



**Teton County Fair Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Fair Office – 305 W. Snow King Ave  
Monday August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ 5:30PM**

***\*Please leave your cell phones at the front desk. \****

*Mission: The mission of the TCFB is to produce an exceptional fair and administer the year-round use of the fairgrounds while promoting the western heritage; uniting urban and rural communities in celebration.*

*Vision: The TCFB's vision is to actively engage in the pursuit and promotion of our rural and agricultural heritage, from neighborhood back yards to family farms and local businesses.*

- I. Call to Order  
Marybeth called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.
- II. Roll Call/Pronouncement of a Quorum  
PRESENT: Marybeth, Amy, Steve, Hannah, Matt, Thomas, Gary, & Peter  
NEW MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Genzer, Hannah Bouline, Tere Nelson, Deb Lutz  
ABSENT: Emily  
ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES: Stephen Fodor, Judy Nalley, Glenn Owings, Amy Wilson, Jordan Lutz, Lexi Daugherty, Deb Daugherty, Casey Grimes, Sarah Mann, Alyssa Watkins
- III. Adopt Agenda  
Amy motions to adopt the agenda. Matt seconds the motion. All in favor, no discussion.
- IV. Approval of July 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes  
Matt motions to approve the July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as written. Amy seconds the motion. All in favor, no discussion.
- V. Public Comment  
Stefan Fodor - Enjoyed Team Sorting and would also like to see the Ranch Horse competition come back. Figure 8s: driver order is working well; can't hear anything in NE grandstands ie. who won or who is leading the race etc. Use white boards? Have a real time timing system; talk to Brian Hasenack w/ Snow Devils? 6 heats – top finishers in each go to the semifinals. Stefan suggests putting the order in the rules. Amy suggests doing a different halftime show ie. a calcutta or a men's tiny bike race. Stefan said track was wide and dry, which makes it faster, not too many bad wrecks over the years other than some rollovers; track is pretty safe. Ticketing was bad news, super long lines, open up some more gates.

Judy Nalley – Friends of Citizens Mounted Patrol

Next year, allow bikers to ride through the closure from the beginning. 65 additional, parallel parking spots along Snow King Ave. On Friday, CMU parked 4-H Livestock Auction buyers here for easier access. CMU suggests signage to indicate buyer designated parking. Rope off west lot late on Friday so that it can be designated horse trailer parking all day on Saturday for horse show and Fair Rodeo contestants. CMU suggests eliminating 7–11am shift since all people coming during those times

are competitors and they are not charged for parking anyway. Could potentially save 8-man hours with this change. Bring the person on horseback back next year to help horse trailers park for Rodeo. Move petting zoo back over by tennis court and free up space for parking on the grass? There was some pushback on the higher parking prices, but the lots still filled up. Print, not stamp, on our parking passes that "pass does not guarantee a parking spot – arrive early." Need to create more spots for next year – there was a lot of unused space this year. 3 rows of parking in west lot should be painted, allowing for 34 more parking spaces. Meet w/ parking lot striper next year to go over our parking plan. Budget roughly the same amount for 2020 fair. East gate was worth being staffed, 17% of revenue.

Deb Lutz – thanked the Fair Board for the opportunity the Royalty had at Fair this year. Their presence was better than ever and they all received lots of compliments. JH News & Guide published some awesome photos. She has been involved in the program for a long time and says it's important. It teaches the girls how to interview, learn about and respect horses, be ambassadors to the sport of rodeo, and that they're beautiful.

Jordan Lutz – tried out for a performing arts school this last weekend. She used to be so scared to talk to people and crowds. The Royalty program has helped her gain confidence to perform well in the interview and life in general.

Lexi Daugherty – the program encourages girls to have positive role models. It allows the girls to be competitive but to take care of each other. They learn to lose gracefully but win with dignity; it also teaches them hard work. She encourages the Fair Board to not only keep the program but enhance it. Their investment in the girls, changes lives.

Deb Daugherty – the program has done a lot to help Lexi and it's what we, in Teton County Wyoming, do.

Tere Nelson – She grew up in Jackson, did not participate in the program herself, but knew a lot of people who competed and really admired them. She says that it's so much more than a beauty pageant because there's so much they have to know ie. rodeo, livestock, community, veterinary, and all while looking pretty and being popular. This program should never be cut. Jackson will lose its western heritage if this program is cut. There are a lot of people and organizations in this community that would be willing to help with the program.

Amy Hindman – this was the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the Teton County Fair & Rodeo Royalty program.

Casey Grimes – looked up to the Rodeo Queens in Sheridan, WY. She thinks there is confusion about who is in charge of what, who pays for it, who runs it? There used to be passionate leaders and lots of girls involved in the program, but the look of the program has changed. Teton county needs to cognizant of how best to continue with the program. It needs to be tweaked, and hopefully it doesn't go away.

## ACTION ITEMS

### VI. New Business

#### a. Teton County Fair & Rodeo Royalty Program/Pageant

The 2018 Pageant only had 6 contestants; only one category had more than 1 contestant, all other categories won by default. At the end of the day, the girls are great but it's the parents that aren't getting along. Marybeth can't do any more damage control due to parents not getting along ie. she had to call the Chamber of Commerce to apologize after the incident on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July during parade lineup. The Fair Board currently budgets \$9,000 for 6 girls. Does this make sense for the Fair Board to continue the program? It is on the agenda because the program needs to be re-evaluated. The budget is not entirely for the Queen and it includes pageant expenses, bringing in judges, belt buckles, sashes and crowns, flowers for the girls etc. The pageant itself cost roughly \$2,000 last year. Amy says that there is no support for the Program from the Fair Board or Fair Office staff; Marybeth says that is not true because her & Gary got heavily involved over the last year.

Teton County is one of 2 or 3 counties in Wyoming where the Fair Board still organizes a Royalty program. Many other programs are associated with a rodeo and community committee. The Miss Rodeo Wyoming Pageant has only had 6-7 girls compete in the past few years. The winner this year was from Laramie and represented Jubilee Days. Amy Wilson – says that the Royalty represent “Teton County Fair & Fair Rodeo” not JH Rodeo. JH Rodeo does not contribute to the Royalty budget. JH Rodeo allows the girls to attend their grand entries and nightly rodeos for practice before Fair.

Thomas moves to table this item until September meeting. Matt seconds the motion. All in favor, some discussion: Thomas says that the new board members will be seated in September and that this decision should be theirs. Marybeth suggests a special meeting. Gary would like to see proposals from folks who are vested in the program on how the re-structuring should take place. Thomas says Fair Office staff should be more involved. Gary disagrees. Amy used to be the Royalty coordinator for 10 years and there were never any issues. She says there were no Fair Board members at either of the parades. Gary motions to schedule a special meeting to discuss the Royalty Program. Matt seconds the motion. All in favor, some discussion: the special meeting will be held on Monday September 16 at 5:30PM here at the Fair Office.

#### b. 2020 Teton County Fair dates (July 17-26)

Amy motions to consider moving the 2020 Fair dates to July 25 – August 2. Thomas seconds the motion. All in favor, some discussion: Amy Wilson – would like to push it back a week since kids are only out of school only a few weeks before Fair; they do not have a lot of time to prepare. An additional week would allow the kids more time to practice and refine their projects. Also, we had such a long, cold winter and slow spring that some animals were stunted; some got sick. Peter & Gary agree that another week is not going to change that if the weather is bad. Would a date change impact State Fair,

which is usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August? Glenn says no. Our Fair always coincides with the Sublette County Fair and the Lincoln County Fair always follows. Matt says that people are used to it being the last full week of July and that changing it could throw people off. Amy says that the dates for National High School Rodeo are in July in Nebraska...Peter mentions it's a very busy week in Jackson and that moving the Fair could affect attendance.

Amy amends her motion to state the following: Would the Fair Board consider setting our Fair dates back a week after Fair Office staff contacts our big Fair contractors ie. Frazier, Petting Zoo, Clowns etc.? Matt seconds the motion. All in favor, no discussion.

VII. Old Business

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

VIII. Thank You Cards for Volunteers

Fair Board needs to sign them all while they are visiting.

IX. Horse Show

Positive comments on new events – team sorting (70/80 teams) and team branding (12/21 teams). Entries for English were way up over last year. Western Dressage had twice the entries due to addition of beginner class. Horse Show Committee was happy with badges and comp tickets.

Rachel suggests removing team branding from the Fair Rodeo. Now that we have an entire afternoon dedicated to the event itself, does it need to carry over into the evening? It would be easier for the judges and the beef cattle supplier to be done at the end of the day/afternoon and leave rather than having to stick around for 3-4 more hours until the event finishes in the Fair Rodeo. Cattle supplier had to load up the majority of his cows and leave the number we needed for Fair Rodeo in a pen, which was unavailable to the Fair Rodeo stock contractor. MB says she will take it to the Horse Show Committee for consideration and get back to the Fair Board.

X. Exhibit Hall

Matt suggests budgeting more money for the Exhibit Hall since it brings in about 400 participants from the community. This year was tough because we couldn't recruit very many new volunteers and we lost some old volunteers that have been helping for years. We didn't realize until now how heavily we have relied on the folks who have been helping for many years. Volunteers were arriving at all times/2-hour time slots so it was difficult to get them organized all at once. Matt felt like he was constantly explaining what to do and didn't get to focus on task that he wanted to accomplish. We need to figure out how to streamline volunteer appreciation compensation across all Exhibit Hall volunteers.

Rachel says it was difficult to even find volunteers this year, despite Mel Shinkle's help to recruiting County employees and elected officials. We

secured some volunteers from our fellow County departments, but we were far from filling every 2-hour slot. The superintendent roles were difficult to fill because no one can commit 2 whole days to the Exhibit Hall. We need to get more creative about volunteer opportunities. Maybe we need an Exhibit Hall subcommittee? Classes need to be revamped a bit, especially the Youth portion. We need to add the age ranges rather than call them “Novice,” “Junior” and “Intermediate.”

Youth were way up and Adult entries were down, especially horticulture and floriculture. Possibly because of the long winter and cold spring, which resulted in a bad growing season. It also could’ve been the entry fees. Rachel says that all aspects of Fair are looked at from a business standpoint except the Exhibit Hall. There needs to be a way to generate some revenue to offset expenses, whether that is through entry fees or securing a sponsor. There are a lot of expenses associated with putting on the Exhibit Hall, ie. judges, ribbons, premiums, volunteers, etc. Thomas says Fair is not a for-profit event, nor is it a revenue source for the County. Matt says the quilt entries were down; they take up a lot of space, so having less makes it look empty. Peter suggests modernizing the Exhibit Hall somehow so it will appeal to a wider audience in the community to participate and volunteer. Maybe we should get the Farmer’s Market involved? Amy recommends adding discussion of subcommittees to the September meeting agenda.

Amy Wilson says that the Exhibit Hall was in disarray when 4- H arrived to do interviews and judging on Monday afternoon. None of the displays were placed properly and the everything looked really disorganized.

#### XI. Vendors

##### a. Accept less vendors in 2020

Frazier Shows has offered up the option to put a merry go round in the space where the stage from the concert is located, but this will require cutting out at least 5 vendors. Maybe we focus on more variety of vendors rather than less vendors. Local vendors/food trucks can’t commit to the time frame because many of them go to ‘Music on Main.’ Would like more local vendors who can commit to more time at Fair. Matt will visit with the folks who organize ‘Music on Main’ to see if we can schedule 2020 dates around each other. Amy suggests adding vendors to the October agenda.

#### XII. Beer Garden & Night Event Beer Sales

##### a. Daily Comparison

We made a little over \$7,200 in gross sales from beer garden. The cost of beer for the garden was about \$2000. After we pay the Elk’s Club, we will have grossed about \$3400 just in the beer garden. Rachel estimates that the total cost for all beer is about \$23,000 cost for beer, including Elk’s & Rotary revenue-shares. Beer sales were higher this year than in the past.

The Elk’s Club/Pete have suggested changing the hours next year to 3:00 – 10:00PM because it wasn’t that busy for the first few hours. Also, if they stayed open later, they could accommodate folks who want to come to Fair

but not attend the night event. They would like the whole grassy arena designated as the “beer garden,” not just under the tent.

b. \$1000 in 1’s for Breakfast Rotary cash boxes

Alyssa says that they regularly run out of 1’s during all night events. They never really need big bills and the more 1’s we can provide, the better.

c. Teton County Fair reusable cups (kleen canteen w/ TC Fair logo)

Matt suggests getting together with other groups to have a single refillable cup ie. JH Live, Elk’s Club – split the cost of the cups and bring them to all events. Health code issue to using refillable cup on a tap. Visit with Sarah Budge to figure out what the parameters are and if there’s a way to make reusable cups work. Rachel will ask Jeff Potter what JH Live does ie. pour from pitchers? Overall, we sold more beer at night events this year than last!

XIII. Big Top Tent Acts & Contests

a. Should we continue to pay \$275/act for one hour?

FB feels they won’t get any acts if they pay less than \$275. Matt suggests having a bigger act from 6:00-8:00PM every night. They were mostly solo acts and didn’t seem to be lively enough. It was really difficult to fill all the time slots from 12-6PM and most performers prefer not to perform for free. Maybe we need to showcase the performers beforehand in the Fair Book and on social media. Amy suggests bringing in more professional acts to fill big top. Do we get rid of big top? Competitions went well. Coordinate a couple of events to coincide with when Camp Jackson kids are at the fair. Smokey the Bear birthday party was really popular; they’ve already expressed interest in coming back next year. Matt suggests asking Nick Staron if he wants to be the emcee at the Big Top Stage to fill in the time between acts. Evan, Hughes Production, suggests having speakers on the outside of the Big Top Tent so people can hear that things are going on. The free ninja course on the grass Saturday was super popular. If there is a merry go round on the grassy, there won’t be room for ninja course.

We need to look into purchasing our own Bingo game/machine; also, we need a new chalk machine.

XIV. Night Events

Peter suggests that 2-3 Fair Board members sign up for each Night Event and organize from soup to nuts throughout the year leading up to Fair. Each “subcommittee” can then bring updates back to the entire Fair Board and hopefully streamline decisions. More specifically, the Figure 8 Races. A few board members could work with past participants like, Joey Parker and Eric Hiltbrunner, to dial in the rules, processes, and encourage drivers need to take more responsibility in getting themselves organized the night of the event.

a. Fair Kickoff Concert

Awesome crowd this year! Whiskey Myers seemed more rock than country, however, we didn’t receive a lot of complaints about WM it. Considering that 5 years ago, the Fair Concert was poorly attended, our partnering with JH Live is helping tremendously to increase the popularity of the Fair Concert the last 2

years. It's beneficial to lean on other groups in the community to lend their expertise to make Fair events better. Fair concert numbers are getting better, so we need to pick a good act again next year to continue our momentum. Thomas – there were two inappropriate songs for family in the concert “Bitch” was played. There should have been a penalty based on the stipulations of the contract? There was feedback about other inappropriate language used during the concert. Fun night overall.

i. Elk's Club oversee ID booth (3)

Have Elk's Club run ID/wrist bands booths at Fair kickoff Concert in 2020. Will speed things up for Rotary in terms of the beer lines.

b. Pig Wrestling

Great turnout this year; covered stands were full! Entries filled up. We sold 1,064 tickets this year. Jeff and Elliot add so much to the event.

c. JH Ninja Warrior

Matt thought Ninja Nation was good to work with, but there was an error in the final roster. The event was 3 hours long because of the double elimination. Next year, we should do single elimination to shorten it a bit. Ninja Nation ran the entire show – very professional. Have them handle night event next year and have free course on the grass on Saturday. This year's course was finally what local competitors were looking for.

d. Fair Rodeo & Slack

Rodeo had really good attendance, stock was good. 435 comp tickets were given away, seems like a lot. We need to form a subcommittee for the 2020 Fair Rodeo.

e. Figure 8s

Gary gave 25 comp tickets to Town of Jackson guys for grading the arena. Gary says we need add 6 more cars next year and make the track wider – decisions for a subcommittee. Need to do something in the downtime between semis and finals ie. men's small bike races, barbie car races. Peter – expedite knowing who the winner of each heat is early so it can be announced/displayed; the crowd wants to know what the standings are, and it keeps their attention. Peter would like to see us give the winner a BIG check! Marybeth thinks a teleprompter with heat winners listed would be a good addition; people could then bet amongst themselves in the stands. Look into having a Calcutta.

f. Ticket Sales Comparison

g. Improve Internet Connection/New ticketing system for all Night Events

Started using Etix because we don't have to pay them anything. They make their money from the fees for the online ticket sales. Someone says you pay for what you get. Kiwanis had a really bad experience taking tickets this year at Figure 8s. They got yelled at right and left and mistreated; it's possible they may not want to help next year because of what happened this year. Rachel has spoken to some Kiwanis members and apologized, as well as emailed them. She also invited them to the Fair Board meeting. One Kiwanis member

said ticket taking at Figure 8s every year is a mess and never goes smoothly. Rachel is committed to figuring out a better system and process for ticketing next year. Sarah says we can upgrade the internet access point in the Snow King ticket booth and that it will cost a couple thousand dollars. We need more gates open for Figure 8 enthusiasts to increase flow because everyone shows up at 6:00PM.

XV. Fair Applications & Permits

a. Extend Snow King closure Sunday – Sunday

Western Dressage warms up on Grassy Arena by the Exhibit Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Fair; horses were crossing Snow King to compete in rodeo arena. A horse show committee member stood on the street w/ sandwich boards to slow traffic this year. Closing Snow King for 6 hours on Sunday for Western Dressage would be helpful. The street doesn't necessarily need to be closed Monday and Tuesday. Public Works is questioning our need for a 24-hour closure because it's not being managed as it should. Sam has found his barricades piled up on the street corners later in the evenings and first thing in the mornings. He wants to know if the barricades could be taken down around 9:00 or 10:00PM so that it is more convenient for people who are leaving the Fairgrounds and folks who live in the area to get out and through. We could ask for a 7:00AM – 1:00PM closure for Western Dressage and a 6:00AM – 9:00/10:00PM closure Wednesday - Sunday. Sam also suggested we hang some Fair banners up at the parking stations so that people know exactly why the street is closed. We can try this next year when we apply for our Special Event Permit.

XVI. 4-H/Heritage Arena

a. Wi-Fi, Sound System, Fire Alarm System

The current designation (U) of the Heritage Arena only allows for 160 people to be in the facility at one time. Fire Marshall Clay required us to have fire watch at every door, as well as counters during the 4-H livestock sale. It was later determined that there were over 1000 people in the barn during the sale. County staff is currently doing research on what upgrades will need to be made to the facility for a change of use to an A-Assembly designation. The fire code requires emergency lighting and a voice-controlled fire alarm system. The building code requires adequate egress, restrooms and ADA access. We should have final numbers for the total project by mid-September.

Evan, Hughes Production, looked at the sound system in the Heritage Arena and thinks the problem is in the sound board. There is \$25,000 in this fiscal year's budget to repair/upgrade the sound system. Rachel will have Evan go through the system and determine what needs to be done so it works efficiently and properly in the future.

Glenn says that internet in the Heritage Arena was a huge problem all week. 4-H basically had to operate from 2 hot spots on cell phones for the sale and

otherwise. People were generally understanding of the poor internet and sound issues but it was really frustrating. Improving internet would be a priority from 4-H's perspective.

Vet inspections for all animals next year?

Fairboard was given information on diseases, was not in budget to have vet or brand inspector. Marybeth – we will figure out better communication in the future.

XVII. Other

a. Fair Board “Runner”

Fairgrounds staff are so busy that the Board doesn't feel like they can ask them for help all the time. The Fair Board needs their own assistant to do little things, busy work etc. Perhaps, an internship opportunity? We need to hire additional help just for Fair Week and this individual will be assigned to the Fair Board.

b. Recycling @ all Night Events

Need recycling bins for Night Events inside Rodeo Arena. Budget more money to cover these additional bins/services. Maybe the beer distributors can help with recycling?

c. RMAF in Layton, UT – November 13-16, 2019

Matt thanks Marybeth for all that she has done and proposes that she nominate him to be Chair and he will nominate her to be his Vice Chair. It is decided that the Fair Board wait to nominate and elect officers until September when the new Fair Board members are seated.

XVIII. Adjourn

Gary motions to adjourn the meeting 8:43PM. Matt seconds the motion. All in favor, no discussion.