

Teton County Fair Board Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2023 Teton County Courthouse and via Zoom

Open: The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm. Board members present were Jared Bevan, Brenda Simirl, Roger Kaufman, John Smaellie, Jason Wilcox and Kade Mangum and Cara Olaveson. Others present were JR Wood, Hailey Beard, Dan Reyes, Michael Whitfield, Tammy Sachse, Teresa Lane, Lane Hillman and Hallie Poirier.

Minutes Action Item: November 8, 2023 meeting minutes were read. Jason motioned to approve the minutes, Jared seconded, all in favor.

Financial Report:

FY 2024 projected Expenses are \$280,073. So far we have spent \$33,596 or 12% of the budget, leaving a balance of \$246,477.

FY 2024 projected Revenue is \$96,850. So far we have brought in \$22,930 or 23% of the projected amount.

Persons in attendance: N/A

Discussion items:

- A. Livestock Committee: Review of Fair Livestock Auction: JR Wood and Hailey Beard were present. Overall the 2023 sale went smoothly with 77 animals sold, up 20 animals from 2022. Sale prices per pound: goats \$10.05, lambs \$11.15, turkeys \$698.81, pigs \$10.67 with a grand total of \$154,492.34. So far this year, there are more kids signed up so space and pens are something to think about. With current enrollment, 8 additional pens are needed for Fair. Pigs, sheep, turkey and goat enrollment goes through the end of January.

Hailey stated they spoke to our master planner reps during Fair week. Talk of a livestock building took place where pens stay up the majority of the year.

The future 60 foot addition on the west end of the pavilion could include a permanent pen area, wash racks, and a weigh scale. Concrete floor with dirt on top would be ideal. The Fair Board and Livestock committee will work together to design an efficient space for livestock pens.

- B. FAIR 2024: Dates (How do we shorten?) Budget. Hallie went over the Fair Budget so members know what they have to spend on events. Move theme discussion to Jan meeting. Fair 101 years.

Discussion took place on shortening Fair week, it was decided to aim for **Monday - Sat. Aug 5th-10th**. Do we want to move it to the last week of July 29th- Aug 3rd? No. Jackson Fair is July 20-28th 2024. We may need an additional work session to finalize the schedule.

Sunday: Not preferred but an option if other groups want to have their events ie: open class horse show. Should be a full day if anything happens on Sunday.

Monday: 4H Interviews during the day. Pig wrangle is usually Monday. **4H Horse show could happen at 7am in the pavilion.** Everyone thought having the show in the pavilion is a better option for multiple reasons.

Tuesday: Mounted Shooters cancelled last year. Tammy said they could move the 4H Horse show here if there is no evening event to conflict. Pig Wrangle could move here. 4H Interviews in the morning. Open class drop off could be later in the afternoon? 4H Demos in the big top tent.

Wednesday: Livestock weigh in and evening Dinner & Dance. Open class judging Wed by noon.

Thursday: 4H Livestock shows are all day. Evening event is the Horse Pull.

Friday: Livestock show discussion took place on moving to Sat. Tammy felt Friday is the best day for the sale because historically people come right after work. They are afraid a Sat sale would lose buyers. There is also the animal pick up which needs to happen Friday night due to scheduling conflicts with other fair pick ups. Animals may have to wait longer to go to slaughter. With the number of kids showing animals, the sale will likely take longer and overlap with the Fair Rodeo. The sale always starts at 6pm. Tammy said they could look at moving it back to 5:30pm. Buyer dinner would stay 4-6pm.

Saturday: Figure 8 & Lawn mower Race stays here due to the amount of post clean up after races. It is too much work to have an event in the arena the next day. Overall opinion is that it is nice to end Fair week with the races.

C. **Action Item** July 3rd (Wednesday) concert. Motion to partner with DDA again. <https://www.magnoliaboulevardband.com/> Estimated costs: \$2500 Discussion on 2023's concert, advertising with DDA and overall return on investment was a success. Our overall Fair attendance was proof. With the capital improvement plan in the future, the more exposure the better. Roger motioned to approve, Jared seconded, all in favor.

D. **Action Item** [Fair Board Handbook](#) review Changes/edits. John read the handbook. County Manger Dan stated that the County will be working on their strategic planning in February so it would be a good idea to move our Capital Improvement Planning discussion to January. Dan also stated that action items need to be labeled as an Action Item on the agenda. John reminded everyone that members may miss three meetings per year, if you can't attend in person, please zoom in or watch the zoom meeting so you know what you missed. We are doing our best to keep meetings around two hours. It is important for all members to have a voice and to participate in meetings and during fair week. Members are asked to donate four hours a month between meetings. If you need help with this please contact Hallie or Lane about the Fairgrounds to-do list, create/attend a Fair Event Committee, talk with sponsors, etc.. Jason emphasized keeping our western heritage a priority at the fairgrounds and then made a motion to approve the Fair Board Handbook, Cara seconded, all in favor.

Building/Grounds: Hallie and Lane went over the fairgrounds to do list, the only outstanding task is getting the new french doors put in. The schedule is light for the next two weeks and would be a great time to get that done. Staples can always be pulled too. Roger suggests the tractor be serviced every fall. Jason suggests having fuel/air filters on hand to replace twice a year. Discussion on a fairgrounds truck took place.. A ¾ ton truck is needed to plow and move the food trailer and other heavy duties. Public works needs to get their new truck before we would get one from them and that is about 4 months out. John said our tractor is not ideal to plow, it is not designed to side load, and plowing at an angle puts stress on it and will destroy the loader. Jason asked about getting third party plowing bids. Hallie asked Dan about using the county weeds truck, Jason said the plow attachment cost could come out of our budget. John suggested we ask the Bocc.

Other news: Michael Whitfield stated that we need to start thinking about fundraising to add to the \$450K the Bocc earmarked for the fairgrounds. His advice is to create a fundraising committee with a few philanthropists to get the ball rolling. Mike is willing to help us with this. Contracts will need to be solid by 2025.

Bocc 12/11 master plan presentation: Hallie and three staff from Cushing Terrell presented at the Dec 11th Bocc meeting. We were told we would have one hour to present the progress of the fairgrounds master plan. We ended up only having 20 minutes. Cursing Terrell staff blasted through the presentation, there was little discussion from the Bocc. Darryl suggested we request a work session with the Bocc in Jan. Dan agreed that would be a better way to have Bocc engagement. It would likely be the 4th week of January.

IAFE conference: Hallie gave a review of the six day conference that took place in SLC right after Thanksgiving. Thousands of members attended sessions that covered all things Fair/Ag/Expos/Events/Tradeshows etc. Over 150 classes were offered, Hallie was able to attend 30. There were so many opportunities to network, it would be great if our budget allowed for two people to attend in the future.

Skijoring Event: Hallie talked to Julie Marin with Hapi Trails who is helping with the horse boarding during the event. They would like to board the horses in the warm up area back at the outdoor arena. Can our panels be moved back there? No objections.

Adjourn Meeting: Cara made a motion to adjourn at 9:26pm, Kade seconded, all in favor.