

Morton County Fair Board Minutes

February 18, 2025 (Virtual)

7:00 pm Morton County Fairgrounds

Meeting called to order at 7:08 on pm central time by board President Shawn Feiring.

Directors presented: Peggy Brandt, Mark Isaacs, Shawn Feiring, Thomas Friesz, Barry Schulz, Nathan Boehm, Trina Gress, Luke Dukart, Brooke Kunz and Annie Gartner

Associate Members presented: Amanda Noel

Guest: Don Lafleur- MCFA accountant and Margo Kunz- 4-H Council

Custodial Report: Mary would like to know what to do with the rental fees, Don said she has been depositing the rental fees, Board was in agreement that she should continue to deposit the rental fees. Also asked if the rates are going to go up or stay the same, she has bookings into next year. Mary said she is out of rental contracts and has been making copies, Committee will meet and discuss the fees, she should continue to make copies for now.

Additions/Approval of Agenda: Barry moved to approve agenda, Peggy 2nd motion passed

Secretary's Report: Barry made the motion to approve January's minutes, Thomas 2nd, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: In the checking \$18,582.95, savings account \$7,768.10 and the loan balance is \$287,605.11. Next loan payment is due December 26, 2025 for \$27,498.81. Don informed the Board that Dawn Rhone will give us part of the money that we have coming from the county.

Peggy made the motion to approve the treasurer's report, Annie 2nd, motion passed.

4-H Report: no report

Bills to pay: none

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

Amusement & Youth Activities: Mark checked with the church about the inflatables, have two big bouncy houses, slide, etc. They are interested in doing it, waiting for approval from their Board. This will be an outreach project for them. They have people to set them up and run them. Discussion followed, Mark will know by next meeting.

Beer Garden: no report

Camping: no report

Capital Improvements & Facility Maintenance: Barry talked about the stove, committee is thinking of going electrical to eliminate the gas smell and it is safer. Waiting on prices for other projects. Shawn will meet with Legend Air on running duct work to the office.

Country Fest: no report

Gate & Parking: no report

Music & Small Acts: Annie presented to the Board two options for Friday night. First option is Patrick Remmick-DJ, has his own sound system, Annie told him we have a stage for him. \$250.00 an hour, he would DJ from 8:00pm to midnight total cost of \$1,000.00. He will waive the deposit fee. Second option is the band Chris Basden from Minot, ND, opened for Joe Nichols at the State Fair, \$3,000.00 plus 3 hotel rooms. Nathan gave us a third option, his brother David has a 4 piece band, own sound system \$2,000.00 for the night. Discussion followed, talked about doing a corn hole tourney at the same time, Shawn will call Al Weiss about setting up our tourney. Margo suggested that maybe FFA could make a corn hole board set as a grand prize. Luke made the motion to do the DJ and corn hole tourney for Friday night August 1st, Trina 2nd, motion passed.

Public Relations & Advertising: Committee meet, went thru the sponsorship letter and the advertising package options and changed the dollar amount and what each level would receive. Just about ready to go, due date will be April 1st. Trina stated 4-H cannot have a dual sponsorship letter with us due to logistics.

Rodeo/Draft Horse Competition/Ranch Rodeo: Barry said he got the initial paperwork into the NDRA, called the New Salem Civic Club about sponsoring the ranch rodeo, waiting to hear back.

Power Pull: Shawn visited with Casey, still trying to figure some things out. They have us on the calendar, maybe end of the week the committee will meet with them.

Competitive Events/Awards: Thomas informed the Board that Kristine helped secure the judges for the open livestock show, committee will meet in the near future.

Commercial Exhibits/Concessions/Vendors: no report

Security: no report

Legislative update: Peggy gave an update on Bill 1591, they added an amendment that passed. Do have a do pass to go to the floor in next ten days.

Hotel Bids: Annie presented the contract from Comfort Inn & Suites of Mandan. They will charge us state rate of \$99.00 a night for rooms. Contract will be set up like last year with the block of rooms. Board agreed to go with them for this year.

New Business:

Gate Prices: Thomas informed the Board if we are going to change the gate prices, need to discuss son as it affects the cash bag. Nathan stated also affects the printed items, book, banners, etc. Discussion followed, Trina move to increase daily gate prices as follows; 7-17 year olds- \$10.00, Adult 18-61-\$15.00, and Senior Citizen 62 and over- \$10.00, weekend wristbands would go up 2.00, 6-17 year old-\$20.00, Adults 18-61-\$30.00 and Senior Citizen 61 and over- \$20.00, Nathan 2nd

Nathan amended the motion to change the weekend passes and age as follows; 6-17 year old \$25.00, Adult-18-61-\$35.00 and Senior Citizen 62 and over-\$20.00, Barry 2nd.

Discussion followed, Peggy stated that if we are going to raise the prices, we need to bring in more things for people to do, people are getting tired of the same fair each year. Trina stated weekend passes can have an impact on 4-H families, Margo said there is a 4-H discount on wristbands for families.

Amendment roll call motion; Luke-no, Brooke-no, Nathan-yes, Mark-yes, Thomas-yes, Peggy-no, Barry-yes, Trina-yes, and Annie-no, 4-no's 5-yes's motion passed.

Motion: To raise daily gate passes as follows 7-17 year olds-\$10.00, Adult 18-64 years old-\$15.00 and Senior Citizen 65 and over-\$10.00. Weekend wristbands as follows; 6-17 year olds-\$25.00, Adults 18-64 years old-\$35.00 and Senior Citizens 65 and over-\$25.00. Discussion followed, roll call vote; Trina-yes, Barry-yes, Peggy-yes, Thomas-yes, Mark-yes, Nathan-yes, Brooke-yes, Luke-yes, and Annie -yes; motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting: April 15, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Morton County Fairgrounds in New Salem.

Trina made the motion to adjourn, Brooke 2nd motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm central time.

Submitted by Annie Gartner, MCFB Secretary: Signature Annie Gartner Secretary Date 3-18, 2025

