



NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD

Nebraska State Fair Board Room, Grand Island, NE
Virtual Meeting in accordance with Exec Order No. 02-03

Meeting Minutes May 15, 2020

A regular meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Friday, May 15, 2020, at 10 am. Public notice of this meeting was published in the May 1 & 2, issues of the Grand Island Independent newspaper and posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website from May 1, 2020. The public was invited to attend via Zoom due to Covid-19 social distancing recommendations.

Roll call was read with the following members present via Zoom: Dawn Caldwell, Vice Chair; Bob Haag, Secretary; Ryan Hassebrook; Lanna Hubbard; Jeremy Jensen; Kevin Jorgensen; Jeff Kliment; Kathleen Lodl; Chuck Rolf; Beth Smith, Chair; Boyd Strobe, Treasurer; and Steve Wehrbein. Absent: Chris Kircher. Others in attendance at the board room were: Jaime Parr, Director of Sales and Tish Eckstrom, Executive Assistant.

Smith 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.

Minutes of April 17, 2020 Meeting

There being no corrections:

Motion made by Jorgensen to approve the minutes of April 17, 2020 meeting as printed.

Haag seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

Upon roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

April Financials

Boyd Strobe stated the unaudited and unapproved financials are posted on the State Fair website. The Board is not having a formal presentation or approval.

Interim Director's Report

Jaime Parr reported on the various agencies and partners the Nebraska State Fair has been working with during the Covid-19 crisis and contingency planning. Safety is the number one consideration in all of these conversations. The information gained in these conversations is being used to plan for the 2020 Nebraska State Fair and the Aksarben Stock Show. The volunteer recognition video was rolled out this week. Offers have been going out to vendors and coming back in. Livestock and Competitive departments are on track and making adjustments to tight budgets. They are looking forward to an impressive showmanship and competition this year. Sponsorship Department has been communicating and engaging our guests with a number of pre-fair activities. Sponsorship has also been working on sourcing contingency items. Operations Department is working on contingency items and

plans as well. There has been work looking at layouts with entertainment acts with a new rotating area for acts.

Aksarben has been working on sourcing and distribution for broilers. Work has also been happening on sponsors and DNA kits.

Parr stated the Lottery funds have been received and the intent is to pay off the balance of the LOC at Five Points Bank.

Discussion: Wehrbein

Committee Reports

a. Finance-

Boyd Strobe reported the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, May 13th. The various financial reports were discussed with Parr to decide which reports the board would like to be presented with. Once the audit is completed, the board can decide which reports they want to have at each meeting. Both the yearly audit and forensic audit were discussed. Hopefully, the results will be out by the June meeting. Lori Cox has been working on an Excel spreadsheet for the budget. Parr has secured an SBA loan of \$150,000, should the Board want it. This needs to be decided on in 30 days. It is a low interest rate loan and may be forgivable. A \$10,000 grant is associated with that loan and is for use with payroll only. Jensen has put much work into a Procurement Policy draft to be used in the future. Parr will start working on a contingency budget.

Discussion: Jensen, Smith, Strobe- voting on financials, posting of financials on website and transparency of numbers.

b. Public Affairs and Outreach – Did not meet.

c. Livestock-

Jeff Kliment reported the Livestock Committee discussed schedule updates with all things Equine and Livestock. Rule changes were talked about so they can get those out to FFA and 4-H for premium books to be sent out with updates. Cost of exhibitor pins was discussed and need for those. Will still be getting those but updated the quantity to cut the cost in half. Security needs in barns was gone over. July 1st is the deadline for nominations for 4-H and FFA to accommodate late entries for this year. A scale update was given to the committee by Greg Harder. Selling of hogs at the fair will not be an option this year, due to having trouble finding buyers.

d. Facilities-

Chuck Rolf reported the facilities committee met on Thursday and continued talks on putting rock or crushed concrete in the driving lanes and part of the west parking lot. Chris Kotulak was involved in the meeting discussion. Kotulak will need to meet with the Fonner board to discuss possibilities and he brought up the maintenance of the proposed areas to be rocked. Scott Yound has obtained three quotes for the project. It was decided by the committee to let Mr. Kotulak meet with his board and get their questions and concerns before awarding a contract. If time is of the essence, asked for NSF board's feelings about waiting until June to award a contract or going forward after Mr. Kotulak meets with his board to award a contract, if financing can be arranged knowing that NSF would not be responsible for all or any of the financing.

Discussion: Caldwell, Rolf, Smith, Strobe

Motion made by Rolf to let Facilities Committee move forward with the rocking of the driving lanes in the West parking lot according to the map presented previously in the April meeting.

Seconded by Caldwell.

Discussion: Jensen, Rolf.

Upon roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

e. Events-

Steve Wehrbein reported on the Events Committee meeting. Grand Marshalls are needed. Wehrbein encouraged all board members to get in touch with county fair boards for nominations. County Fair Day is Friday, September 4th at 1 pm in the Loft. Opening Ceremonies will be at 1 pm at Fair Center and are still working on the agenda. The Grand Marshall reception will be the first day at 10:30 am. The Board Reunion will be at 11:30 am. At 1 pm will be the Opening Ceremony and the Parade will begin at 1:30 pm. No change on Veteran's Day. No change to Motorsports. Tractor Pulls are Friday, September 5 and Saturday, September 6th. Antique Tractor pull is on Sunday, September 6th. The Derby is on September 7th at 1 pm. Kliment is working on contracts. Staff is working on programming for Sam's Club Stomping Grounds.

Kliment will work with Jaime for expenses for Motorsports.

Wehrbein will get the Grand Marshall forms to board members.

Discussion: Smith, Lodl, Wehrbein.

f. Executive-

Smith reported the Executive Committee met Thursday and has been in touch with Parr and appreciates the hard work Parr has put in while being Interim Director.

Covid-19 Working Group Update

Smith reported this group consists of Boyd Strobe, Kevin Jorgensen, Kathleen Lodl, Beth Smith and Jaime Parr. Will meet 2 more times before the June meeting.

Lodl stated the goal is to have a successful State Fair while making sure everyone is safe. Health and safety has been a priority. They look for guidance from many agencies on this subject. Talked about what the volunteer program may look like and staffing if there aren't as many volunteers. Also discussed vendors and what precautions may need to be taken with them. Carnival and Concerts were a concern also. Another aspect is the contingency budget and contracts. The group will continue to monitor the situation and what guidelines are put in place.

Discussion: Smith, Parr, Lodl.

Personnel Committee

Smith reported the Personnel Committee put up the job posting for Executive Director on the IAFE job posting site as well as on the NSF website. Received a good number of candidates. The Personnel committee presented the final candidate, Bill Ogg.

Bill Ogg spoke on his interest in coming to the Nebraska State Fair.

Mr. Ogg fielded questions from board members Ryan Hassebrook and Jeremy Jensen.

Smith called for a motion to accept Bill Ogg as the next Nebraska State Fair Executive Director.

Motion made by Jorgensen to accept Bill Ogg as the next Nebraska State Fair Executive

Director.

Seconded by Steve Wehrbein.

Discussion: Smith, Jensen.

Caldwell moved to amend the motion to offer Bill Ogg the position pending contractual negotiation between the entire NSF Board and Bill Ogg.

Seconded by Haag.

Discussion: Smith, Jensen, Rolf, Caldwell, Strope.

Caldwell withdrew motion.

Motion made by Strope to amend the original motion, that Mr.Ogg's hiring is subject to the Executive Committee being authorized to negotiate contractual terms with Bill Ogg, subject to final Board approval.

Seconded by Kliment.

Discussion: Hasebrook, Smith, Jensen, Kliment, Ogg.

Upon roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

Original motion as amended: to hire Bill Ogg as the next Executive Director of the Nebraska State Fair giving the Executive Committee authority to negotiate the contract which will be presented to the board for final decision.

Upon roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

Foundation Update

Terry Galloway reported the 1868 Foundation has a board meeting coming up next Thursday. Requested the Facilities Committee, Beth Smith or Bill Ogg to come give a report to the Foundation board.

Lindsey Koepke reported the Foundation's election of officers will be happening at board meeting. The Annual Report will be out at the end of the month. Last major capital campaign was in 2015 for NSF by the Foundation.

Discussion: Jensen, Koepke, Smith, Galloway

Smith appointed Steve Wehrbein as the new liaison to the Foundation.

Other Business

Jensen requested and update on the ongoing NSP investigation and the audit.

Smith state the forensic audit may be wrapped up next week and she has been in touch with auditors and they are progressing forward.

Future Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting Dates

- a. June 12, 2020-- Zoom meeting
- b. July 17, 2020

Adjourn

Motion made by Wehrbein to adjourn.

Caldwell seconded the motion.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Time adjourned: 12:15 p.m.