

Morton County Fair Board Minutes

August 15, 2023

7:00 pm Morton County Fairgrounds, New Salem

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm central time by board President Shawn Feiring.

Directors presented: Shawn Feiring, Kristine Koepplin, Barry Schulz, Robert Boehm, Melissa Plesuk, Mark Isaacs, Peggy Brandt, Thomas Friesz, Taylor Friesz and Annie Gartner

Associate Members presented: Trina Gress

Guests: Wendy Boehm- 4-H Council President, Don Lafleur- MCF Accountant

Custodial Report: Bigger part of the cleaning is done from the fair, have a few little things to finish up.

Additions/Approval of Agenda: Melissa moved to approve agenda, Thomas 2nd motion passed.

Secretary's Report: Melissa moved to approve the minutes as presented, Robert 2nd, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: In the checking \$82,297.88, Savings account \$191,840.37 and in the web Activity Account \$4,386.43 (this amount minus \$500 to \$600 will be moved to the checking). Revenue is as follows; Beer Gardens \$2,458.80, Gate \$23,502.00, Vendors \$500.00, Sponsorships \$2,025.00, Buckles \$ 405.00, Livestock Registrations \$ 4,316.81, Camping \$50.00, Wristbands \$2,825.00, and T-Shirt sales \$350.00 for a total of \$36,432.61.

Robert moved to approve the treasurer's report, Peggy 2nd motion passed.

Rental check from Country Fest had been received and has been deposited. Waiting on the check from the county, will check with county auditor.

4-H Report: Waiting on Pepsi to pick up the left over Pepsi products. Renae Gress sent an email saying she will give a full 4-H report at September's meeting. Following is the thank you she sent, Huge thank you to all the fair board members that helped with static judging, weigh-in, set up and anything else involving 4-H Achievement Day's! Also a huge thank you for allowing us to show in the dairy barn on Friday and the use of the entertainment building for the premium sale.

Bills to pay: Pepsi for \$3,400.00, Kristine will call and ask for an invoice statement before paying.

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

Amusement & Youth Activities: Did not do the inflatables on Friday, did set up on Saturday, and used tarps to help with mud mess. Ax Throwing will try to start at 2:00pm next year before the power pull. Day Care day on Friday did not do well due to the weather. There was a miscommunication on the rock wall, will have the rock wall for 2024 fair.

Beer garden: Discussion on how the beer gardens went.

Camping: Problem with people plugging into wrong amp, spaces are too small

Capital Improvements: Going to find another contractor to put the tin at the end of both hoop barns and fix the leaking window in the concession building. Mark presented the plot for the land that is being purchased, city approved it, working on the next step. Barry moved to extent the purchase agreement for the land to September 15, Kristine 2nd, motion passed.

Water project will be getting started, board was in agreement to put a 2" water hydrant in the area west of the track and pay same rate as the bid. Robert made the motion to go ahead with putting the hydrant in the area west of the track at the same rate as the bid, Thomas 2nd Roll call vote taken; Melissa, Kristine, Robert, Mark, Taylor, Peggy, Shawn, Thomas, Barry and Annie- all yes, motion passed unanimously.

Country Fest: no report

Facility Maintenance: Discussion was held on the list of things that need to be fixed, drain tile around both wash racks needs to be fixed before next year's fair, Wayne Hoyer did some blade work around the grounds after the wet and muddy weekend, trees need to be removed by the dairy barn, all barns need to be leveled inside. This winter need to find a contractor to come in after winter and put millings down, City has millings for us. Culvert on south end needs to be cleaned out, section may have to be replaced.

Gates & Parking: Have most of the volunteers paid, these three people donated their time at the gate, Tim Nelson from Morton County Parks, and 2 people from Summit Carbon Solution. Speed bumps are here.

Music & Small Acts: Working on the contract with Baymont Inn & Suites for a block of rooms for the 2024 fair. Robert will be getting quotes for a PA system upgrade in the entertainment building. Talked to most of the small acts about coming back next year. Will contact Ward with 2024 dates and give him the go ahead to start looking for bands. Lots of good comments on the small acts and both bands.

Annie Gerber met Secretary
9-19-23

2nd half of secretary report

Morton County Fair Board

08/15/2023

Public Relations/Advertising - Kristine shared about the book and asked for discussion on if there is anything we feel we need to change in the book as far as the information, everyone agreed that the book looked good. Mark did mention that we should figure out a way to get the word out and not purchase so many books. It would be better to run out of books than to have so many left over. Kristine will look into this.

Rodeo- Barry shared about the rodeo and felt it went very well even with the rain and mess the arena was. They had few people pull out and felt it was still a success. Will make some changes regarding the horse issues on Saturday night, having tarps or tractors ready to go. May even have to get others trained to run the tractor or allow some of the rodeo members run the tractor to take care of stuff while the fair goes on. Barry also shared that he is looking at holding a ranch rodeo next year on Saturday before the rodeo. Everyone agreed that was a good idea.

Draft Horse Competition- Exceptionally good turnout at the pull.

Power Pull- Taylor said it went well, everyone shared stories of people saying how much they liked it all on Sunday afternoon. Taylor did ask Daryl if he would do it all on Sunday again since it was such a success, and he got a hard NO. Question was asked if Full Pull is the only option and Taylor said no but Full Pull is sanctioned, and people follow him to our fair. Taylor will visit Daryl more about this.

Discussion brought up about bleachers. Taylor found a place where we can rent bleachers. You can also purchase aluminum bleachers that seat 160 people for \$30,000, they are all aluminum and single fold. Talked about using the Community Foundation Grant. We also talked about visiting with the New Salem Baseball, Football, and Civic Club, as well as Country Fest and we all go in and purchase new bleachers to use and get away from the wood bleachers. In addition to the large bleachers, we need smaller sets of aluminum bleachers to put around the fairgrounds for shows. Plan to start by using the Community Action Grant, Rob will get quotes and prices, and someone will write for the grant.

Competitive Events- Kristine shared that the livestock end will soon be done so we can run premium checks. Kristine is putting the finishing info into the system. When she is done, Don will run checks and will need help stuffing envelopes to mail out checks. Melissa shared that open class static exhibits are in and ready to go.

Food Vendors- Concessions went ok, question on why BBQ guy left, Melissa shared that he wanted to get out due to the rain and low numbers. He also shared with Annie and Melissa that we felt we had too many food vendors but would come back next year. Shawn shared that some vendors left trash, ashes, and oil and he picked it up and put it in the appropriate dumpster.

Commercial Exhibits/Concessions/Vendors- Melissa reported that the vendor show went well considering they had to move back and forth due to the dance. Only some minor frustrations but they

were all happy in the end and many want to return in 2024. Wendy shared that she felt concessions went well, but down in sales, she had a great deal of food left over and she had cut back this year.

Security- Annie shared correspondence with Jonathan Pumphrey and security issues during the fair, due to Annie needing to step out, we will discuss this at the September meeting.

KFYR radio show- Taylor shared that he had many people question him about the KFYR café show on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, the week of the fair. A patron was on the show talking about how a kid did not get to show in the 4-H show and how horrible it was. They were really slamming 4-H. This brought on a great deal of questions to many fair board members and 4-H council members. Fair board members reported being asked "why we would do that" and "we will not support a county fair that does not support 4-H", but it was not the fair, it was 4-H, and that was not shared. Wendy also shared that there are so many people upset about this and she has been confronted by many people already.

Discussion that the Extension office are the ones that put the cut-off time into place, and they also ended up letting some kids get in past the due date, but not everyone. The 4-H does not have their own agent at the extension office and Wendy hopes that they will have someone soon. Wendy also shared that the council is discussing at their September meeting about giving a grace period in fair entry, to give time for everyone to get things submitted.

Barry shared that the Extension ladies just went into the crowd's nest and took rodeo equipment without asking. Barry said that the rodeo club has no problem with them using it, but they should ask before just taking it. It was then reported that before the 4-H horse show one of the extension ladies came on the PA, with families and kids standing by and said, "we need someone over here to run these timer eyes or we won't be having a show".

Wendy shared that if you know of kids that were upset, they should hand write a letter and send it in to the county or anyone that is upset with something needs to fill out a grievance online.

Final discussions included Barry sharing that there are some copper rods sticking out of the ground left over from Country Fest and we need to get those pulled out.

Barry also discussed moving the sand box to around the flag poles in the rodeo area, this would eliminate so much mud and mess where people are trying to set up for vendor show, visit vendors, or just walking back and forth, even if we do not need to deal with the water mess, it would be good to just move it over there.

Discussion on Thank You's and Donations, I have listed them below

RDO Equipment-Thank you and meat/cheese tray and cookie tray

Action Motor Sports-Thank you and meat/cheese tray

Morton County Farm Bureau-Thank you

West River Equipment- Thank you, 2 large meat and cheese trays, 1 large cookie tray

Southwest Grain- Thank you and 2 small meat and cheese trays

Security First Bank- Thank you and small tray of cookies

Morton County Parks-Thank you

Garyl Gartner-\$500

New Salem Ambulance-\$500

New Salem Fire Department-\$300

Scott Hovestall-\$200

Saddle Club-\$1000

No-Dak Plumbing and Heating- \$200

Weigh Station-\$100

Mandan FFA-\$500

New Salem FFA-\$2500

Glen Ullin FFA-\$250

Dale Pletan-\$200

4-H Council-\$1000

- Peggy suggested dropping this amount from \$1500 because we gave ~~wrist bands~~ ^{free vouchers} for members to get in to work concessions and then they used them all weekend, ~~some did not even show up in time to work~~, but still had the band and stayed. All in agreement.

Joel Gartner-\$500

Wayne Hoger-\$500

Jason Doll- \$100 Rud's Gift Card

Ron Kuntz-\$100 Rud's Gift Card

Rylee Francis- Thank you and \$50

Discussion on Mary and Carrie's hard work and extra work due to the mud. We will discuss this further and a motion will need to be made to give them a bonus and voted on at the next meeting.

A roll call vote was taken due to spending more money and giving more donations. All Yes except 1 No

Will try to have meat and cheese trays ready by Friday this week so that Thomas can deliver when he goes to Mandan. If they are not ready by this Friday, we will try for next Friday delivery. Melissa will write the thank you notes and send them to Don. Kristine will write thank you notes for the meat and cheese tray deliveries.

The next Morton County Fair board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at the Morton County Fairgrounds at 7:00 PM

Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Peggy seconded that. All but one board member was in favor.

Meeting adjourned by Shawn

Melissa Plesuk

Acting Secretary for second half of the meeting