

Greater Grand Forks Fair board of directors meeting May, 13, 2020 by Zoom teleconference

Present: Dennis, Kenny, Pam, Bill, Connie, Derek, Mark, Keith, Terry, Darren, Diane, and Jeanie

Guest: MaKayla

Terry called the meeting to order.

The 2020 Fair was cancelled by the Grand Forks County Commission at their meeting on May 5th. Jeanie and Mark talked to the various entertainment to let them know. All are very happy to work with us and arrange to come in 2021 if their schedules allow except the FAME people. We need to work with them to find a good solution. Most of the entertainment would like to just roll the contracts over until 2021. The expected Fair dates for 2021 would be June 23-27, 2021. Mark will speak with Pat Crabtree to finalize dates with the carnival so that we can talk to entertainment and vendors. The board is very interested in rebooking as much of the entertainment as we can based on availability.

River Cities Speedway, the Red River Valley Horse Club, the Go Kart track and the Fair Barrel Run Series will have to supply plans to show how they can hold events with social distancing and following CDC guidelines during this summer season. The plans need to go to Grand Forks County Emergency Management first, then they will be submitted to the County Commission. The Horse Club has already submitted a plan. The Speedway is discussing their plan with Emergency Management. The Go Kart Track and our Barrel Run Series are already working on plans.

4-H is working on plans to judge member's project exhibits. They are going to have the members drop off exhibits at the County Office Building on a day in June and have them judged later. Then the exhibits would go back to the 4-Her. They also hope to hold an Achievement Day event later in the summer or fall. They asked if the Fair would be willing to pay premiums for the ribbons even though it would not be during the Fair. Darren made a motion to pay premiums for the exhibits. Dennis seconded the motion. Motion passed. If the Achievement Days are held the Fair would try to work with 4-H on an event that might include entertainment and food vendors or something else. It could become a mini Fair replacement this year. The North Dakota 4-H program has a committee developing guidelines for Achievement Days this year and those guidelines would be used for our event. MaKayla is a member of the committee developing the guidelines.

Mark talked about putting a virtual fair on the internet. Several fairs around the country have done this or are planning to do it. It involves creating a video, picture, and music display using the existing website. Pictures of exhibits would be posted. Maybe entertainment clips for grounds entertainment. Music videos or livestream music shows. Possibly Point of View video for carnival rides. Pictures of Fair food and a contest to select the favorite items. All of this and more would be potential options. The Virtual Greater Grand Forks Fair would be promoted using the Fair Facebook page. Mark and Jeanie will work on developing the idea and ideas from board members would be appreciated. The goal of the virtual fair would be to provide some kind of Fair for the area this year and to promote the 2021 Greater Grand Forks Fair.

Dennis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kenny seconded the motion. Motion passed. Next meeting will be scheduled the second Wednesday in June.