

Baker County Fair Board

Meeting minutes of 8/25/2020

The August meeting of the Baker County Fair Board was held at the office of Sunfire Real Estate, on August 25, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Meeting was called to order by Ron Rowan. Those present were Ron Rowan, Dean Defrees, Cliff Schoeningh, Mark Johnson, Michelle Kaseberg, Terri Siddoway, and Christina Smith. Also present were Christena Cook, Angela Robb, and Katie Hauser.

The minutes from 6/10 and 6/30 were reviewed. It was moved by Dean Defrees and seconded by Terri Siddoway to approve the minutes as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried.

Christena and Michelle reviewed the financials from 6/30/20, which is the fiscal year end; and, through 8/25. It was moved by Christina Smith and seconded by Dean Defrees to approve the minutes. Upon vote, the motion carried.

Ron volunteered to write a letter to Triple C thanking them for hauling off the used bedding from fair.

Angela mentioned that the heat/air does not work in her Extension office. Christena will have Dan look into it.

Terri gave a fair update. She said that most of the reports have been positive. We were able to stay within the state COVID guidelines. The animal auction raised \$317,868.09 which is the highest amount ever raised.

The Board agreed to meet on Thursday, 8/27/20, at 5:30 p.m. to finish cleaning up the grounds and putting things way.

Ron will contact Angie about the purchase of the straw and explain to her about our expense for having Dan from the county help her load out.

The Halfway fair will be using the fairgrounds to weigh in animals for their fair. They may also use the grounds to stage animals until they can be picked up by the processors.

The board reviewed the current rental rates. These had been updated within the last two years.

The District Attorney's office is wanting to rent out the event center for jury indoctrination. It will be for 2 sessions. The board decided they would have to pay the fee and not give it to them for free.

The board has had several requests about rent reductions due to non-profits, government, etc. It was decided that due to the extra cleaning required due to COVID, a break on the rent will not be given at this time.

A discussion was held regarding the 4 horse stalls in the rodeo grounds and the possibility of renting these out. This was tabled.

Ken McPheron reached out to Christina Smith regarding the rodeo grounds locks being changed. We will work with him on getting his tools out of the shed that is on the grounds. He had indicated that

there is a possibility that the Bull and Bronc will be organized by the Baker City group for next year. Ron will reach out Ken Helgerson regarding this.

A discussion was held about the parents of the class of 2021 wanting to hold a fundraiser at the fairgrounds. It was moved by Michelle Kaseberg and seconded by Cliff Schoeningh to make the following offer: 1 – green lawn in front of the event center – free of charge, charge for tables; 2 – rent event center for going rate (\$750); or 3 – give them access to the Leo Adler field for free, charge for tables. Upon vote, the motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding the contract/MOU with OSU. It was felt that a termination clause for 45 days would be sufficient. Christena will work with Natalie to get a final draft. Angela will be off work in October/November for 6 weeks due to surgery and they are wanting to have a person hired for their office before then.

Michelle reported that she applied for a grant for \$7,560 to help cover the cost of extra janitorial due to COVID through Oregon Cultural Arts foundation.

A discussion was held about rental income. Currently the income goes back into the general fund. It was discussed about setting up an equipment replacement fund where rental income (or a portion) could be set aside in case there needs to be replacements. It was specifically mentioned about the bleachers. The rental rate on the bleachers will be reviewed.

Christena briefly talked about requests she has been getting regarding renting the buildings or the grounds. All felt that if the renter can stay within the state guidelines, we are okay.

The Leo grant was briefly discussed regarding the money received for refurbishing the floor. Mark stated that if the money is not going to be used for the floor, it would have to be returned. Mark will look into our time frame to have this project completed.

Michelle discussed the OFA dues. The dues were increased in January 2020 from \$800 per year to \$2,000 per year. The increase helped pay for a lobbyist. With this, they were able to get the funding reinstated back up to where it was last year. Michelle will send an email to the OFA manager and see if we can get a reduced rate for this year since we were not informed of the increase and it was not in our budget.

Chris Stokes has expressed interest in being on the advisory board. Michelle is to check with Heidi Martin as Dean thought he may have already applied at one time.

Next meeting will be on 9/15 at 6:00 at the fair office. Meetings will be set for the third Tuesday of each month.

Meeting adjourned.

Michelle Kaseberg, Secretary pro-tem