

**Baker County Fair Board
Minutes of October 14, 2008
Board Meeting**

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

Members Not Present: Dan Morris

Advisory Board Members Present: none

Advisory Board Members Not Present: Janice Cowan, Donna Lowry, Cory Parsons

Guest: Carl Stiff, Fred Warner

Staff: Colleen Taylor

Chair Ron Rowan called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

Public Comment Period: none

Correspondence: none

Old Business:

General Caldwell Conference Call: Fred and Ron reported on the conference call with General Caldwell on Sept 24th. General Caldwell shared that it was the best time to contact the Governor concerning the budget request from the Nat'l Guard. Fred had received a copy of the budget request, however, had questions about some of those numbers. Fred will be traveling to Salem on October 15th to meet with General Caldwell to verify the budget request prior to writing the letter of support to the Governor, Cliff Bentz, Ted Ferrioli, and General Caldwell. The Oregon National Guard's request identifies Baker as the Eastern Oregon Regional Management Center and we are listed second on their priority list for budget dollars. The Baker County Fair Grounds will also be a part of the emergency plan for the County and that plays a role in the budget request.

'D' Street Easement: Mark reported on the 'D' Street Improvements scheduled for 2009. The Fair Board discussed how many driveway accesses would be needed and where utilities access would be for future development. The Board would like to have two driveway access to the 5 Acre field and 2 for the Leo Adler Parking Lot. East Street future plans were also discussed in relationship to the 'D' Street improvement. Ideas were also discussed for fencing the 5-acre field and planting of grass after the street improvements.

Update on Grants: Ann reported that she had applied for a \$30,000 Leo Adler Grant to help with finishing the meeting room in the Community Event Center. We have not heard from the USDA grant as yet. Ann reported that she would be contacting Stephanie Twiet for ideas on a fundraiser.

North Entrance Sidewalk: Ann reported that the North Entrance Sidewalk was complete and a donation from Friends of Fair, Farwest Concrete, Triple C Redi Mix and Ron Luelling. Colleen was asked to place a thank you ad for the donation.

2008 Home Gift & Art Show: Colleen reported on the first Home Gift Show. We had partnered with Baker City Herald. Twenty-Eight Vendors participated with success in sales. Approximately 200 people attended the one-day event. The event brought in \$1290. Fair Board expenses totaled \$367.00 with a net income of \$278.00 after splitting the Vendors receipts with Baker City Herald. The Baker City Herald provided all the advertising and did an excellent job.

Knox Box: Colleen reported that the Knox Box has been installed on the Community Event building's west wall. The Know Box will contain the keys to the Fair Ground buildings and will be accessed only by the Baker City Fire Dept in the case of a Fire alarm and entrance was needed. The fire dept would be placing the keys in the box on Thursday, October 16th. Purchase price of the special order box was \$269.00.

Baker County Livestock Assc: Colleen reported that the BCLA would be having their annual meeting this weekend at the Community Event Center and would like to use the building without charge. Their understanding from the past with Andi Sexton was that their donation of \$500 toward the Event Center would give them use of the building. Currently the rental charges for the Event Center and the facilities are an amount that just covers the cost of operations. Colleen shared that at the present the BCLA uses the Extension Bldg for their meetings each month at no charge. That usage totals \$840.00 annually for the Extension Bldg and then an additional \$400 for the use of the Event Center if they are not charged. After discussion, the Fair Board requested Colleen to invoice the BCLA for the Community Event Center usage and invite them to a Fair Board Meeting to discuss future facility uses. The Board and County Commissioners felt that continuing to offer the facilities at no charge without an exchange of services agreement maybe putting the county in the position of subsidizing the Association with county tax funds. Ron also requested Colleen to let the BCLA know that they could contact him if they had any questions.

Community Event Center Needs: The board discussed the current uses of the Community Event Center. Because of the added use, Fred recommended that the board begin setting some funds aside for future table and chair replacements. Ann brought up the need of a device that would clean the event hall floor. Mark will visit with Bob Borders of St Elizabeth Hospital on the different types or recommended type of floor cleaner that would work best.

Republican Party Support Request: Ron reported that the board had been requested to issue a letter of support for a political candidate for County Commissioner. After discussion, the board felt that this was not something that the board could do endorse because it was against County Political Policy and we were a County Entity.

Event Brainstorm: Board members discussed ideas for future use of the fair ground facilities. Andrew Bryant has been invited to the November fair board meeting, and may be able to help with ideas on marketing. Ann suggested we design a brochure on the facilities and info on where to go to get information on how to put an event together. Members were asked to think about this for the next meeting.

Financials: Financials were reviewed for September. Colleen shared a spreadsheet on our rental income in relationship to the goals set for the year. Ann moved and Dean seconded that the financials be approved. Approved by the vote of the board.

Approval of Minutes: Dean moved and Rob seconded that the minutes be approved> the motion was approved by the board.

The next board meeting will be November 4, 2008 at 6pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectively Submitted,

Colleen Taylor