



Larimer County Fair Board Meeting Minutes September 27, 2023, 6:30 pm

The Larimer County Fair Board convened a regular session on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Chair: Stephanie Morrison,

Vice Chair: Pat Young

Secretary: Stephanie Fancher English

Board Members: Jay Crouse, Darryl English, Deborah Sherman, Tamara TerAvest, Kristine Miller, John Foley, Logan Lenz, Marv Witt

Also Present: County Commissioner – Kristin Stephens, Ranch Director – Conor McGrath, Ranch Assistant Director – Mark Tinklenberg, CSU Extension – Bailey Schilling, Corra Fetzer, Cindy Buckardt, Sharel Cameron, Janelle Kemper, Jodie Witt, Brett Schreve, Brody Schreve

Not Present: Melinda Deal

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stephanie Morrison called the meeting to order.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Stephanie Morrison, with the assistance of Conor McGrath, asked all present to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Pat Young made a motion to approve the September 27, 2023, Agenda. Logan Lenz seconded the motion. The Agenda was approved on a majority vote by the Board Members. 11-0

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Pat Young made a motion to approve the July 26, 2023, Meeting Minutes as amended, and Kristine Miller seconded the motion; Motion approved on a majority vote of the Board Members. 11-0

PUBLIC COMMENT – 3 Minutes

The following members of the public addressed the Fair Board: Cindy Buckardt spoke about the importance of County Fair to 4-H youth and the learning experience it provides. Brody Schreve shared his thoughts about the importance of properly caring for livestock project animals so that quality animals are sold at the Jr. Livestock Sale. He is in favor of a selective Livestock Sale. Brett Schreve shared his thoughts on the positive aspects of a selective Livestock Sale.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Stephanie Morrison thanked the Fair Board members for all their hard work during the 2023 Fair and Rodeo and shared her efforts in advertising and promoting Fair Board to the public in an attempt to try and gain new members. She asked all Fair Board members to help in recruiting.

FAIR BOARD PARTNERS / LIAISON REPORTS

- a. **Queen/Royalty** – Corra Fetzner talked about her upcoming events and reported on the four events she had already attended.
- b. **Extension /4-H** – Bailey Schilling reported on progress of 4-H Record Books and their next task of Project Completion Reports that should be finished in October.
- c. **The Ranch** – Conor McGrath reported for Louise Romero and thanked the Fair Board for their participation in the County Fair. He informed all that Mark Tinklenberg had been appointed the position of Ranch Assistant Director and General Manager. A solicitation was published for a Public/Private Partnership for a new Arena facility. Additional upgrades have been made to the BEC, soon to be Blue Arena. There will be a 20-year celebration event for The Ranch on October 15.
- d. **The Ranch** - Mark Tinklenberg provided an update on construction activities. The Ribbon Cutting for the new 4-H Youth and Community Building is planned for March 2024.
- e. **Fair Coordinator** –Laura Bolt the Fair Board know how much she appreciated their help with competitions during Fair. She was still working on participation numbers.

COMMISSIONER REPORT

Commissioner Stephens shared that the County was continuing to work on a new strategic plan. Budgeting is still a concern due to Proposition HH. She was pleased with how the County Fair went, including the anniversary party, and thanked everyone for their efforts.

FAIR BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Junior Livestock Sale** –John Foley reported on sponsors for the sale and then provided an overview of how the sale would be run. The mandatory meetings for 4H participants that want to sell an animal in the sale went very well.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Stephanie Morrison reminded all to get their volunteer hours logged into Vicnet. John Foley asked what the logged volunteer hours are used for. Conor McGrath explained how the hours are counted at a Fair level, a Ranch level, and finally a County level for various programs.

Stephanie Morrison announced that all Subcommittees needed to meet prior to the October Fair Board meeting to go over their Work Plans. Available dates for those meetings were provided, Committee Chairs please email Stephanie Fancher English with preferences.

NEW BUSINESS / OTHER BUSINESS

All Fair Board members were asked to share their thoughts about the 2023 Fair and what they learned during the 2023 Fair that could impact the long-term vision of the Fair Board.

Kristine Miller reported that the new parking set up worked well for the shuttle drivers. BEST employees were good to work with.

Another good spot for ADA parking during Fair was identified, and she asked The Ranch to consider.

How will Gate 4 would be run in the future, there are ideas for allowing shuttles through. The quality of volunteers was high, but they were short, and she would like to start recruiting immediately.

The Parade after party at the Foundry was a good start, and the right idea, however, the timing of it needs improved.

Stephanie Fancher English thinks that holding the Queen Contest in mid-July, 2 weeks before the Parade, was successful and should be continued.

The Queens BBQ went very well overall. A few more volunteers are needed to help it run more smoothly. An effort will be made to include more superintendents.

Adding Queens autograph sheets to the JLSC sponsor levels was a positive in that it allowed for Queen to interact with more sponsors. At least 2 tables at Queens BBQ were filled with JLSC sponsors contacted through this opportunity. If JLSC sponsors can be coordinated earlier, it will be easier to schedule the Queen for visits.

Heard great things about sensory day.

Would like to see more outreach to youth programs in the community to bring in summer camp kids during the week to experience the CSU learning activities, 4-H exhibits and Livestock, and rodeo interaction; this will help insure that future traditions of attending Larimer County Fair are cultivated.

The outdoor tent for eating at Junior Livestock Sale was very nice change.

Food prepared by CSU was very very good.

No suggestions for improving Parade, the amount of horses in parade was impressive.

The anniversary celebration(s) seemed to raise level of awareness in the community.

John Foley estimated that 750 people came through the food line at the pancake breakfast. He felt it was the best attendance in the 3 years he has been on Fair Board.

Not having chocolate milk was noticed and it was missed.

The rain made the footing in the prep tent very soft and muddy. It would be helpful to have lights in the prep tent as they are in there setting up before the sun comes up.

Becca was very helpful.

Another way of dispensing syrup needs to be found.

OVG was not easy to communicate with.

Not sure where OVG's complaint about Fair Board not helping with clean up came from.

There were several Fair Board members at the tent after the breakfast was over and no communication about further clean up or help needed.

John Foley reported that the Senior announcements and photos in the Sale Bill for Jr Livestock Sale were very well received.

Opportunities: Better layout for buyer tables, more volunteers.

There have been numerous conversations about limiting the sale.

Even though they had a late start the sponsor dollars and sponsor levels ended up working out well. Happy with synergy between coordinated sponsor levels. It would be nice to have TV's and speakers in the food tent now that it is outside. Even with all the improvements the sale is still too long.

Kristine Miller added that the parking for the sale was well layed out making it easier for the shuttle drivers.

Darryl English shared idea for opportunity to limit the live sale to kids in upper percentage of their classes, and provide online sale for the remaining kids.

Darryl English reported that waiving Parade fees for 4-H clubs allowed/encouraged a few new clubs to participate.

Still trying to figure out how to get a marching band.

Would like more floats.

Most likely will need more sponsors.

Marv Witt thought that good progress was made with the handicap parking provided.

There are still some opportunities for helping the elderly community access Fair.

The "old timers" are part of Fair tradition and outreach is needed to keep them coming back.

Jr. Fair Board could be opportunity to get younger kids involved as both a workforce and volunteer group during Fair events.

Would like to see more opportunities for 4-H Seniors to get help with their senior applications for college, scholarships through community involvement.

Logan Lenz liked the band at the Parade after party, the few people that did attend had fun. First year attendance was low but a little work on timing and it should build into bigger event.

There was an obvious conflict with the lamb show and dairy dress up. Apparently one show decided to move their time up by 2 hours. Shows should not be allowed to run early and superintendents need to stick to the schedule.

The quality of the judges was very good.

Tamara TeraVest felt that handicap parking was better but still a challenge.

The Jr Livestock Sale Bill should show where kids are from – either towns or 4-H clubs.

The outdoor tent where Queens BBQ was held needs a dance floor.

Stephanie Morrison asked all Fair Board members to review the proposed changes to the Fair Board By Laws and provide comments/questions/suggestions in time for review and discussion prior to the October meeting. Fair Board should plan on voting on new By Laws at the October Fair Board meeting. Conor McGrath pointed out that even though suggestions will be considered, ultimately the County Commissioner will make the decision on all final edits.

Stephanie Morrison asked the Fair Board to consider voting on Officer positions at the October Fair Board meeting rather than waiting until the January meeting. Since there are typically no Fair Board meetings held in November or December, this will allow new officers to be prepared to start off the year at the January meeting.

Pat Young made a motion to hold elections for all Fair Board officer positions for the upcoming year at the October 25, 2023, meeting. John Foley seconded the motion. The Motion was approved on a majority vote by the Board Members. 11-0



Conor confirmed that new applications for Fair Board were still being accepted. Appointments of new members would be made in time for the January 2024, meeting.

Conor McGrath announced that Ranch staff was working on securing a concert performance to be held inside the Blue Arena, on the dirt the first Friday of the 2024 Fair. Through a new tracking method it was estimated that 140,000 people attended the 2023 Larimer County Fair and Rodeo.

ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There were no items for the Executive Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

John Foley moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Logan Lenz. The Motion was approved on a majority vote of the Board Members. 11-0
The meeting was adjourned.

Chair: Stephanie Morrison _____

Secretary: Stephanie Fancher English _____