

Archuleta County Fair
Fair Board Meeting
May 13, 2020

The meeting, held by Zoom online conferencing, was called to order by Vice President Kerry Keegan at 6:09pm. Members present: Kerry Keegan, Tonya Steadmon, Jennifer Smith, Lesley Mattingly, Sharon Jennings, Lisa Vail, Tim Vail, Carol Kelly, Shelly Cox, Jason Cox, Debbie Condrey. Guests present: Robin Young-CSU, Becky Jacobson-4H, Misti Smyth and Tim Haarmann-Livestock Committee.

Special Item: Kerry introduced Misti Smyth and Tim Haarmann who explained the role of the Livestock Committee as being an advisor to the 4-H, hosting the 4-H show, presenting the livestock auction, managing the logistics of the animals, ensuring the safety of the animals, and supporting the Fair Board. They have their own Bylaws; their budget with the County is self-funded from the livestock auction sales (about 3%); they do not receive county monies. The Fair provides the livestock tent. Judges stipends come out of the Livestock fund. A question as to whether the Livestock committee should be a sub-committee of the Fair Board since they have their bylaws, etc. was raised. If not, our bylaws need to be changed.

It was suggested that the Fair Coordinator be the liaison to the Livestock committee, but not be on the Fair Board Executive committee. It was recommended that the Vice President of the Livestock committee be the liaison to the Fair Board meeting or let the Livestock committee nominate a member their committee. It will have to be clarified if the Livestock committee reports to the Fair Board or to the Board of County Commissioners. Executive committees from both groups need to get together.

Budget: There is presently no evidence or communication from the County that the Fair budget is being cut though we know that sales tax revenue is definitely down this year so far. We will continue to plan as if we have a full budget though it will be prudent to be aware of priorities in spending.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the April 29th minutes as corrected (to add Debbie Condrey to the attendance list) was made by Kerry Keegan, seconded by Lesley Mattingly, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Reports:

6a) Rodeo-Kerry spoke with Bill Carey about the RFP modification. He also suggested doing barrel racing or a team roping to bring in extra funds. He is flexible and will do whatever we ask.

6b) Livestock-Misti reviewed options on moving forward amid the COVID pandemic and stated that if a normal Fair is to happen the Livestock committee is ready to go. Their next meeting is May 18th. Tonya shared that according to the CAFS meeting of May 12, the Livestock auction is considered a critical infrastructure, but that the Fair needs to meet with the local health department and the BoCC. Robin stated that the 4-H is being looked at function by function and they are waiting to see what other fairs that operate before ours does so we can learn from them. CSU is trying to set protocols though it may be a couple of weeks before more direction is given. County administrator, Scott Wall, hopes that the Fair can go on. Becky noted that it is possible that some animal shows can be compressed into one day, but felt it might not be equitable trying to determine which shows appear during Fair operating days and which would be done on non-official Fair days (unless Fair is only open to parents). Problems include setting up the tent and individual pens, creating access to the pens and an alleyway to the wash racks, movement of the animals between both, and a way to ensure access to water for cooling the animals. Misti said that attempting virtual/online animal shows will take time to try and set up.

6c) Royalty-The recruiting and vetting process will be different. Jennifer, Tonya, and Lesley will work on a process to do this virtually and to include using a Facebook post. It was suggested that we reach out to other fairs to see how they are handling royalty this year.

6d) Honorees-Sharon still needs contact information for the Ashcraft family.

6e) Parking/Logistics-Tim said the decision on how to work rides using shuttles or 4-wheelers and which lots to using for parking will depend on how the Fair looks this year.

6f) Entertainment-Live entertainment depends on input from County health. Could live streaming be an option?

Old Business:

7a) Bylaws-It was decided that the Fair Coordinator should not be a member of the Executive committee; that position will be removed from the bylaws. The Fair Board and Livestock agree that the fifth member of the Executive committee could be the Livestock Vice President. This would allow for an odd number on the committee for voting purposes. Sharon will contact the County lawyer, Todd Weaver, if an ex-officio member can be on the Executive committee, to provide proper wording for such a member-at-large option, proper wording of the section regarding Fair dates, and for changing the Livestock committee from a regular sub-committee to some kind of a special committee. If these issues are resolved before the June meeting they will be presented to the Fair Board by email and can then be accepted at the meeting. Sharon will notify the Livestock president regarding bylaw updates and will provide an agenda and meeting notice to them.

7b) Fair Operating Proposals-This will be tabled until the June 10th meeting when we hope to have more information from County authorities. A decision is urgently needed on which proposal is most likely to be used as judges, hotel rooms, etc. have to be solicited. An Ad-hoc work group including reps from Fair (Shelly, Lisa, Kerry, Jennifer, Tonya), Livestock (Misti), and 4-H (Becky) will convene using a full fair plan but taking contingencies into consideration.

7c) Ranch Brands-Shelly will send information on past ranch brands to Jennifer as they are not in Drop Box.

New Business:

8a) Treasurer-A motion to accept the resignation of Debbie Condrey as Treasurer and the appointment of Lesley Mattingly as acting Treasurer for the Fair Board for the 2020 Fair was made by Debbie Condrey, seconded by Carol Kelly, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

8b) CAFS Conference Call-Several people from Fair Board, CSU, and 4-H attended this video call. Local fairs, Colorado State Fair, and the International Association of Fairs are all waiting on direction on how to proceed.

8c) Photographer-Jeff Laydon of Pagosa Photography did submit an RFP. Tonya will contact Terry Schaaf to see if the RFP was received at CSU or contact Jeff to see what was submitted. Sharon was forwarded a request from another photographer, Anne Jo Lee Harvard, from Terry Schaaf May 12 via email. A competitive bid is in progress due to two entities submitting RFP's.

8d) Fair Coordinator-Tonya has still not received a County-approved computer or email set-up. Debbie reported there was a hardware problem, but it is being worked on by IT. Robin suggested arranging a sit-down meeting with Larry Walton to be attended by Jason and Debbie as Fair Board reps.

Other Discussions:

Exhibits-Becky reported that some youth are working on 4-H exhibit projects at home, but once CSU is open to the public those activities will become hectic as project activity ramps up. Shelly said that a variance to get Archuleta County opened is being applied for that would allow the Fair to operate. She has been in contact with various community groups and finds some older residents want to display arts and projects but are concerned about crowds so will be staying safe at home. This might affect superintendents and judges too.

Petting Zoo-Carol asked about the safety of children within the close confines of the petting zoo as there is no space for social distancing there.

Safety-In all areas, Robin felt that the public comes to Fair at their own risk. It would be difficult to have COVID policing going on person by person; there are so many variables. Jason shared that respecting the public's health is a top priority for the County and any business reopenings. There are lots of new rules as far as PPE, not only for business personnel, but for the public as well. New guidelines are being worked on. The number of people allowed (mass gatherings) is one issue still being discussed.

Volunteer notification: It was decided not to solicit volunteer commitments through Sign-Up Genius until we get a decision from the local health department in early June. We can let existing volunteers know we are planning a Fair though its format may be changed. Becky offered to help Lisa with Sign-Up Genius.

The next Board meeting is Wednesday, June 10th at 6:00 pm. The meeting was adjourned.

Sharon Jennings/Recording Secretary

Approved June 10, 2020 as corrected herein.