



NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD

Nebraska State Fair * PO Box 1387 * Grand Island, NE * 68802-1387 * 308-382-1620

MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.

Palm Room @ Ramada Inn, Kearney NE

A regular monthly meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Friday, January 19, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. Public notice of this meeting was published in the January 8 & 9, 2018 issues of the Grand Island Independent newspaper and posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website from January 4 – 19, 2018.

Roll call was read with the following members present: Stan Brodine; Bob Haag; Harry Hoch, Treasurer; Denny Hoffman; Chris Kircher, Chairman; Jeff Kliment; Kathleen Lodi; Doug Lukassen; Chuck Rolf, Secretary; Kirk Shane, Vice Chairman; Steve Wehrbein and Kent Zeller. Others in attendance were: Kelly O'Brien, Administrative Assistant; Jace Robinson, Marketing Assistant; Chelsey Jungck, Events & Entertainment Director; Kayla Crowder, Events Assistant; Jaime Parr, Facility Director; Janna Kuklis, Facility Assistant; Scott Yound, Maintenance Director; Stephen Christensen, Maintenance Assistant; Blake Baney, Maintenance Assistant; Lindsey Koepke, 1868 Foundation Executive Director; Jayne Mann, 1868 Foundation Board Chairperson; Doug Brand; Jana Kruger; Roger Henrichs; Zach Mayhew, Grand Island Independent and Sydney Edwards - 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.

Minutes of December 8, 2017

There being no corrections:

**Motion made by Lukassen to approve the minutes of December 8, 2017.
Haag seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session - Personnel

**Motion made by Rolf to enter into Executive session for the purposes of Personnel.
Kliment seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.
Time: 2:01 p.m.**

**Motion made by Lukassen to exit Executive session.
Hoch seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passes unanimously.
Time: 2:33 p.m.**

Kircher introduced the new Executive Director of the Nebraska State Fair, Lori Cox. Kircher stated the Executive Board feels this is the best person they could have found for the Executive Director position. Cox joins the Nebraska State fair with a history of fair management, most recently the general manager for the Big Sky Country State Fair, in Bozeman MT. Cox also worked for the Western Idaho Fair and Montana State Fair.

Cox commented she is really excited about working with the staff and feels at the end of the day it is about people. Cox loves the Fair business. Cox stated she is no stranger to agriculture as she was raised on a family farm near Hobson, MT. They grew wheat and barley in addition to a cattle operation.

Kircher asked to take the meeting into a recess so the Board could make some phone calls.

Time of recess: 2:38 p.m.

Board meeting reconvened.

Time: 2:50 p.m.

December Financial Report

Hoch reported total current assets of \$3,026,299; payables at \$333,613; total direct revenue at \$5,193,976 and direct expenses \$7,807,565.

Motion made by Rolf to approve the December Financial Report.

Shane seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of 2018 Budget

Kircher reported in their packets is a budget that McDermott did prior to his retirement. Kircher's thought is to let the new Executive Director have a chance to review this budget before approving it. The next board meeting is February 8th. Hopefully the Executive Director will have a better understanding by the March board meeting.

Motion made by Lukassen to table the 2018 Budget until the March board meeting.

Haag seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on 2018 Capital Purchases/Projects

Kircher stated in their packets is the 2018 Capital Purchases/Projects, but they have not been prioritized by staff as they have been in the past. Kircher asked staff to let them know if anything needs prioritized.

Hoch stated they need to address the Fonner Park question.

Yound explained that Bruce Swihart from Fonner Park had contacted McDermott before the end of 2017. Swihart would like to purchase 1,000 black folding chairs to match the one's the Nebraska State Fair owns and is asking if the Nebraska State Fair would be interested in going in half on the purchase. Our share would be \$20K.

Motion made by Rolf to approve ordering 1,000 folding chairs in partnership with Fonner Park.

Hoffman seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Kircher asked to table the Capital Purchases/Projects until the February 8th board meeting.

**Motion made by Lukassen to discuss Capital Purchase needs in February.
Haag seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

Committee Reports

a. Facility Planning

Rolf reported – no meeting

b. Finance

Hoch reported – no meeting

c. Public Affairs and Outreach

Lukassen reported – no meeting

d. Livestock

Shane reported the committee will have a meeting before the next board meeting in February.

e. Events

Wehrbein reported the Events committee met today and had a good discussion.

Some of the topics they talked about were:

Grand Marshall's

County Fair Day

Nebraska video/photo wall – working with Barry Keller in the planning of that.

Also working on a list of entities to invite to lunch at our Board meetings in Grand Island.

f. Executive

Kircher reported – no meeting

Future Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting Dates and Locations

- a. March 2-4...IAFE Zone 5 conference, Manhattan, KS
- b. March 9 — Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- c. April 13 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- d. May 11 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- e. June 8 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- f. July 13 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- g. August 24 thru September 3 – “149th Nebraska State Fair”
- h. October 12 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- i. November 9 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room
- j. December 6 – NSF Board, Foundation Board & Staff Christmas Dinner
- k. December 7 – Board meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board room

Foundation update

Kircher welcomed Jayne Mann and Lindsey Koepke from the 1868 Foundation

Koepke welcomed Cox and explained briefly the 1868 Foundations mission.

Koepke shared the Foundation's gross profit from in 2017 was over \$300K. Koepke brought the Nebraska State Fair license plate. Stated they need 250 folks to commit to purchasing the NSF license plate. You have to write a check and send it to the Foundation. Once they have 250 commitments to the license plate, they will send the check to get the process started. Koepke reminded the board they look at a couple of designs last month. Today Koepke is sharing the best option per the DMV. At the December board meeting, the board told Lindsey to move forward. Koepke wanted to double check if she needs board approval?

Kircher commented we appreciate the Foundations idea of coming up with this idea. It is the Foundations project. It is ok to move forward.

Mann commented she appreciates working with the Nebraska State Fair board.

Other Business

Zeller stated the Board members will purchase one of the Nebraska State Fair license plates for Lori Cox.

Adjourn

Motion made by Shane to adjourn.

Haag seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Time: 3:30 p.m.