

**Baker County Fair Board
Minutes of July 9, 2008
Board Meeting**

Members Present: Chairman Ron Rowan, Vice Chair Dean Defrees, Mark Johnson, Ann Kniesel, Rob Ellingson, Dan Morris

Members Not Present: Tony Britt

Advisory Board Members Present: Cory Parsons

Advisory Board Members Not Present: Janice Cowan, Donna Lowry

Guest: Fred Warner Jr.

Staff: Colleen Taylor

Chair Ron Rowan called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Correction in spelling of Rob needed. Rob moved and Mark seconded approval of minutes after spelling correction. Motion approved by board.

Public Comment Period: None

Financials: Financials were reviewed. Colleen shared that the corner lot rentals is now becoming a challenge due to City ordinance on "transit" sales. Colleen shared that she is working thru the process to see if a resolution can be made with the City so that we can continue to rent that corner to local produce individuals. Ann moved and Rob seconded that the financials be approved. Approved by the vote of the board.

Correspondence: Letter received from Collins Foundation sharing that we were not successful in our grant request. Ann requested that Colleen contact the Collins Foundation to receive a copy of our reviews to see what we could do to be more successful with our grant request. Ron, Dean, and Rob received a request from the county to complete a new authorized signer card for the fiscal year 08/09.

Old Business:

Update on Grants: Ann reported that we have not received any new grants. USDA is requesting additional information. Ann and Mark are gathering that additional information. The USDA process was discussed at length, with board members concerned about the amount of work that the small grant is needing. The U S Bank Grant application was submitted and reviewed in May. There has been no word on it as yet. Ann is working on completing the Juan Young grant request and the UPRR.

General Caldwell: A conference call is schedule with General Caldwell on Friday, July 11 at 9:00 AM. The goals for that call were discussed at length with Commissioner Warner. The following points are what we hope to accomplish from the call:

1. Dollar amount being requested for the Baker Project.
2. Dollar amount that is earmarked for Baker County Fair Grounds.
3. If cuts are necessary for overall budget, Baker County not to be a part of that.

4. Where are they in their process
5. What and Who do we need to advocate for to get approval of request
6. How and when is the money going to get to Baker once approved?

As many members of the Fair Board as can be requested to be on that call. Fred has requested that the Fair Board work with Ted Ferrioli and Cliff Bentz to help with getting the request approved by Appropriations.

Arena Improvements: Colleen reported that the Haines Stampede and OTEC would be at the Arena on Saturday, July 12, at 9:00 AM. Plan is to move the old Arena gate, and complete the wiring of the lights for the chute area. Also the moving of the roping chutes is planned. Rob will evaluate the moving of the roping chutes to be sure that we are ready for that part. The Leadership Group was asked to gather their construction items to one location for the safety of the stock and people using the arena. The barn is not completed as yet, however, the roof is on it.

New Business:

Fair Preparation Update: Colleen reported that \$5600 has been received from Sponsors thus far. We have a total of 8 Vendors in the Event Center. Rob Thomas has generously donated 8 half-ton bales of straw for the fair animals. Dean requested that Colleen send a thank you note and receipt from the Friends of Fair so that a tax benefit could be received for the donation. Advertisements are started in the paper and on the radio. The Friends of the Fair invitations have been mailed and a schedule of planned fair events was handed out to the members of the Board. Discussion was held on dressing room arrangements for the 4-H and FFA members. Decision was made that the Community Event Center restrooms would be used for this purpose. Animal numbers were discussed. Corey shared that the numbers were down also. We should have 39 Beef, approximately 50 pigs, 50 sheep, and 15 goats. Small animal numbers are not known.

Web Page Design: Colleen reported that Dorothea has been working on redesigning our web page and would like the board to review them. The designs were reviewed and the board preferred the set with the lighter background. Colleen will present them to Bill Lee to start the change over after Fair.

Show Barn Grill: Rob reported on the Show Barn Grill. The stove is not lighting correctly and he has located an individual in LaGrande that can take a look at it. Mark requested that Colleen contact Dan Haberman to look at the Show Barn Grill and the Community Event Center Kitchen to make a splash behind the stove and grill to prevent some grease and trash from accumulating behind the stoves and grills. The gas odors of the stoves in the Community Event Center were discussed. If they continued, Colleen was asked to contact Thews Sheet Metal to have them look at the stove and grill hookups.

Friends of Fair Dinner: Colleen reported that Dan Warnock will prepared the meat for the dinner, Darby Dunkek will be providing the salads. Barley Brown will be there for refreshments. Members were reminded to bring pies for auctioning.

Other: Discussion was held on the condition of the fountain in the Show Barn. The board has requested that Colleen have the fountain removed because of the possible cost of repair. The trees in front of the Event Center were also discussed. The board requested that Colleen contact Tony's Tree Service to look at the trees and if need be to remove them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM. The next meeting will be scheduled following the fair.

Respectively Submitted

Colleen Taylor