

Minutes of the Columbia County Fair Board Workshop

January 19th, 2019

Called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Butch, MaryAnn, Ingrid, Amanda, Todd, & Jake

Little League Contract- The contract is a 3 year contract from April of 2019-April 2021. Yearly fee went up from \$650.00 to \$800.00 to cover utilities. The board has all the contact information for the little league board, the little league will give us a schedule when one is ready, and they will also get the fair board an updated insurance document. The contract was agreed upon by all parties. Both parties signed and the contract is now in effect starting in April.

Safety Repair Update- The gates were supposed to be shipped this week, so Butch will call and confirm that on Tuesday. There were about 10 posts that were totally rotten, so those were ripped out and replaced. Butch explained money spent thus far, and went through what is left for cost on the horse stalls part of the safety projects. Horse stalls are completely finished besides gates, so this upcoming week, we will be starting on barn doors.

Grasshopper Contract- Discussed dispersing the 28 trees through the 5 years of the contract. Want to start taking out the trees down by the windmill (gate 2) and working the way down towards the fire department. Only popular trees. Amanda suggested we set a window in the year that this year's amount of trees can be taken care of, this will give grasshopper a chance to schedule when most convenient for them and they can still do x amount of trees per year. They did add clean up into the contract, meaning any branches or big parts of the tree, will be loaded into the dump truck to be taken to designated burn pile. Grasshopper was also wondering if they would still be able to park a bobcat and banner on display during fair, which all agreed would not be a problem. Amanda will make the changes discussed and be in contact with grasshopper to get their needs added and get the contract sent to county council.

Online Survey- Jake talked about the survey he put out on Facebook in regards to what the public feels our strengths and weaknesses during fair. He thinks we should do it twice a year, one right before fair and right after. Our biggest draw is our food and animals/rodeo. Jake also asked the question if there was a pre fair bull riding show, how many would come, and 80% said they would. Something that was also brought up was dancing in the dirt after the rodeo. Another idea is a demolition derby and car show on Sunday, to try and up attendance on Sunday. Instead of motocross it was decided to look into Texas Longhorns show.

The biggest complaint was the commercial vendors, which Jake is working on, not enough seating for the rodeo, and unfriendly parking people. The seating we will try putting in a temporary fence and lock gate till 6 so it truly is no reserved seating. Amanda suggested we have a meeting with the Kiwanis to try and discuss the issues with parking.

Jake also discussed doing free admission to fair but raised parking and charge for the rodeo, and broke down numbers and where we would sit without admission. Amanda's problem with this is the fact that

we would need to rent/buy turnstiles, to get accurate attendance count. MaryAnn also pointed out that once you say “free” you can’t go back to charging money. All think that we should contact Washington County and Cowlitz County and get there numbers, so we have something to review and compare too. It was also suggested by Amanda that we bring the commissioners out to the next workshop, and get their opinions, and re address this topic at a later workshop.

Workshops- Amanda suggested doing the first Wednesday of every month 6 pm-8 pm, to prep for the monthly meeting, instead of having them on random Saturdays. However, when it gets closer to fair, have a Saturday workshop when needed. Amanda made a motion to change the workshops moved from Saturday mornings to the first Wednesday of every month, starting Feb. 6th, from 6 pm-8 pm, with the occasional Saturday workshop, when needed. MaryAnn seconded. All in favor. Motion carries

Entertainment- Jessie Lee we were only able to get for Friday for \$1200.00 plus room. We will be having Jackson Michaelson for Friday & Saturday night for \$9,000.00 plus room. She went over sound pricing and quotes. Cascade sound quote was \$9,000.00, whereas Bart quoted us at \$8,000.00.

Butch Adjourned at 12:08 p.m.