. They are gaining in the number of dogs. There were a couple of issues with logistics this year. They were not able to get the pavilion until 5 p.m. on Friday, contrary to the contract due to MAYHA not being completely moved out in time. Building #12 was rented out to the YMCA after school program this year, but use of the Llama Barn was provided this year. The kennel club donated \$1,000 for restroom renovation a few years ago, but they were still unusable this year. Also needed is more cover and water. Crossing the track was a hardship for folks in wheelchairs. Would like to have agility in the same show instead of later. The Club is willing to help resolve issues. There were over 200 RV's on different days this year.

Ray Hodges is the new president for this year and Maxine is the assistant chair. There is a lack of bathrooms and showers. Kim Latrielle noted that when the BMW rally was held on the Fairgrounds they made arrangements with Sentinel High School to use their gym showers and restrooms.

The 5 Valley Kennel Club is on the strategic planning mailing list and will receive all information about meetings to plan the fairground's future. Each of these concerns will be addressed before the 2007 show. Maxine will meet with Scot, and the Board will be apprised of the progress.

Rolf Tandberg, Sons of Norway, noted they appreciated the ability to have the second trailer. They have distributed 15% of their fair profit to local charities. SON is already on the strategic planning list. Rolf also noted that they really appreciated the refurbished restrooms. Some of the doors are missing the locks, however.

Carolynn Richardson noted that she likes having the agriculture department in the building. She also noted that the office did a great job this year.

Reece Halverson noted that the Race Meet went very well this year.

MARKETING REPORT:

The wrap up marketing report was distributed and recapped by Madeline Heitzman. Reed Williams, Funnbiz owner, sent a letter to Scot, hand delivered by Madeline, to be read aloud by Scot before the Board. Funnbiz has chosen to opt out of the remaining year of the marketing contract. Madeline indicated she has worked for the fair since 1999 and enjoyed it immensely.

FAIR COMMISSION COMMENT:

Betty Jo Johnson – Sorry to hear the news. Appreciates the high-quality report.

Kim Latrielle – Great job. Sorry to hear the news.

Charlie Deschamps – Great job. Many of the horseshoes and tracks are still on the pavement.

Betty Jo Johnson – A meeting should be arranged with Reed to discuss reasons since they are not stated in his letter.

Charlie Deschamps – Should meet with Reed so we are aware of the reasons.

Buck Smith – Hate to see them terminate. Charlie and Betty Jo will have an informal meeting with Reed and report to the board.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

Most of fair equipment is put away in storage. Benches, etc. will be stored under the Beer Garden roof. Might have to leave the starting gate out. Basketball hoops will be moved back to the back of the shop. Bill's Plumbing will winterize water lines this year.

MINUTES:

June and July 2006 minutes were approved as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Revenue is 22,000 under budget. Budget will be closer than ever before when all funds come in. Financials approved as presented.

Each committee needs to write a report that includes financials and marketing. What worked and what didn't should be included.

CONTRACTS/RENTALS:

Boats will be moved into storage October 16 and 17.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Discussed packet sent from Mr. Malcolm, which was included in the Board Packet. Mr. Malcolm has done extensive research and made a proposal for the design of a new fairgrounds area and buildings. Numerous drawings were included. The Board will communicate with Mr. Malcolm further as the strategic plans progress.

Discussed packet sent from Dana Alderson, which was included in the Board Packet. More information about the situation needs to be gathered from 4-H and Country Fair. **Buck will continue correspondence with Ms. Alderson** since Buck was her contact for packet she sent.

CDC sent a nice plaque and thank you letter for the fair's donation of tickets so their clients were able to attend the fair.

Scot was again nominated for Missoula County Outstanding Employee of the Year Award. Scot was awarded a plaque as runner up.

Ginny Tribe wants to resume strategic planning meetings as soon as the bylaws are approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Horse Racing Meeting in Billings went very well. Legislation is being crafted. Scot will keep the board apprised of progress with meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Rodeo Committee meets tomorrow. Kim is preparing a Power Point presentation to be used in selling rodeo sponsorships. Jeff Childre donated photos for fair use.

Entertainment went well this year. Need to meet with Mike Tucker. Decision needs to be made soon regarding horse racing. Camo is a must for the fair stage covering. It worked very well, but will need to be secured better against wind.

Horse Racing - Turf Club is working on compilation of their survey responses. WMTC is working to get the compilation ready ASAP. Charlie wants options ready to go along with any discussions regarding the future of horse racing.

Country Fair – Charlie reported that the Country Fair went very well. Face Painting was a hit. They discovered they need a bigger petting zoo, more signage, and more times for the kiddie rodeo. They had too many entries for the rodeo to have all in one sitting. CF wants to give the job of manning the Country Fair (livestock) gates back to the Fair. Will need to meet with Kiwanis.

FAIR COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Charlie Deschamps – In regard to Beverly Fix's letter regarding use of the Glacier Building for Country Fair/4-H, she never attended any of the Country Fair planning meetings. Committee put a lot of work in the planning and had considered use of the building in the meetings and made their own decisions.

Julie Gemar-Williams – Believes in the Country Fair concept but wants to look at all of the numbers and have a report from each event before making any decisions on requests for ANY of the events for 2007 fair.

Kim Latrielle – Great Fair.

Betty Jo Johnson – Great Fair

Scot Meader—None

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Rolf Tandberg also works with the service group as a gate guard and indicated that they really appreciated the booklet with all of the ticket types and what access each type grants. He suggested a map would also be helpful in answering questions from patrons.

Charlie related that the Kiwanis Club would like to arrange a ticket meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further discussion, Betty Jo Johnson made a motion to adjourn, Kim Latrielle seconded and the motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Submitted by Eunice Misbe
Office Manager
Western Montana Fair

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING
October 17, 2006, 1 P.M.
Chamber of Commerce**