

Wasco County Fair & Rodeo
Board Meeting
Dew Drop Inn
August 7, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Kramer.

Roll Call: Steve Kramer, Ken Polehn, Butch David, Kate Smith, Hailee Meridith, Teddy Franke, Vicki Ashley
5 County Employees
16 Guest
1 State

Corrections/ Additions/Deletions: None

Consent Agenda: Ken Polehn moved to accept the July 17th meeting minutes.

Butch David 2nd.

Vote: Ken Polehn	yea	
Butch David	yea	
Kate Smith	yea	
Hailee Meredith	yea	
Teddy Franke	yea	
Vicki Ashley	yea	
Steve Kramer	yea	Motion passed

Beer Garden: Leslie addressed the board with the idea of allowing mixed drinks. The OLCC permit would allow. They would only do a certain number of pre-mixed drinks. Discussion among the board. Vicki Ashley opposed based on the fact that its too short notice to get law enforcements take as well as how would this be policed and the hours of sales. Ken Polen agrees with Vicki. Kate suggested that this be tabled until after fair when it can properly be researched and discussed. Bleachers in the beer garden are okay to leave for this year. All beer will be draft in special cups.

Public Comment: Thelma Alsup inquired about the Native Building, as to what funds are available. The 2022 budget was \$3,000.00
Feels that the pow-wow is at the wrong time, as it causes the dancers to have to get dressed for it and then redress later for the Grand Entry.

Team Branding: Several representatives were present to present ideas. Joe Pechanec spoke for the group stating that they are raising the cattle money of \$3,500. As it was not included in this year's budget. This is a jackpot event with a zero income to the fair.

Wild Horse race: The question was asked by several, is not the wild horse race not covered under the county insurance umbrella? It was explained that the event is considered a hazard issue, and the Horse Race contractor doesn't have the correct public entity insurance of \$2 million. Nikki had asked the stock contractor if they would sub-contract the Wild horse race-they declined. Wild horse race contractor needs to correct his insurance, which was stated to cost an additional \$7500.00. Advised to check around for cheaper insurance. Steve Kramer stated that the Wild horse race will go on.

Queen's Report: Audriyona reported that she has been traveling including Jefferson and Harney County rodeos. President Kramer asked her what color she would be wearing for the fair and she said Red. Kate Smith thanked both Audriyona and DeAnn for the great job done this year. She stated that 3-4 visiting royalty would be attending either Friday or Saturday nights performances.

DeAnn stated that she had 2 applications so far for next year's Queen tryouts.. Personal interviews would be at 3:00 and the public can view the riding portion of the contest immediately after at the grandstands. She is all set and had judges in place.

Finance: Mike Middleton (full report included in board packet). There is a trend showing a decrease in the fund balance, will be watching. Tyler Stone stated that after the fair, there should be a strategic financial planning meeting in regard to performance of the year.

Facilities: Robert Hughes and Ali Postlewait

The new grandstands are completed. The HVAC system is complete in the commercial building and the craft/textile buildings. Roof is complete on the craft/textile building. Insulation will be done right after fair.

Many great complements on the grounds.

There has been some minor vandalism on the grounds

Wi-Fi has been installed on the grounds

Millie is doing a great job on the grounds and washrooms.

Ali gave an update on Crestline water improvements doing a 8" water pipe improvement for all the grounds. Crestline will be supporting the 4-H auction.

Games: Robert Hughes gave report that he is all set to go. Has volunteers to help.

Demolition Derby: Leslie Douglas, stated that the jersey barriers will be put in place by Crestline. So far, she has been unable to find a large drag magnet for the arena. She suggested that for next year all registration be online before fair and that a payment schedule be established.

Teddy Franke suggested that possibly have a early bird registration at a reduced rate of entry.

Native American Events: Butch David reported that teepee poles are hard to get but still working on obtaining. There will be a pow-wow on Saturday at 1 pm. The Native Americans will be in the Grand Entry of the Rodeo. Sunday morning they will be doing services with drummers.

Managers Report: Nikki Lucas, (full report in board packet) Highlights were given of upcoming fair. Drones are ready to fly.

Action Items: Stacy Smith gave an overview of the proposed bid including the Noble panels. His report stated the safety issues of old arena, improved arena will draw more events and the general better look of purposed arena.

There was discussion on whether the demolition derby could still be held? Yes, it will fit inside new arena.

Teddy stated that the fencing along the track should be the next phase.

Stacey stated that with a better facility the other facility buildings would also benefit from additional use.

President Kramer addressed the two different bids submitted: it was explained that if the board would allow the name "Noble Arena" be used for four years there would be a \$10,000.00 reduction in the cost.

Teddy Franke asked if the arena was currently named? —no.

Hailee Merideth recommend that we accept the bid with the naming rights.

Teddy Franke moved that the bid with the naming rights be accepted. Ken Polehn 2nd.

Vote: Teddy Franke

yea

Ken Polehn	yea	
Hailee Meredith	yea	
Kate Smith	yea	
Vicki Ashley	yea	
Butch David	yea	
Steve Kramer	yea	Motion

passed

Contracts will be signed.

Discussion items:

Volunteers: Ali Postlewait reported that 25 staff and family members have volunteered to help at the fair. The focus is on the gates, facilities and garbage detail.

Vicki Ashley reported that she had all her key positions covered by volunteers.

Tonya Brumbly asked if a list of previous volunteers was kept. It was reported yes.

Ali reported that she had volunteer shirts for all. She also handed out board member packets and new shirts.

Ali reported there would be a team meeting @ 8 am each morning during fair at the office.

Discussion on the insurance requirement for small groups (music and volunteers, security). President Kramer stated that they should just sign a waiver for individuals. "Just worry about the Big Stuff"

4-H: Leah Lowe reported that they have moved their office to the fairgrounds. Horse Fair is the upcoming weekend.

Barn Security: Have paid security for Friday and Saturday. Wednesday and Thursday are not covered at this point.

General Discussion:

Lisa Harding inquired if vendors had to pay for RV spots. Yes

Arena Condition: President Kramer asked about the arena. Teddy taking care of.

Joe Pechanec inquired about the "strippers" for the Rodeo. He felt that \$100.00/ night/individual, was a fair rate. This would be a total of \$600.00 for the entire Rodeo.

Vicki Ashley moved to pay 3 individuals \$100.00 each per night for operating the stripping chutes. A total of \$600.00 for the Rodeo.

Hailee Meredith seconded the motion.

Vote:	Vicki Ashley	yea	
	Hailee Meredith	yea	
	Teddy Franke	yea	
	Butch David	yea	
	Ken Polehn	yea	
	Kate Smith	yea	
	Steve Kramer	yea	Motion passed

Parking:

Tyler Stoned explained the parking model map and that in 2023 the rule was 1 vehicle per RV spot, which was still tight for emergency vehicles to move around. He recommended that it remain the same for this year.

Vicki Ashley said that she would like to see the parking enforced as there were areas where there were 2 or 3 vehicles per site.

Kate Smith stated that it should be 1 car per site with no parking fees. Each site should be issued 1 car permit.

Leah Lowe stated that 4-H feel they are not getting enough passes;

Parents move out to the fair, but one parent still working in The Dalles, thus needing 2 vehicle passes.

Tonya Brumbly stated as a parent she feels 2 cars and 2 wrist passes for 4-H as parents need to come and go.

Kate Smith expressed the thought-consider the amount of money vs the amount of passes.

Ken Polehn stated that we should keep the 1 car policy.

Hailee Meredith said keep the 1 car per site but charge for the 2nd car.

It was stated that the 4-H can come in early in the morning drop items off and leave without a pass.

Teddy Franke, Have a 2 tier fee, 1 car-1 adult or 2 cars-2 adults, discussion was that campers wouldn't want to pay for 2nd car.

Butch David-1 car

Steve Kramer -1 car

Consensus is that it will be 1 car per RV site. Need to tow incorrectly parked vehicles.

It was also discussed about setting up emergency routes. County personnel will look into this item.

Water for the RV parking roads, fire lanes and other travel areas will be handled by Tygh Valley Fire Department. They will water the arena with Teddy's advice.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Submitted by: Vicki Ashley, Secretary

Accepted by:  Fair Board President
Date: 9/12/2024