



Western Montana Fair Commission - Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2007, 3 p.m.
Chamber of Commerce

ATTENDANCE:

Buck Smith, Chair, Scot Meader, Fair Manager, Kim Latrielle, Fair Commission, Charlie Deschamps, Fair Commission, Julie Gemar-Williams, Fair Commission, Michelle Felde, Fair Commission, Kristen Eberhart, Fair Commission, Betty Jo Johnson, Fair Commission, Bill Nooney, Emeritus, Eunice Misbe, Fair Secretary.

GUESTS: Reed Williams, Inland Empire Shows; Bill and Ramona Holt, Dick Haines, Pat Turner, Missoula County Sheriff Deputy.

MINUTES: Betty Jo made a motion to accept, as presented, the minutes from the February 20, 2007 meeting. Kim seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS: Betty Jo commented that she had received the minutes from the MBOHR meeting in Helena and thinks it is a shame that Billings received the \$10,000 from AQHA by default when it was Toni that had worked so hard on building a marketing presentation and had won the first prize for the Missoula Race Meet. Missoula had to return the \$10,000 to AQHA since there will be no race meet in 2007.

Charlie asked if we were over budget in some areas. Scot indicated that we were over in some areas and under in others so it will be a wash at the end of the fiscal year.

Financials were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Reed Williams noted that he has seen a lot of excitement with the anticipation of having an events center and with the long range plan. He will do whatever he can to keep the ball rolling.

Bill Holt complimented the fair. He supports the possibility of having an events center.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **4-H Premium Restructure** - 4-H has requested help with building new sheep pens this year. There may be other additional expense with Country Fair also. It is Scot's recommendation not to restructure the premium payout for 4-H at this time. Betty Jo suggested that 4-H could possibly match or add to the Fair's portion of premiums. Both Open Class and 4-H premiums will be reviewed before the 2008 Fair. Campbell Barrett noted that 4-H really appreciates the new sheep pens.
- **Grandstand Inspection** - Per Hal Luttschwager's instructions, Scot contracted Access Consulting (Paul DeWolfe) to proceed with the grandstand inspection. Missoula County will pay for the inspection itself, but the Fair will have to pay for any needed repairs. Kim requested both a three-year and five-year quote if any repairs will be needed.
- **Rodeo Perfs and Purse** – Discussed options for seating and additional perf. Had previously discussed getting more seats by borrowing Bozeman's bleachers and purchasing an additional set of portables. However, the original quote for a set of

portables was \$36,000 and now the price has gone up to \$48,000. Even if all seats sell out, it would barely cover the cost of added money at \$5,000 for each event. The money in trust is really fair money not belonging to individual committees to be "loaned" back to the fair. Guidelines for committees need to be developed. Will only have two perfs this year. Discussed only raising added money to \$4,000 this year because of new information about bleacher cost. Kim noted the public thought it would be \$5,000. Decision doesn't need to be made today so should go back to the rodeo committee with the new bleacher cost information before making final decision on added money.

CONTRACTS AND RENTALS:

Forest Service – There has been a change in personnel at the Forest Service. The new group is reviewing the contract and another meeting with Fair personnel will be scheduled.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT: There is a meeting for the preliminary process of qualifying the architectural firms that responded to the RFQ. Meeting is Thursday, April 5, 10 a.m. to Noon in Room 201 at the Courthouse. Applications will be screened at that time.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

RMAF – Congratulations to everyone who helped bring the 2010 Convention to Missoula.

Hockey Meeting – Scot and Betty Jo met with Tim Bechtold of MAYHA. MAYHA would like to have year round use of the rink and have the restriction lifted of only allowing them to book ice and roller skating events. Decided to table this issue until after the fair.

Livestock Meeting – There is a livestock meeting at the Extension Office April 4, 7 p.m. Pen space for the fair will be assigned at this time.

Bleacher purchase – Scot withdrew his recommendation to purchase an additional set of bleachers in light of the new information regarding increased cost. We will still borrow both of Bozeman's bleachers.

May Fair Fling – There are a couple of grandstand rental events this year and the carnival. No commercial booths this year since they do not get adequate traffic. There probably won't be a grandstand event Monday.

Ticket Prices for Fair – Reviewed proposed ticket price list for 2007. Don't sell very many exhibitor passes so took them out. Decided not to sell advance gate tickets this year. It has become confusing for the public because of gate being included in shows and not needing a ticket on Kids' Day Free Til 3. 4-H Members will still get in free. Leaders and 4-H parents will still buy a discounted season pass. Consensus to move forward with ticket price changes.

Tuesday arena – Already have something lined up for the arena every day except Tuesday.

PBR and Rodeo – All reserved seats. Show begins 7 p.m., preshow at 6:30. Slack Noon – 2 p.m. Thursday.

Queens - Tuesday equestrian event will take about three hours. Time depends upon when opening with Fair Commission occurs.

Dog Exhibition – Met with 4-H Dog Superintendent and they will be putting on an afternoon dog show with all kinds of different facets of dog training, contests, performances, etc.

Saturday – There will be an all-afternoon Tough Truck-Sand Drags-Tough Truck Long Jump event. Working on getting a sponsor. Have approached Toyota.

Sunday – Derby will be one hour earlier. Having church service again.

Business Persons Lunch – Have approached Office Solutions about sponsoring a "Business Person's Lunch" Wednesday through Friday. The patrons would be able to enter free, by giving us their business card, from 11:30 to 1 p.m., to eat at the fair concessions. The card drawn will receive two complimentary tickets to that evening's night show.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Entertainment: Working on the rider for the MercyMe contract. Will send the rider to the agency when complete.

Fair Stage: Cannot bring in Kahunaville. Our stage does not meet their size requirements. May form a fair stage committee. Julie requested a list of sponsorships by next meeting.

Long Range Plan: There will be a meeting with Ginny Tribe Tuesday, April 3, 11:30 a.m. Will discuss Ron Edwards' presentation. Public meetings were well attended.

Media: Kim thanked the Missoulian for the free advertising for the Ron Edwards' presentation. Kristen has the cover completed for the Premium Book. Marketing Committee needs to have a meeting soon to discuss handling of ads, etc. April 6, 9:15 a.m. after the Chamber Meeting is a possibility, but may not work for everyone. Will send out an email to confirm time.

4-H: The Petting zoo will be in one tent. The sheep people don't want to be in the tents this year. There are space issues and each group has areas they would like to have. The placements will be decided at the livestock meeting April 4.

NEW BUSINESS:

Portable Bleachers: There are not portable bleachers for rental at a reasonable price. Scot will research if there any used ones available to purchase. They could always be used and rented if another set was purchased even with a new facility.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dick Haines – Represents City Council and very interested in the long range plan. Dick inquired if the interview meetings were public meetings. The first meeting is to qualify the applicants. Buck will check with Ann Mary to see if interview meetings are public. Dick indicated if he can help any way, he will.

Ramona Holt – Very pleased with plans. Will help any way possible.

FAIR COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Kim: Thanked the community for their support. Need more committees. This is a different fair than it used to be. Excited about the future. There is lots of work left.

Julie: Julie will be out of town April 17. Decided to reschedule the meeting for April 24 at 2 p.m. Thanked Ramona for making up the RMAF packets.

Betty Jo: There will be an Easter Egg Hunt at the store 11 a.m. the Saturday before Easter. Would like to consider 2 p.m. instead of 3 p.m. for board meetings. There is a shift change at the store and a little earlier would work better for her.

Kristin: Very exciting and thanks the community for the support.

Michelle: Thanked guests for their support.

Charlie: Charlie asked if there was a better place to put the ice shavings from the zamboni. Placing it along the Russell fence doesn't look good. Appreciates the support from the community concerning the Long Range Plan.

Bill: Good presentation by Ron. Bill has been at the Hockey Rink quite a bit and noticed that garbage on the grounds is becoming a problem. MAYHA needs to be policing the garbage. Lighting needs improvement also. Potholes need to be fixed. They shouldn't be using alcohol on the county property.

Buck: Echoes sentiments of entire board.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business on the agenda, Betty Jo made a motion to adjourn, and Kim Latrielle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by:
Eunice Misbe
Administrative Assistant
Western Montana Fair

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING
April 24, 2007 2:00 P.M.
Chamber of Commerce**