

Teton County Fair Board Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2024 Teton County Courthouse and via Zoom

Open: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm. Board members present were Jared Bevan, Brenda Simirl, Roger Kaufman, John Smaellie, Kade Mangum and Cara Olaveson. Absent: Jason Wilcox. Others present were Neal Stobaugh, John and Jessica Loudenslager, Tammy Sachse, Abby Grundler, Teresa Lane, Michael Whitfield, Lane Hillman and Hallie Poirier.

Minutes Action Item: January 10, 2024 meeting minutes were read. Tammy corrected the time of the 4H Horse Show from 7am to an 8am start. John motioned to approve the minutes, Kade seconded, all in favor.

Financial Report:

FY 2024 projected Expenses are \$280,073. So far we have spent \$68,387 or 24% of the budget, leaving a balance of \$211,686.

FY 2024 projected Revenue is \$96,850. So far we have brought in \$32,913 or 34% of the projected amount.

Persons in attendance: John and Jessica Loudenslager with Alta 4H Beef Club were present to request the use of our weigh scale and Pavilion/Indoor Riding Arena so families don't have to drive to Jackson. They use our scale for personal use to track livestock weight gain progress. Their official weigh in happens in Jackson prior to the Teton County Wyoming fair. Their paperwork for brand inspection etc has to be turned in Jan. Their vet inspection is just prior to their fair. Teton County Idaho Fair Board's concern is that our scales might not match Jackson's. We did have our scales recalibrated in Feb and they are now certified by the state. John confirmed that they would not use our scales as a certified weight. It is really just to get an idea of progress. If we feel that an MOU is necessary with the University of Wyoming Extension, Glen & Valerie Owens are the contacts.

Discussion items:

- A. University of Idaho Extension/Fair Board MOU (Action Item) No changes from Fair Board or Tammy and Abby. Brenda made a motion to approve, Cara seconded, all in favor. Hallie will send it to Jen Werlin for Uofl Extension approval.
- B. Master Plan Project Priorities using ARPA funds (Action Item) Commissioner Michael Whitfield recalled his decision to support a substantial amount of Arpa funds earmarked for the fairgrounds due to the interest in a multi use facility: The initial ideas were to erect a new fair building that could serve as a mass care facility if needed, if needed; house Uofl Extension 4H and possibly include county workforce housing units on the top story. Such a building would be \$3M, therefore \$450K would be seed money to start the project. Arpa funds need to be committed by 2025, firm plans/contracts etc would need to be in place. Is it reasonable to raise the remainder in this timeframe? Probably not. There are many other organizations in the valley looking to raise substantial funds for infrastructure security. With this in mind, Hallie has brought other options to the table. It would be a good idea to schedule a work session with the Bocc to talk about spending these funds. John said we haven't had a lot of direction. It is a lot to ask the Fair Board to raise said funds for a new building. Mike said a capital campaign to raise funds is doable but it would take members outside the Fair Board to help construct and manage it.

Opportunities are going to be gone with all the competition going on in the valley, ideally we should have started the fund raising two years ago. Hallie asks what that looks like and how do we go about creating such a committee? John acknowledges that this will be a full time job. We need to find out who wants to participate in this committee with the mission to educate and fundraise for a new building. Grants could also be an option. Hallie expressed concern with the master plan taking as long as it has and the possibility of losing the Arpa funds and could we redirect the funds for immediate improvements? Mike suggests presenting the Bocc with the whole picture and the immediate needs such as the pavilion expansion. John asks for a motion to approve the pavilion expansion as an alternate use of Arpa funds. Roger motions that the pavilion expansion is a priority for using the existing Arpa funds, Brenda seconded, all in favor. Kade acknowledges the need for a bigger pavilion, especially during Fair. Brenda states it would be a huge first step if we could allocate the funds towards immediate infrastructure improvements. Carol Petersen suggested we create a 501c3 non profit prior to Fair to capitalize on that crowd that attends Fair.

C. Teton Valley Balloon Rally Facilities Use Agreement (Action Item) 43rd Annual Teton Valley Balloon Rally event overview via email provided by Virginia Symons. The Fair Board has been a Title Sponsor over the years which includes lots of free advertising. Kade mentions attendees staying for the rodeo. John agrees that the foot traffic does pay off and perhaps we start our campaign for an event stage during their proposed music concert event. Roger states that they have provided a historical event to the community and that this is a partnership to keep. Brenda and Cara agree that this is an opportunity to promote our fundraising for infrastructure improvements. Brenda motions to approve the agreement with increasing their rental fee to \$1000 and 10% of their Sat. night gate revenue, Roger seconded, all in favor.

D. Rodeo Co Facilities Use Agreement (Action Item) Lane Hillman and Carol Petersen will provide six rodeos with the plan of eleven rodeos beginning June 14- Aug 16th. John asked if we can collect 10% of the Fair rodeo gate. Lane and Carol reply they can't agree to that. They can pay a nightly rental fee of \$500.00 per night and \$50 rental for PA system. The Fair Board agrees that this is a symbiotic relationship, the Friday night rodeos are a huge asset to the community and bring the public to the fairgrounds. Roger makes a motion to accept Teton Valley Rodeo Co's proposal of \$550 per night, with annual review of the contract and a right of first refusal to Teton Valley Rodeo Co to use the fairgrounds for their rodeo, Brenda seconded, all in favor.

E. TVFair & Rodeo Royalty/Fair Board MOU (Action Item) John motions to approve the MOU, Brenda seconded, all in favor.

F. 2024 FAIR: Schedule, Sponsor list, Sponsor Form, Poster review. Brief discussion on the Fair poster and sponsor form took place. Everyone likes the progress of both. Sponsorship banners - change outdoor arena from "1 year" to "seasonal". Hang Fair sponsor banners on the west side of the bleachers for the summer season.

Hallie is trying to reach the Shoshone Bannock tribe to inquire on availability and costs for dancing/drumming demo.

Building/Grounds Update: Truck status - we have a plow. Bldg light fixtures- Kade volunteered a lot of his time to switch out all the building lights. They look great- thank you Kade! Painting - the ceiling drywall and painting is coming along. The livestock scales were recalibrated on February 6th.

Other: Skijoring Update: Neal Stobaugh was present to provide an update. They are expecting 3000-4000 spectators. All permits are in. Parking areas were discussed given the soft ground conditions. Overflow parking will be north of Tributary. They are currently working on the course, design for horse safety is priority. Contestants will approach the course from the out of the south door of the Pavilion after warming up prior to their run.

Eastern Idaho State Fair Annual Budget meeting. Hallie attended the meeting in Blackfoot Jan 25th. Sixteen counties were invited. Discussion on the State Fair revenue and expenses took place. This meeting is a good opportunity to meet other commissioners and talk about their respective Fairs. Hallie stopped at the Bonneville County Fairgrounds on the way home and toured their facilities. Hallie also attended the Grand Teton Water Canal Co meeting February 12th.

Adjourn Meeting: Roger made a motion to adjourn at 10:03pm, Brenda seconded, all in favor.