



NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD

Nebraska State Fair*501 E Fonner Park Rd, Ste 200*PO Box 1387*Grand Island, NE*68803-1387*308-382-1620

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES February 12, 2016 – 1:00 p.m.

A regular monthly meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Friday, February 12, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. Public notice of this meeting was published in the February 3 & 4, 2016 issues of the Grand Island Independent newspaper and posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website from February 1 - 12, 2016.

Roll call was read with the following members present: Mark Fahleson; Bob Haag; Chris Kircher-President; Jeff Kliment; Kathleen Lodi; Doug Lukassen; Lowell Minert, Treasurer; Chuck Rolf-Vice President; Marvin Rousey, Secretary; Kirk Shane; Steve Wehrbein and Kent Zeller. Others in attendance were: Joseph McDermott, Executive Director; Kelly O'Brien, Administrative Assistant; Bill Angell, Livestock Superintendent; Sandy Spiehs, Livestock Assistant; Shaun Schleif, Marketing & Sponsorship Director; Ross Struss, Marketing & Sponsorship Assistant; Chelsey Jungck, Events & Entertainment Director; Kelsey Brozek, Events & Entertainment Assistant; Jaime Parr, Facility Director; Scott Yound, Maintenance Director; Jason Fry, Maintenance Assistant; Lindsey Koepke, 1868 Foundation Executive Director; Ryan Hassebrook, FFA; Steve White, NTV.

Kircher announced the meeting had been properly advertised as an open meeting and informed those in attendance of the posting location of the Open Meetings Act.

Election of Officers

McDermott called for nominations for the office of Chairperson.

**Kircher was nominated by Minert for the office of Chairperson.
Fahleson moved to close nominations. Upon voice vote, nomination
for Chris Kircher as Chairperson passed unanimously.**

Kircher re-assumed the position of Chairperson and called for nominations for the office of Vice Chairperson.

**Rolf was nominated by Haag for the office of Vice Chairperson.
Fahleson moved to close nominations. Upon voice vote, nomination
for Chuck Rolf as Vice Chairperson passed unanimously.**

Kircher called for nominations for the office of Secretary.

**Minert was nominated by Shane for the office of Secretary.
Rousey was nominated by Haag for the office of Secretary.**

Ballots for Secretary were provided to each board member by McDermott and O'Brien. Ballots were collected, tallied and presented to Kircher. Kircher declared Rousey the new Secretary.

Kircher called for nominations for the office of Treasurer.

**Minert was nominated by Rolf for the office of Treasurer.
Fahleson moved to close nominations. Upon voice vote, nomination
for Lowell Minert as Treasurer passed unanimously.**

Minutes of January 22, 2016

There being no corrections:

**Motion made by Fahleson to approve the minutes of January 22, 2016 as printed.
Rousey seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

January Financial Report

McDermott reported total current assets of \$1,929,736; payables at \$424,300; total direct revenue at \$60,507 and direct expenses \$142,239.

**Motion made by Minert to approve the January Financial Report.
Wehrbein seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Director's Report

McDermott reminded the board members of the notice that O'Brien had sent out regarding attending the 2016 Governor's Ag Conference. McDermott asked that they let O'Brien know by February 17, 2016, if you would like to attend so she can get you registered. McDermott mentioned a few of the staff would also be attending the conference as well.

Capital Purchases/Projects

McDermott reported the Facilities and Finance committees meet this morning and went through \$850k in Capital Purchases and Projects. McDermott asked Minert and Rolf if they would like to go through the list of items that were approved by the Finance and Facilities committees to present as recommendations to the full board for approval.

Minert went through the list of recommended Capital Purchases that the Finance committee would like to submit for approval. Rolf then went through the list of recommended Projects reviewed by the Facilities committee. The Capital Expenditure/Project recommendations if approved, is a total of \$450k.

Rolf mentioned a lot of the items they are suggesting be purchased, they compared the cost of renting verses purchasing and decided in the long run it made sense to purchase some of the items.

Motion made by Rolf to approve the Capital Expenditure/Project recommendations. Shane seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Update on StateSpending.Nebraska.gov

McDermott reported at this time we have no issues with participating. There will be a hearing on this topic Wednesday, February 17 @ 1:30 p.m. that Kircher and McDermott plan to attend. Kircher and McDermott have had conversation with an individual within another quasi-governmental agency and are fairly comfortable with the process.

Zone 5 – March 4-6, 2016 – Marriott Kansas City Country Club Plaza, Kansas City, MO

McDermott reminded the board members of the Zone 5 conference that is coming up March 4-6, 2016. Would love to have all of them attend. The majority of the staff will be attending. There are a couple weeks to register yet.

Committee Reports

a. Facility Planning

Rolf had nothing to report other than work on the outdoor arena has been delayed due to scheduling conflicts and weather.

b. Finance

Minert reported the increase of the Livestock Badge from \$20 to \$25 didn't get mentioned or approved during the January board meeting. Minert would like to bring this increase before the board today for approval and add to the list of increases that were approved in January.

Motion made by Fahleson to approve the increase of the Livestock Badge from \$20 to \$25. Rousey seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

c. Public Affairs and Outreach

Kircher reported the committee met this morning and discussed a couple of topics.

1. McDermott and some staff have been reviewing the option of bundling tickets and how there may be a new feature to do this through our partner, ETIX. The ability to bundle tickets would provide additional incentives for our fair guests. We have asked ETIX to provide us more information regarding this possibility.
2. Discussed allowing folks in the livestock area to obtain additional sponsorship. Angell is working on some language as well as Schleif. The idea is to allow sponsorships under the \$10k level.

d. Livestock Committee

1. Shane reported they met with the Horse Superintendents again and were able to get the Horse Schedule completed.
2. Premium books are done.
3. Shane announced 4H and FFA are going to a no-fit show. They are hoping this will make it a better playing field for the young kids. Shane has talked to some different people and they have been positive about the change. In 2015 we hired people to walk the

barns to make sure the 4H and FFA exhibitors didn't hire a professional fitter. This should save some money by not having to hire those people again or put them in hotel rooms.

Haag wanted to confirm that this decision was made by 4H and FFA. The Nebraska State Fair is simply backing their decision.

Shane replied that is correct.

4. Angell shared the Livestock committee has talked about putting cameras in the barns for security purposes. In 2016 they plan to increase security in the barns to see if we can manage the barns that way for now.
- e. Events
 1. Jungck reported the Events committee will meet right after the board meeting and then the committee will go tour Stuhr museum.
 - f. Executive
 1. Kircher reported there was not much to discuss other than the need to continue reviewing the request to add to staff.

Future Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting Dates, Locations and Other Events

- a. March 4-6, Zone 5, Kansas City, MO
- b. March 11 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- c. April 8 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room/Races at Fonner Park
- d. April 12 – Volunteer Banquet, Raising Nebraska
- e. May 13 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- f. June 3 – Board meeting, Lincoln / Cattlemen's Ball
- g. July 8 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- h. August 13 – Blue Ribbon Roll Out, Heartland Event Center
- i. August 26 thru September 5 – Nebraska State Fair

Foundation update

Koepke welcomed the new board members, Lukassen and Kliment and briefly explained to them what the Foundation does for the Nebraska State Fair. Koepke reported of the \$1.3 million pending/asked out for donations they have \$550k in confirmed funds. Koepke thanked Rolf and Yound for getting pictures of the outdoor arena panels for the online website auction. The 1868 Foundation Annual meeting of the Trustees is May 12, 2016. They will award the Lifetime Friend of the Fair award that evening. Annual renewal donor letters have been mailed out. Blue Ribbon Roll Out is August 13, 2016.

Other Business

Kircher reported there are no updates regarding the litigation.

Schleif asked the new Executive committee to gather for a photo.

Adjourn

Motion made by Rolf to adjourn. Fahleson seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Time adjourned: 1:54 p.m.